

Role Of Social Welfare Schemes In Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

The empowerment of the women is the necessity for the development of the society. It is the necessity of the time to empower women equal to the men. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and letting women to make significant decisions and choices of life. The development of women is important for economic development. The empowerment of women is one of the vital issues in the practice of development of countries all over the world. They are still treated as the weaker sex as well as weaker section of the society who wants to be protected whole life-be it by her father, husband or son and by the society also. Women comprise about half of the total population of country but they go through from many disadvantages as compared to men in terms of literacy rates, labour participation rates wages etc. Social, economic and political empowerment is the need of the day. It is best approach of building women equal allies in development. Women are like back bone of each human beings life. So it is to be expected for the government and the society to safeguard the rights of women. It is also an important duty of the government to enhance the quality standard of women's life, and for the upgrading the existing standards of the existing society as well as improving the national economy. Women are the foundation and pillars of the society. Women's security and welfare schemes contribute towards the community development. Consequently it is important to examine, understand the welfare schemes of women in India. A little of important schemes are discussed in this article.

Key words: *Welfare, welfare schemes, women empowerment, economic development, government etc.*

Introduction

India is the largest country in the term of democracy and second most populated. India is considered as a largest democratic country. It is the ethical duty of each government to take care the interests of its citizens. The Ministry of women and child development, as the main agency for all matters pertaining to welfare, development and empowerment of women has introduced several schemes and programmes for their sustainable development. These schemes are beneficial for women's need for shelter, safety, maternal health, food, nutrition, safety, legal aid, justice, literacy, empowerment etc.

Review of Literature

The welfare state is a model of government in which the state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the social and economic well-being of its citizens. The welfare state is considered as the welfare of the underprivileged and marginalized groups. This concept also focuses on social insurance, social rights, social services and economic management and role of government in economic welfare policies (Garland, 2016). Welfare is a dynamic concept and its meaning has changed with the passage of time. In the beginning, the welfare measure was taken to mean helping the poor, orphan, widow, physically handicapped but later on many measures like health, education and housing services also have also been brought under it as offering to the poor and vulnerable section of the society has gained supreme importance. Rural development is considered as the welfare of rural people especially remote areas by raising their living standard through self dependent (Murthy & Narayana, 1989). It includes all the priority areas like education, health, employment, and housing etc. (Sundaram, 1999). Briefly, rural development is a process that aims at improving the standard of living of the people living in the rural areas (Kurukshetra, 2014). Earlier than the mid 1970s people engaged with development issues has paid little endorsed from women (Fink, 1992). Social liberty for women is very limited in Indian context. Mobility and social communications of rural women are governed by culture and traditions. Seemanthini Niranjana (2006) remark that there is a relative lack of theorization on the spatial basis of social life in the domains of sociology and anthropology and a lack of enthusiasm to conceptualist the body more fully in gender studies. Compton (1980) is the study of development of social work, social welfare services. Many public social welfare

programmes related child, health, aid to needy blind, old age pensions were running for the welfare of the society.

Objectives of the study

- To know necessitate of women empowerment.
- To highlight the important government welfare schemes for women empowerment.
- To suggest appropriate measures for effective implementation of such schemes.
- To identify the main obstacles in the path of women empowerment.
- To suggest useful suggestions for women empowerment.

Research Methodology

The study is based on descriptive and analytical in nature. For this purpose the secondary data collected from books, journals, articles, news papers and internet as well.

Obstacles in the way of women empowerment

1. Gender discrimination is prevalent in the society on large scale.
2. Women are less educated comparatively men.
3. Female infanticide
4. Dowry is a social evil due to which girl's marriage is considered as a burden on parents.
5. Crimes against women are increasing rapidly in the form of rape, molestation, killed, humiliated etc.
6. It is considered that women are made for holding family responsibility.
7. Their ability is considered low to bear risk and require for achievement.

Need for Women Empowerment

1. To make her decision making power.
2. Freedom of herself.
3. Access to Education.
4. Access to Employment in any sector.
5. To remove domestic violence.

Government Schemes for Women Empowerment in India

Government of India as well as states have come up with various schemes, programmes, social welfare schemes, Health and Nutrition, scholarship for women empowerment, Girl Child pregnant women, mothers, ward members, Anganwadi Workers, Women Health Volunteers, the women living in the rural & tribal areas, ex-servicemen, physically handicapped, nursing women, Lactating mother, widows/destitute, Old age women, women self-help group (SHG), Women Entrepreneurs and Adolescent Girls i.e. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), 2005, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) 1985, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), 1975, Balika Samriddhi Yojana (BSY), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), National Social Assistance Schemes, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes, Mid-day Meal Scheme etc.

Punjab government launched many social, economic, health and educational schemes to help the needy section of the society. These social welfare schemes or programmes are shagun scheme (1997), Balri Rakshak Yojana (2005), Bebe Nanki Laadli Beti Kalyan Scheme (2011), Kanya Jagriti Jyoti Scheme, Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme (2013), Scheme for providing education to orphan girls (1968), Financial assistance to dependent children (1968), Financial assistance to the Widows and Destitute Women (1999), Janashree Bima Yojana (2000), Mahila Jagriti Yojana (1999), Mai Bhago Istri Shakti Scheme (2009), Kishori Shakti Yojana, Concessional Bus travel facility to Women (1997), Swasth Kanya Yojana (2016), Dr. Har Gobind Khurana Scholarship Scheme (2013), Bhagat Puran Singh Sehat Beema Yojna (BPSSBY) (2013), Bhai Ghaniya Insurance Scheme (2012), Old Age Pension Scheme, Construction of Toilets in Rural Areas (2014), Atta Dal Scheme (2007) etc. (Chadha & Chadda, 2017).

Atta Dal Scheme: The Atta dal scheme by Punjab government was launched in 2007. In 2013, the same government renewed this scheme of theirs and decided to add more families into the beneficiaries list. The BPL and AAY (Antodiya) ration card holders were also being eligible for the new scheme. People who own less than 2.5 acres of land and have income of less than 60,000 per annum are the one who benefit from the scheme.

Shagun Scheme: Shagun Scheme launched in 1997. It is initiated in order to improve education and health of girl child and bring a positive change towards the birth of girl child. The Girl child should belong to Scheduled castes and born within BPL families. A Shagun of Rs. 21000/- is given to the families at the time of the marriage.

Mai Bhago Istri Shakti Scheme: The Punjab Government launched Mai Bhago Istri Shakti Scheme in 2008. The scheme envisages strengthening women especially in rural areas in single/individual capacity or clusters or groups. The objective of the scheme is to strengthen their activities through training at convenient places, hassle free credit and assistance.

Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme: Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme launched by Punjab government in 2013. The Government of Punjab has made provision for providing free cycles to the girl's students from the standard of 9th to 12th to promote education and to reduce school dropout rate.

Along with this the Government of India has various schemes for women operated by different department and ministries. Some of these are as follows:

1. Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993.
3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
4. Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98.
5. Mahila Samakhy a being implemented in about 9000 villages.
6. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
7. Crèches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother.
8. Hostels for working women.
9. National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
10. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975),
11. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).

12. Integrated Child Protection scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
13. Dhanalakshmi (2008).
14. Short Stay Homes.
15. Ujjawala (2007).
16. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
17. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).
18. Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).
19. Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).
20. Working Women's Forum.
21. Indira Mahila Kendra.
22. Mahila Samiti Yojana.
23. Indira Priyadarshini Yojana.
24. National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes

Findings of the Study

There is need to change the mindset of the society to accept the women as equal to the men. There are several social welfare schemes for the women empowerment, but they are still out of reach of women. There is need of awareness regarding the approach. There is urgent need to elimination of poverty and illiteracy, which is the root cause. Empowerment of women is achieved only if their status of education, economic, social enhanced and attained the equal status to men.

Suggestions

Proper awareness of schemes should be at hand the benefits of the scheme should not be limited to papers only but the execution of schemes should be there so that every woman can be well-known with her rights as well as schemes. Important steps should be taken to put into

practice all the schemes which are improved to facilitate detention, prevention and punishment of crimes against women.

- Awareness camps for women should be planned where they can become familiar with the framed schemes and policies and can take benefit of those schemes and policies.
- Women education has to be made essential and women should be encouraged to become literate because without being educated women cannot have an access to the benefits of schemes and programmes.
- Strict implementation of the schemes and policies for women empowerment should be done.
- Removal of Regional Disparities should be done.
- Removal of Poverty and Inequalities should be priority.
- Focus on the Development of Agriculture should be given.

Conclusion

In today's time it seems that the concept of social welfare has not been in use by the government as sincerely, as it must have. The approach of the government is not very sociable and cooperative towards the people, and it is visible from the recent debate on many important bills and the disagreement relating to the determination of poverty line for poor people. The government does not appear to be sincere about its responsibility towards serving the people as many scams and irregularities have come up in the central and state governments even in the national banks also.

These schemes provide assistance for Education, Training, Financial assistance, Scholarship, Nutrition, self-employment and other facilities. The prime goal is for empowerment, development, protection and welfare of Women & Child. Central Government as well as State Governments is doing pioneering work. The Government has enhanced its support to them by providing required funds. Their roles have not been only to promote participation of the community but also enhance awareness of the community in regards to the policies and programmes launched to their welfare. The Empowerment of Women has grown to be one of the most essential concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Government welfare schemes single-handedly would not be

sufficient to attain this goal. Society must take initiative to generate an environment in which there is no gender inequity and women have full opportunities. In such society they will get the equal chances of self decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country.

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