

## **Government Policies Towards The Production Of Women's Rights In India**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

As the old social structures are first crumbling and a new social order, rational, human and liberal, is emerging on the global scene, the question of women has acquired great importance among all the communities, throughout the world. Women's study appears to be paradoxical study. In India a women is worshipped as a goddess, she is made to entice customers in numerous brothels; a women joins the army to defend the country and at same time she is unable to save herself from greedy in-laws; women head government, but they are burnt on the pyres of their husbands as sati and women excel in male bastions, such as law, science, literature, medicine and engineering, yet there are 60 per cent of them who do not even know how write their names. Indeed, an ideal Indian women is elusive for some have freed themselves from the shackles of dead traditions, as others yet remain weak and fettered.

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR**

United Nations decided to celebrate the year 1975 as International Women's Year. Every year, March 8 has been celebrated as International Women's Day or International Working Women's Day, and the United Nations Decade for women, from 1975-1985, was also established for the welfare of women. It is a major day of global celebration of women.

A question may arise that for what purpose the global celebration for women is established. The vital purpose of this celebration is to give due respect to women community

with love and affection that ultimately feels them better. Moreover, it celebrates the achievements of women in various field like politics, and economics.

## **NATIONAL POLICY FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

The preamble, Fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principles of our Indian Constitution emphasis more on the gender equality. It asserts that it is duty of all the citizen to protect the gender equality. Our Indian constitution strongly suggests that it is not enough just to provide equal rights to women but one has to adopt the method of positive discrimination which favors women more. Much of our democratic policies, various developmental policies, many schemes and plans along with our law motivate women to achieve and move on in the various fields. During the time of the Fifth Five Year plan (1974-79) there was a sprit arises that focuses on the welfare of women. Recently, the women empowerment helps in determining the status of women.

An Act of parliament was set up by the National Commission for women in 1990 to preserve and protect the rights and legal entitlements of women. Since there are a lot of policies to protect the rights and welfare of women in general, then what about the condition of the rural women in particular. The reply is, According to the constitution, the 72 and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments (1993), provide for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and Municipalities for women. These amendments pave a way for local women to participate in all local decision making laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

India has also fulfilled various international caucus and human rights instruments community in order to protect the equality of women. One of the important things is the satisfaction of the convention of elimination of the forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) in 1993. The Mexico plan of Action (1975) the Nairobi's forward looking strategies (1985) the Beijing Declaration as well as the platform for action (1995) and

outcome document adopted by the UNGA session on gender equality and development peace for the 21th century, titled” Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the platform for Action.” Have been unreservedly approved by India for appropriate follow up.

The policy also takes note off the commitments of the Ninth Five Year plan and the other Sectorial policies related to the empowerment and upliftment of women. Apart from all these things many inspiring initiatives are taken by many women’s movements and by non-government organizations which results in the upliftment of women. In spite of all these initiatives, a wide gap exists between the goals expressed in the policies, planning the constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. Hence these shortcomings are analyzed in detail in the Report given by the committee on the status of women in India titled “Towards Equality,” 1974 and it is highlighted much in various reports like the National perspective plan for Women, 1988-2000, the Shramshakti Report, 1988 and the “Platform for Action, Five Years After- An assessment.” Gender discrepancy is manifested itself in various forms, the most evident one is the continuous declining of female ratio in the last few decades.

Social stereotype and social and domestic violence are some of the other manifestations that prevail in common. Discrimination is there everywhere in the society and it shows against girl children and women persist in various parts of the country. Based on the informal practices and formal norms, the social and economic structure is formed in the society and this structure is the major cause and root for the present gender inequality problem.

The women belong to the weaker sections of society like scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes/ other backward classes and minorities are not easily accessible. Since majority of them

are in the rural areas, it is too tough for them reach and create awareness and productive resources. Hence they remain as marginalized, poor and excluded.

## **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The main motto of this policy is to create awareness, and strive hard for the advancement, development of women. The policy will be widely distributed in order to encourage the active participation of stakeholders so that it is easy to achieve its goals.

1. To create a positivistic environment which makes them access the economic and social policies which are meant for the development of women that ultimately helps them to realize their own potential.
2. To create equality as that of men in the case of participation and decision making in all levels like social level, economic and political level.
3. To create an atmosphere where women must also enjoy all the basic fundamental rights and freedom, like a man.
4. To strengthen the legal system which tend to eliminate all the discriminations that prevail in the society against women.
5. Aims to provide equal opportunity to women to access healthcare, quality education at various levels, career guidance, employment, social security and public office etc.
6. Tends to Change the social attitudes and community practices through active participation and involvement of both men and women.
7. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the developmental process.
8. Aims to eliminate all sorts of discrimination present in the society and focuses to eradicate all forms of violence against women and the girl child.
9. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

India has also prescribed some policy prescription Judicial legal system, Decision Making, Mainstreaming a Gender perspective in the Development process, poverty Eradication, Micro credit, women and Economy, Globalization, Women and Agriculture, women and Industry, support services, Education, Health, Nutrition, Drinking water and sanitation, Housing and shelter, Environment, science and Technology, women in Difficult circumstances, violence Against women, Rights of the Girl child, Mass Media. The operational strategies has also been indicated for further Action plan.

## **PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR EMPOVERMENT OF WOMEN SINCE 1950**

### **1951-56 TO 1979-80 THE WELFARE APPROACH**

- 1) To take up the issues related with women and child welfare.
- 2) A special cell was created to took after and monitor the issues related with women employment.
- 3) Some legislative measures were undertaken to defend the wellbeing of women.
- 4) During the third and fourth plan (1960-61 to 1973-74) education and maternal health also came on the priority list.
- 5) Thus, up to the period of fifth five year plan women were the policy takers and not the policy makers.

### **1980-85 SHIFT FROM WELFARE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

- 1) A multi- sect oral approach was adopted during the sixth five year plan (1980-85) for the development of women.
- 2) The areas of health, education and employment of women were given priority and special funds were demarcated for the same.

### **1985-90 BENEFICIARY ORIENTED SCHEME**

- 1) A Beneficiary- Oriented scheme was launched to get benefits from various development programs during seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) related with education, health, employment and other economic activities.
- 2) The objective of raising their economic and social was emphasized.

To bringing them into the mainstream of national development, a special mention was made 1992-97. To oversee the flow of benefits to women, and make them to function as equals and active participants in the development process, human development was focused during the period of Eight Five Year plan (1992-97).

### **1997-2002**

Women component plan - A special strategy of women's component plan was adopted to monitor flow of all types of settlement to women and to make certain that the anticipated policy brings forth a holistic approach towards empowering women. This was the period when National policy for Empowerment of women, 2001, was adopted to eradicate all types of discrimination and differentiation against women and to ensure gender justice, besides empowering women in both the ways, socially and economically.

### **2002-2007**

National policy for Empowerment of women –A sector specific three – fold strategy was adopted for empowering women.

- I. Economic Empowerment
- II. Social Empowerment
- III. Legal Empowerment

### **2002- 2012**

Targeted Intervention- for the first time women are recognized not as equal citizens but as agents of economic and social growth.

## **PROMISES AND PRACTICE**

In Human Development Reports, the concepts of GGDI and GEM are used as indicators for measuring gender disparity. These indicators are applied for measuring women empowerment in India.

## **GENDER DIFFERENTIALS IN EMPLOYMENT AS PRESENTED IN TOTAL WORKERS**

Though there is increase in percentage of total female workers (from 19.7 in 1981 to 7 in 2001), this increase is for lesser when compared with the percentage of male total workers (52.6 in 1981 and 51.9 in 2001). This is true for both rural and urban areas.

## **MARGINAL WORKERS**

There is marginalizations of female workers. When we say that percentage of total female workers both at rural and urban level has increased, this increased is not as main workers rather this is in the category of marginal workers. Percentage of total female marginal workers increased from 5.6.in 1981 to 6.2 in 1991 and further to 11.0 percent in 2001, which is much higher than the percentage of (total) male marginal workers. These facts are true for both rural and doubled as marginal workers during this period which implies that they do not get employment throughout year on a sustained basis.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gender justice can be rendered if amendment is carried out in this Act to the effect that female heirs be given same rights in their father's property. A proper legislation be enacted to protect women's interest in the house and all the acquisitions movable and

immovable acquired after marriage be owned jointly by husband and wife. Legislation alone cannot really empower a women to go out and face life. Mere bestowing the rights to women or making them literate is no solution to the problem. Awareness can fallow a will for it. There is an urgent need to inculcate among women the self- assertiveness and the vocal strength of women to achieve economic independence the right for their various rights is of little or no value. It needs to ensure equality, equal partnership of women in economic, social, political and cultural fields. The most notable thing is to curb out wrongful social practices which are death blow to women.

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