



A STUDY ON SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHEME – SUPPORT TO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (STEP)

Dr. T. Gopal

Department of Economics & Applied Economics, S.K.University, Ananthapuramu.

Introduction

The status of women in India is examined by the changes exposed continually from past decades with the enforcement of various policies and schemes provided by the rulers. The role and efforts of women among society will come to know by the progress and not ches of civilization in India, In modern India, the activities and efforts of women are great and unbelievable in different areas such as education, sports, Politics, media, art and culture, service sector, science and technology, etc. As a result of this, women gets higher positions in such fields including President,Prime Ministers, Union Minister, Speaker of the Loksabha, Leader of the Opposition Ministers,Chief Ministers and Governors to reveal efforts towards achievements. Moreover, women/s rights have been secured under the Indian Constitution. Especially for inequality and discrimination and also policies and Schemes have been introduced for the welfare of women by the government from time to time. Empowerment impels moving from a position of conformed power lessens to powerfulness. It would promote women’s inherent strength and positive self-image but it would not take as a power to dominate or use power to dominate or use power to establish their superiority over others. The Government of India has introduced by various schemes for the development and empowerment of India. Despite of numerous measures taken by the Government, empowerment of women is no up to the mark. The schemes are not reaching the beneficiaries to the intended extent. This is due to lack of awareness among various. Sections of women regarding the Government initiatives for the women development. This paper makes an attempt to presenter outline of some of the schemes of Government for the women empowerment in order to create awareness among the women.

Objective of the Study

- To present the over view of some of the schemes of Government for the women empowerment
- To examine the performance of the Scheme “Support to Training and Employment for women

Methodology

The study is based on the secondary data sources. The necessary information about the women Empowerment Schemes in India and its various components are collected from various books, journals, internet source of related topics. The data are related to the scheme of STEP is taken for a period of four years from 2011 to 2014 for the purpose of analysis.

Government Schemes for the Women Empowerment

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India have come up with various schemes, programmes, social welfare schemes, Health and Nutrition, scholarship of Women empowerment, Girl Child Pregnant women, Mothers, ward members, Anganwadi Workers, Women 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 (SHP), Women Entrepreneurs and Adolescent Girls , Some of the important schemes are presented in brief here. Support to Training and Employment programme for Women (STEP)



Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

The STEP Programme is a 100% Central Sector Scheme. Under this scheme, Training is provided to poor and marginalized women in traditional trades which are largely in the informal sector. The programme of STEP advocates the objectives of extending training for up-gradation of skills and employment for women through a variety of action – oriented projects. STEP Program has been introduced to address occupational aspirations of poor women who do not have opportunity of formal skill training. This scheme emphasis on Skill Development for self or wage employment because skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development of a country.

The objectives of this scheme are as below

- To provide skills that give employability to women
- To provide competencies and skills that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs.
- To upgrade the skills of poor and marginalized women.
- To provide employment to them on a sustainable basis.

Eligibility

All Women who are in the age group of 16 years and above

Benefits

Under this scheme, Assistance is giving in any sector i.e Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zarietc Handicrafts, Computer & IT enabled services along with soft skills and skills for the workplace such as spoken English, Gems & Jewellery, Travel & Tourism and Hospitality .for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship. Provision of for support services (Health, Childcare, Education, Sanitation etc.), access to credit and imparting nutrition education.

How to apply

Contact to any of the following

- District collector
- Chief medical Officers or
- Superintendent of police or
- District social welfare officer/ women and child development officer or
- Representative of district legal services authority or
- Representative of the municipal corporations/ Panchayat Raj institutions or
- Other eminent persons of the district at the discretion of district collector

State – Wise details of funds sanctioned under Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

	Name of the State	Funds Released Under the Scheme (Rs. In Lakhs) upto 15.12.2014			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Andhrapradesh	9.49	82.82025	86.58	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		29.63820		
3.	Assam	18.29	40.91433	20.01907	30.36892
4.	Bihar	--	--	--	--



5.	Chhattisgarh	--	--	--	--
6	Gujarat	3.37	--	--	--
7.	Himachal Pradesh	--	--	--	--
8.	Haryana	24.07	13.86883	--	--
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.44	15.90409	67.44328	--
10.	Kerala	265.28	19.93500	--	--
11.	Karnataka	290.67	242.20000	159.19850	19.76850
12	Madhya Pradesh	10.94	3.48030	120.14167	85.61564
13	Maharashtra	25.11	19.54020	48.11850	--
14	Manipur	42.41	62.82990	55.32214	127.12620
15	Meghalaya	--	--	--	--
16	Mizoram	--	--	--	--
17	Nagaland	36.31	47.54625	21.770000	19.71050
18	Orissa		3.36065		
19	Punjab	--	--	--	--
20	Rajasthan	2.20	0.96935		
21	Sikkim	--	--	--	--
22	Tamil Nadu	--	--	--	--
23	Tripura	--	--	--	--
24	Uttaranchal	6.52	99.73141	53.96000	
25	Uttar Pradesh	36.24	151.91037	51.39660	
26	West Bengal	9.92	--	5.41125	
27	Delhi	--	--	--	--
	Total:	833.07	883.29878	701.85819	282.58976

Source: Annual Reports of Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India

From the above table I can be inferred that the scheme of under support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) is effectively implemented in some parts of the country. Among the states in which the scheme is implemented, the state of Karnataka ranks first in utilization of funds from this scheme. The state of Orissa ranks last in utilization of funds from the scheme. The amount of funds released was more or less same in the years 2011-2012 and 2012-13. In the year 2013-14 the amount of funds utilized was comparatively reduced. It can be suggested that Government should ensure the measures for the effective implementation of the scheme consistently throughout all the states of the country.

Some other Government Schemes for the empowerment of women

• Beti Bachao Beti Bachao Scheme

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Beti Bachao, Beti Bachao (Save girl child, Educate Girl child) is Central Government Sponsored Scheme by Government of India. The prime goal of this scheme is to generate awareness and improving the efficiency of welfare services meant for women. Also, it aims to celebrate the Girl Child & Enable her Education. The Beti Bachao, Beti Bachao (BBBP) Scheme has been introduced to address the issue declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)

• Indira Gandhi Matritvasahyogojana (IGMSY) for the pregnant and lactating Women

The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a maternity benefits scheme implemented by the ministry of women and child development, Government of India. This scheme is for the pregnant



and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for first two live births to contribute to a better enabling environment by providing conditional cash transfer for improved health and nutrition and to also promote health and nutrition seeking behavior in them.

- **One stop centre scheme for women**

One Stop Centers (OSC) are meant to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race, and culture will be facilitated with support and redressed. Aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour-related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting who have reached out or been referred to the OSC will be provided with specialized services. OSC are setup in each State / UT.

- * **Woman Helpline Scheme for woman a single national Help Line Number for Women**

Scheme for Universalization of Women Helpline is meant to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence. This scheme is being implemented since from 01-04-2015 by the Union Ministry of women and Child Development. The Scheme of Universalization of Women helpline is meant to provide 24-hour immediate and Emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital) and information about women related government schemes/Programs across the country through a single uniform number.

- **Scheme for working Women Hostel, Day Care Centre and Medical aid**

The many more women are leaving their homes in search of employment in big cities as well as urban and rural industrial clusters. One of the main difficulties faced by such women is lack of safe and conveniently located accommodation. Hence this scheme has been initiated by the Government of India. This scheme aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments.

Conclusion

Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions by leaving all the social and family limitations. It is to bring equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. Women need fresh and more capable environment so that they can take their own right decisions in every area whether for themselves, family, society or country. In order to make the country fully developed, women empowerment is an essential tool to

get the goal of sustained development. The Government has to take more measures to ensure that the benefits of the women development reach the vulnerable sections of the maximum extent.

References

1. Akwa L. Et al (2008). Analysis of Fuel Wood Utilization Among Rural Women In Akwanga Area of Nasarawa State. Nigeria. The Abuja Journal of Geopgraphy and Development. Vol. 1(2).
2. Agrawal A (1980) Women in Rural Society. Vohar Pub & Distributors, Allahabad.
3. Agrawal B (1998) Neither Sustenance nor Sustainability - Agricultural Strategies Ecological Degradation and Indian Women in Poverty. In Bina Agrawal (Eds) Structures of Patriarchy. Kali for Women, New Delhi.



4. Agrawal B (2009). Gender and Forest Conservation – Impact of Women’s Participation in Community Forest Governance. Ecological Economies, in press.
5. Maye (1994) Women: The Resource Managers. UNEP, Vol. 6 (4) PP 23-24.
6. Mishra A (1978) Chipko Movement;: Utrakhand Women’s Bid to save Forest Wealth, People’s Action. New Delhi.
7. Dankelman. I and Davidson, J (1997) women and environment in the third world Landon; Earthscan publication.
8. Dattatri, Shekar (2011). Silent Valley – A People’s Movement That Saved a Forest. Retrieved From [http:// www.conservationindia.org/case-studies/silent-valley- %E2 % 80% 93 -a-people% E2%80%99s-movement-that-saved-a-forest](http://www.conservationindia.org/case-studies/silent-valley-%E2%80%93-a-people%E2%80%99s-movement-that-saved-a-forest).
9. Etta, F.E (1999). Maroko low- income settlemet in Lagos, Nigeria; Gender and Urban Natral resources management in D. L. smith women managing resources Mazigira institute, Nairobi.
10. Ghanashyam, B. (2008). NREGA –Bringing Hope to Small Farmers. Retrieved From <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/articlePrint.jsp?aid=76360> .
11. Gottlieb, Roger S. (1996). This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment. London: Routledge.
12. Bhatt, C.P. (1992). ‘Chipko Andolan. Forest Conservation Based on People’s Power’ ,Environment and Urbanization, 2(1): 7-16. Ministry of women and child development, Government of India .
13. Chest on S and Kuhn L. 2002. “Empowerment women through Microfinance” draft, Opportunity International
14. Pillai J.K 1995 “Women and empowerment” Gyan publishers House, New Delhi.