



Institutional Mechanism For Policy & Programmes of Women's Welfare

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Women are discriminated on all walks of life. They are mistreated, underestimated and underscored. Disadvantages against women are commonly practices in the opportunities of socio-economic development, Participation in different activities, availing educational facilities and various other development programmes associated with improving the life style and the quality of life, because of several social and cultural backwardness. Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the Population in the last few decades. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country. The underlying causes of gender inequality are related to social and economic structure, which is based on informal and formal norms and practices. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women includes institutions of different types-central, state and local government's non-governmental organizations (NGOS) civil society and other bodies which support the cause of women's advancement.

Structure of institutional set up¹

Various institutional mechanisms that are contributing/ will contribute to the achievement of women's empowerment and gender equality are as under-

01. Government structures with a mandate for women advancement such as ministers, department focal points, bureaus cells, desks, coordination units and committees, inter-agency committees etc.
02. The Parliamentary committees on the empowerment of women.
03. Institutions of local government such as the three tiered panchayats and urban local bodies which are to be delegated vast administrative financial and legal powers across the development sectors, including social and women's development.
04. Mechanisms and plans such a gender budgets, component plans for women, action plans for women, monitoring and assessing instruments such as human development indices, audit system such as gender and social audit, appraisals and evaluations using tools. Such as gender analysis participatory exercises etc.
05. Women's bodies and groups working for the economic, social and political rights of women, all bearing the voluntary and democratic label.

¹ Ramandeep kaur , women leadership and empowerment new century publications, new delhi,2019,pp70-71

06. Federations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth and other age based groups ad-hoc groups formed for short term objectives, watchdog bodies, vocal groups etc.

Ministry of women and child development (MWCD)

Ministry of women and child development is the nodal agency for welfare, development and empowerment of women. The subject of women prior to 1985, was dealt with by the ministry of social welfare. In the year 1986, a separate department for women and child development was constituted under the aegis of ministry of human resources development primarily keeping in mind that women were valuable human resources and therefore deserved more focused attention. The role of MWCD includes policy formulation, conception of innovative programmes and their implementations, coordination with other sectors and state governments, gender budgeting training and capacity building, monitoring the status of women and their rights. Thus presently MWCD is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulation and laws relating to women and child development in India.

The broad mandate of MWCD is to have holistic development of women and children. As a nodal ministry for the advancement of women and children, the ministry formulates plans, policies and programmes, enacts/amends legislations, guides and co-ordinates the efforts of both government and non-governmental organizations working in the field of women and child developments. Besides playing its nodal role, the ministry implements certain innovative programmes for women and children.

These programmes cover welfare and support services, training for employment and income generation awareness and gender sensitization. These programmes play a supplementary and complementary role to the other general development programmes in the sectors of health education, rural development etc.”²

Organisations: The activities of the ministry are undertaken through seven bureaus. The ministry has six autonomous organizations working under its aegis.

01. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD).
02. National Commission for Women (NCW).
03. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
04. Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA)
05. Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB).
06. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK).

Five year Plans: The all round development of women has been one of the focal points of economic planning in India. The first five year plan (1951-56) envisaged a number of welfare measures for women. Establishment of the central social welfare board (CSWB), organization of women clubs and the community development programmes were a few steps in this direction. **The second five year plan (1956-61)** the empowerment programmes. **Third five year plan (1961-66)** was closely linked with female education programmes. Similarly, **fourth five year plan** also supported women's education as a major welfare measure. **The fifth five year plan (1974-79)** emphasized training of women, who were in need of income and protection. In 1976, women's welfare and development bureau was set up under the ministry of social welfare. In the **sixth five year plan (1980-85)**, there was a definite shift from welfare to development. It recognized women's lack of access to resources as critical factor obstructing their growth.

The seventh five year plan (1985-90) emphasized the need for gender equality and empowerment. For the first time emphasis was placed upon qualitative aspects. **The eight five year plan (1989-97)** Focused on empowering women, especially at the grass root level through panchayati Raj institutions. **The ninth five year plan (1999-2002)** adopted a strategy of women's component plan under which not less than 30% of

² Ramandeep Kaur, p.74.

funds/benefits were earmarked for women-specific programmes. **The tenth five year plan (2002-07)** aims at empowering women through translating the recently adopted National Policy for Empowerment of Women (2001) empowering women in to action and ensuring survival, protection and development of women through right approach. Apart from that various measures had been taken in order to eradication of atrocities against women and girls on India. The measure are as follows: (1) To set up women's police station, family court, mahila court, legal aid centre etc. (2) To conduct awareness programmes of women's rights, legal literacy etc. **In the 11th five year plan (2007-2012)**. An important divide which compels gender special focused efforts will be made to purge society of this malaise by creating an enabling environment for women to become economically, politically and socially empowered. **Women in 12th five year plan** Twelfth plan year plan entitled as 'Faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. Women participation in favour related work both in agriculture and in animal husbandry. In framing policies/schemes for the 12th five year plan, the special needs of women must be taken due care of. The Mahila Kisan Sahakati Karan Pariyojana (MKSP) which is a sub-component of NRLM (National rural health mission) was recently launched to meet the specific attention needs to be given to leverage the enormous potential of empowering rural women in the farm sector, and also in the rural sector and also in rural non former sector."³

Role of NGOS: Stressing the importance of the Role of NGOS, General secretary of U.N Kofi annan, in an address to the world economic forum in 1998 said, we know that peace and prosperity can not be achieved without partnership involving government's international organizations, the business community and civil society in today's world we depend on each other. It is possible only through this unique relationship that is known for their virtues of human touch dedication, flexibility, self reliance and nearness to community." It is a fact that the NGOS have contributed significantly and their achievements are quite obvious. It is interesting to note that their performance is clearly better than that of government machinery. It is also appreciated that the NGOS deserve credit of empowering 85% women through education skill and health measures and rendering them accessibility to funding agencies."⁴

In order to encourage women to avail the credit facility the collateral security requirements and loan applications procedures should be simplified to accommodate illiteracy. Economic and educational measures have to be rendered simultaneously to empower women. Strategy for empowering women has to focus beyond economics restructuring to include association of social relationship the magnified of awareness created among the most back word section of the society, by the NGOS during the last 10-15 years is for more successful and visible than the entire government effort in last 70 year. They have been cover higher number of people and bigger areas.

SHG & Micro finance: Women empowerment through self help groups (SHG) based on micro finance has been a key factor in India. Self help groups are voluntary organization which disburse micro-credit to the members and facilitate them to enter into entrepreneurial activities. A number of SHG based micro financing programs have been implemented in India with financial support from world bank, FAD, government and non-government agencies. Some of these programmes which are exclusively designed for rural poor women are Swashakti, Swayamsiddh, Swarna Jayanti Swarojgtar Yojana and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh of these, Swashakti and Swayamsiddh ended in 2005 and 2007 respectively Rashtriya Mahila Kosh."⁵

Micro finance is defined as the provision of financial services to people who otherwise do not have access to formal financial institutions due to small transaction size. A proper support to micro finance interventions and tuning them to meet the needs of women specifically is required. There are various types of SHG models which are in fashion in india i.e SHGS formed at individual level and financially supported by

³ Planning commission, government of india. five year plans in planning commission, gov.in/plans/planrel/fiveyr/default.html (accessed on 6th may 2013)

⁴ Umesh pratap singh, rajesh kumar garg, women empowerment different issues, adhyayan publishers & distributors, new delhi, 2012,P.168.

⁵ Karmakar, K.G, rural credit and self help groups: microfinance needs and concepts in India, New Delhi, 1999.

SHGS in controlling poverty and empowering of women depends on the diversification of investment activities by such groups.”⁶

Social security Programmes and Government Policies: The empowerment includes overall development in terms of education, employment access to the resources, legislative and decision making powers, health and awareness. Through various planning programmes the government has introduced and executed the policies advocating women’s issue. The national plan of action for women (NPA) adopted in 1976 become a guiding document for the development of women. Then the government has launched these programmes to elevate the status of women by providing them new opportunities.

1. **Employment-cum-income Generation Production Unit:** This scheme was launched in 1982-83. It has focused mainly on extending employment opportunities for women in non-traditional and upcoming trades. Under this scheme, the arrangements of training is available for women of weaker section of the society including women’s working in non-traditional trades such as prenting and binding, weaving and spinning and garments making etc.
2. **National Prasperspective Plan for women (1988):** This plan was launched to high light the women’s issues related to upliftment and empowerment in their policies and programmes this plan is recognized the need to high light women’s concerns.
3. **Support to Training and Employment Programme For Women (STEP):** The objective of the Programme is to Provide updated skills and new Knowledge to poor and assets less women in the traditional sectors such as agriculture fisheries, handloom, village industries, social forestry etc. For enhancing their productivity and income generation. It is expected that the scheme would enhance and broaden their employment opportunities, including self employment and development of entrepreneurial skills.
4. **Socio Economic programme (SEP):** Socio-economic programme is one of the major programmes of employment and training for women implemented by the central social welfare board which provided work and wage to needy women such as widows, deserted, poor, economically back word and handicapped. SEP Takes care of both literate, semi-literate women trades promoted under this programme include both traditional and agro based industries besides non-traditional trades.
5. **National Commission for women (NCW):** This was a statutory body set up in 1992 under the national commission for women act, 1990 to safe guard the rights and interests of women. The major objective of NCW are to investigate, examine and review all matters relating to the safe guards provided to women under the constitution and the review of the implementation of both women specific and women related legislation and suggest amendments whatever needed.
6. **National Policy For The Empowerment of Women (2001):** The objective of this policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women.
7. **National socio assistance programme:** The aim of this programme is to provide financial assistance to old person having little or no regular means of subsistence and house hold’s living below the poverty line.
8. **Swadhar:** This was a Programme stalled to address to needs of women in difficult circumstances who are not covered by other schemes. e.g. widows, destitute women and women prisoners.
9. **Swa-shakti project:** This programme was launched in October 1999, with the objective of socio-economic development and empowerment of the women. The strategy is to promote the women’s self group, micro credit and income generative activates. This scheme has been launched as rural women development and empowerment of women. This scheme is running with the aid of world bank and international fund for agricultural development.
10. **Swalamban programme:** This programme was launched in 1982-83. The objective of this programme is to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to obtain employment or self employment on sustained

⁶ Karmakar, K.G, micro finance in India, sage publication, New Delhi, 2008.

basis. The women from weaker section of the society such as schedule castes and scheduled tribes, poor and needy women etc, are main target groups.

11. **Self- Employed women's Association (SEWA):** From its humble beginning in 1972 as a trade union of poor, self employed women workers. Sewa has achieved international attention as a best practice made in women economic self sufficiency. Its goal is " To organize women workers for full employment where by workers obtain work security, income security, food security and social security including health care, child care and housing. Sewa relies on the strength of laborers its cooperative platform and women power with its current 19 sister organization."⁷
12. **Development of women and children in rural areas**⁸: Development of women and children in rural areas (DWCRA) was launched as a sub scheme of integrated rural development programme (IRDP) during the year 1982-83 in 50 districts in India. It subsequently expanded to cover all the districts in the country by 1994-95. The flow of benefit to poor women, in spite of reservation, under various poverty alleviation programmes, IRDP and TRYSEM. DWCRA was introduced for ensuring that the benefit of IRDP reach women directly. The Programme seek to improve the access of rural women to health, education, safe, drinking water, sanitation, nutrition etc, there by bringing about an enhancement in the quality of the general well being of women and children.
13. **Training To Rural Youth for self employment:** Training to rural youth for self employment (TRYSEM) is a part of integrated rural development programme was started on 15th august, 1979. The main objective of this programme was to impart technical and business expertise to those rural youth who belong to the families living below the poverty line so that they may become self employed. Under the TRYSEM programme technical training was given to those men and women of 18-35 age groups who were living below the poverty line. The training was provided as per the requirement of the youth and of local area. TRYSEM is not in existence at present because it has been merged with newly introduced programme namely swarna jayanti gram swarozgar yojana."⁹
14. **Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar yojana :** Self employment is a significant step to have sustained incomes and remove the poverty. Earlier programmes like IRDP was good but were not adequate to meet all the requirements. Government has introduced on effective self employment programme Swaranaja yanti gram swarozgar yojana (SGSY). Under the SGSY, assistance is given to the poor families living below the poverty line in moral areas for taking up self employment. The persons taking up self-employment are called swarozgars.
15. **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh:** Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is also organizing training apparent, cestip and orientation programmes for trainers under Indian mahila block societies on march 30, 1993, Rashtriya Mahila kosh was established to meet the loan requirements of the poor women entrepreneurs. This society was established in the form of a society under the society registration act, 1860 to facilitate credit support to poor women for their socio economic up liftmen.
16. **Mahila samridhi yojna :** With the objective of providing economic security to the rural women and to encourage the saving habit among them, the mahila samridhi yojana (MSY) was started on 2nd October, 1993. Under this plan, the rural women of 18 years or above age can open their saving account in rural post office of their own area with a minimum Rs 04 or its multiplier. The Department of women and child development the nodal agency for MSY, decided in 01 April 1997 that no new MSY account should be opened from April 1997, onwards but the existing accounts could be maintained earlier it is decided to marge this scheme with Mahila Swayam Sidha yojana , a new scheme announced in July 2001.

⁷ Shivali Agarwal, women empowerment in India, writers choice, 2017,p 158.

⁸ Dr.Deepak Babu, women participation in rural development in India, writers choice, New Delhi 2019, p .71.

⁹ Dr. Deepak Babu, P.72.

17. **Mahila Swyam Sidha Yojana (MSSY):** Swyam sidha is an integrated project for the development and empowerment of women. It was introduced during 2001-02, replacing the erstwhile Indira mahila yojana and continued up to 2006-07. It is based on the formation of women in to self help groups with emphasis on converging services developing access to micro credit and promoting micro enterprises. The long term objective of the scheme is to achieve an all round empowerment of women, especially socially and economically by ensuring their direct access to, and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all ongoing sectoral Programmes.
18. **Indira Mahila yojana:** From August 20, 1995 the central Government launched Indira Mahila Yojna (IMY) in 200 development blocks in country, which was to be extended to the remaining segments after a short time. The main objective of this plan is to create awareness among the women and to provide the income resources to them. This plan will establish co-ordination among the various plan related to women so that the available funds can be properly used for the welfare of women. Under the Indira Mahila yojana women groups are formed in the villages and urban slums which work with the support of the Indira Mahila Kendras established at Anganwad level. It was decided to merge this scheme with Mahila Swyam Sidha Yojana.
19. **Janani Suraksa yojana (JSY) :** Janani Surksha yojana (JSY) was a fully central government sponsored scheme replaced from April 01,2005 with the old schemes, namely National Maternity Benefit Scheme. This scheme introduced for women belonging to families below the poverty line. It is the scheme which a component of national rural health mission proposed in budget 2005-06.
20. **Raj Rajeshwari Mahila Kalyan yojna:** A new Policy, namely Raj Rajeshwari Mahila Kalyan yojana (RRMKY) offering security to women in the age group of 10 to 75 years irrespective of their income occupation or vocation was introduced with effect from 19th October 1998. For a premium of Rs 15 per annum, the policy provides a cover of disablement of the insured women. The Policy also provides a cover of Rs 25000 for the death of her husband, for the death of an unmarried women, the policy provide a cover of Rs 25000 which will be payable to her nomiee
21. **Maher yojana :** Under this scheme women who come to the government institutions are given shelter by the government . For one year, they are paid an amount of Rs 250 per month in cash. It a women comes with her children, an amount of Rs 150 per month and 100 per month is given for the two children respectively. The shelter will give her boarding and lodging and training in some vocation for a period of one year.
22. **Annapoorna yojana :** To Encourage women to get involved in economic activities the government has also launched the Annapoorna yojana where mahila mandala who are involved in preparing nutritious food for anganwaris are paid for their work at 15 ps per beneficiary per day. This will encourage women to group together for this work is a field where very little formal training is required.
23. **Kamdhenu yojana:** Under kamdhenu yojana, Rs 20 are provided as marginal subsidy to those voluntary organization for providing work to one needy women. The purpose of this scheme is to provide work at home to needy women and help them earn some money so as to enable them to become economically independent. Registered mahila organizations will provide school uniforms, bed sheets, pillow cover, duster, brooms soap as well as pickle , papad and seasoning ingredients, for cooking food required in schools, hospitals and institutes etc, ran by the government, semi-government and local bodies.
24. **Mahila Swavalamban Nidhi:** The Mahila Swavalamban Nidhi (MSN) was established in 1997. The financial institutions by and large do not extend loans to meet the minor but essential credit needs of rural women. This situation is further compounded by the fact that women cannot after any appropriate guarantors for their loans. They lack technical knowledge and hence lack mobility, are over whelmed by the perceived burden of the loan and have to face to face a general apathy and lack of sensitivity on the part of the bank officials. The MSN is basically armed at providing financial assistance easily and without too many formalities to needy women.
25. **Reception Centre's and state homes for women :** Objective of this scheme is to provide protection, care, training and rehabilitation to both women in distress and women rescued from brothels under the suppression of

immoral traffic (women and girls) Act, under the statutory programme protective homes are set up for the girls rescued from brothels where as under the non-statutory programme reception centre's are functioning as transit camps Where these women and girls are given voluntary admission. After giving adequate training they are rehabilitated back in the society through marriage, employment, training restoration and reconciliation.

26. **National Bank for Agriculture and rural Development** : NABARD started playing attention to gender issues in credit and support services since July 1992. Empowering the women economically and giving a life to them, the NABARD planned to start the women development cell in all district central co-operative Bank. Through the women development cell, district central co-operative Banks started finance to the eligible women to start a small industries, to sell eatables, to purchases household articles to meet their medical expenses during their pregnancy period to repay their old debits.
27. **Kishore Shakti Yojana** : This scheme is espeacilly for girls of age 11-18 year under which integrated development is done with nutrition, literacy and commercial skill by using ICDCS Instruments. This plan is extending in all blocks of the country.
28. **Kanya vidya Dhan yojana** : This scheme has been launched by utter Pradesh government since 2004-05 in order to encourage girls to provide higher education in U.P. Under this scheme each deserving female students from financial weak families is given an incentive of Rs 20000 to continue her studies after passing out 12th standard.
29. **Asha Yojana** : This scheme has been conducted since 2005-06. In this scheme each village will be facilitated with an accredited social health activist named ASHA in order to take care of rural women at local level.
30. **Swarnim yojana**: This scheme is launched by government for such women of back ward class who are members of families living below poverty line. Under this scheme there is a provision of maximum Rs 50,000 to women of backward class. Rate of interest is fixed by 4% on this debt.
31. **NREGA And women's participation** : The national rural employment guarantee Act (NREGA) came in to effect in Feb 2006. This scheme is largely implemented through Panachayati Raj institutions. It promised 100 days of adult employment for every rural house hold. According to the provision of this scheme, one third of workers have to be women. In case of NREGA, Southern states have performed better than rest of the country. Some states of northern India have really performed will but UP is very for behind.
32. **IDBIS Mahila udyam nidhi (MUN) and Mahila vikas nidhi (MVN)** : The small scale industry covering broad spectrum of industrial units in small, tiny, village and cottage sectors occupies and important position in the industrial structure of the country. The industrial development bank of India has been extending assistance to this sector on priority basis and a special scheme has been drawn up for assistance to women entrepreneurs subsequent to setting up of the small industries development fund. In 1990 SDBI a subsidiary of IDBI, Launched two major schemes for women. The objective of this scheme is to meet the gap in equity while setting up new industrial project in the small scale sector is also for service activities which are eligible for finance as per 551 norms.
33. **Priyadarshani yojana of Bank India** : Bank of India has focused its attention by branding the priyadarshani yojana, a scheme for financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. The Bank has also appointed an entrepreneurial development counselor at every zone.
34. **Stree shakti yojana of state bank of india** : State bank of india has launched stree shakti yojana. As per this scheme to quality as a women entrepreneur the business should be run by a women and she should have a 50% stoke in the enterprise. This scheme also provide start up loans of Rs 25000 without security to women, women want to micro enterprises and be self employed.
35. **National alliance of young entrepreneurs** : National alliance of young entrepreneurs (NAYE) set up women wing in 1975. This is pioneering organization working for promotion and development of entrepreneurship among women. The women's wing has set up chapters in five states. All the state associations, affiliated to this

organization of women entrepreneurs in the country. It organizes international conference of women entrepreneurs.

36. **Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Park** : Science and technology entrepreneurship Parks (STEP) were started in 1987 with the objective to provide training to rural women entrepreneurs for increasing their production capacity and income generation in this programme they give training in the areas of traditional business like agriculture, milk, fisheries, hand looms, khadi, development etc.
37. **Rajiv Gandhi scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls (RGSEAG) Sabia**: This scheme was launched on November 19,2010 with the objective of empowering adolescent girls in the age group 11-18 years by bringing improvement in their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills, life skills and vocational skills. To start with it will be implemented through state government in 200 selected districts across the country on a pilot basis. RGSEAG would be implemented through state government in 200 selected districts across the country on a pilot basis. RGSEAG would be implemented through state government. Anganwadi centres will be the focal points for delivery of services. In there 200 districts kishori shakti yojana (ksy) and the nutrition programme for adolescent girls (NPAG) have been merged in the RGSEAG. In the remaining districts, the ksy will continue as before.
38. **Working women hostels**: It is a scheme to provide safe and affordable accommodation to working women. With the progressive change in the socio-economic fabric of the country, more and more women are leaving their homes in search of employment in big cities as well as urban and rural industrial clusters. The government of india being concerned about the difficulties faced by working women, introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for construction of new/expansion of existing buildings for providing hostel facilities to working women in cities and in other areas where employment opportunities for women exist. The objective of the scheme is to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day cure facility for their children, where ever possible employment opportunity for women exist.
39. **Swadhar greh** : It is a scheme which caters to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances. It subsumed two earlier similar schemes, namely short stay home scheme and swadhar scheme. Recognizing the need to prevent women from exploitation and to support their survival and rehabilitation, the scheme of short stay home for women and girls was introduced as a social defense mechanism by the then Department of social welfare in 1969. The scheme is meant to provide temporary accommodation, maintenance and rehabilitative services to women and girls rendered homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or are being forced in to prostitution and are in moral danger. Another scheme with the similar objectives namely swadhar (a scheme for women in difficult circumstances) was launched in 2001-2002. The scheme envisions a supportive institutional frame work for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction. It envisages that shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security are assured for such women.
40. **Compensation to Rape victims** : The Supreme court in Delhi Domestic working women's forum v/s Union of India and others writ petition (CRL) no. 362/93 had directed the national commission for women to evolve a scheme so as to wipe out the tears of unfortunate victims of rape." The Supreme court observed that having regard to the directive principles contained in the article 38 (1) of the constitution, it was necessary to set up criminal injuries compensations board, as rape victim besides the mental anguish frequently incur substantial financial loss and in some cases are two traumatized to continue in employment. The court further directed that compensation for victims."¹⁰
41. **Gender friendly insurance schemes**: The possibilities of gender differentials for social security's insurance schemes is another area that needs to be examined as there is an urgent need for low-cost and gender friendly insurance systems that cater to the specific life cycle needs of women. More importantly it is absolutely

¹⁰ Ramandeep Kaur. P. 101.

necessary to put in place a well designed health insurance scheme for women in view of their inability to access medical facilities also pension policies need to relook in view of the large number of widow population in the country.”¹¹

42. **Gender sensitizations of trade policy** : United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTAD) organized an international conference on moving towards. Gender sensitizations of trade policy in New Delhi from February 25 to 27, 2008. The conference provided a forum for Indian and international trade and gender experts to discuss and raise awareness on trade performance and gender linkages in India and globally and propose actions and directions towards enhanced and more effective gender sensitization of trade policy with particular reference to India and generally to developing countries.”¹²
43. **Gender Sensitive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy**: The process of involuntary resettlement as a result of large development projects often leads to loss of land, wage employment and housing and shelter, calling for gender sensitive plans towards land based re-settlement, reemployment and re-construction of houses. For instance, women should also get legal rights to land allocated as part of a resettlement package. Women's livelihood and economic activities like gathering forest produce, working in the fields or selling agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry or fishery produce need to be enumerated so that the resettlement and rehabilitation plan also makes provision for the restoration of their livelihood and income. Women's views need to be solicited regarding houses, toilets, water and sanitation. The issue of a gender sensitive resettlement and rehabilitation policy has not been addressed and this deserves immediate public attention.”¹³
44. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)**: On January 22, 2015, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign from Panipat in Haryana. The campaign is aimed at increasing the low value that Indian society puts on the girl child. The trend of decline in the child sex ratio, has been unabated since 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 was alarming. The decline in the CSR is a major indicator of women discrimination manifested through gender based sex selection and past birth discrimination against girls. Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child, the government had announced Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiatives for prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child. This is being implemented through a national campaign and focused districts low in CSR, covering all states and UTs. As per health management information system (HMIS) report of Ministry of Health and family welfare (MOHFW) that was shared by women and child development Minister Smriti Irani on March 20, 2020. Sex Ratio at birth has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 931 in 2018-19. The overall goal of BBBP Scheme is to celebrate the girl child and enable her education.”¹⁴
45. **One Stop Centre Scheme** : Gender based violence (GBV) is a global health, human rights and development issue that transcends geography, class, culture, age, race and religion to affect every community and country in every corner of the world. Gender based violence has many manifestations from the more universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence including rape, to harmful practices such as, dowry, honour killing, Acid attacks, witch hunting, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, trafficking from commercial sexual exploitation etc. In light of the above Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has formulated a centrally sponsored scheme for setting up one stop centres. These centres have been established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof of women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in a phased manner. As on March 06, 2020 a total of 728 OSCs are approved in 724 districts across the country out of these 6800 OSCs are operational so far.”¹⁵

¹¹ Ibid, PP. 94-95.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid. PP, 90-91.

¹⁴ Kurukshetra, A journal on rural development. Vol 68, no. 07, May 2020, P.36.

¹⁵ <http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/proposalforonestopcentre17.3.2015.pdf>

46. **Universlisation of women helpline (whl) scheme 2016:** The scheme of universalisation of women helpline is intended to provide 29 hours. 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. Women helpline will be integrated with one stop centre schemes (osc) under which an osc shall be established in every state/ut to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in need of redressal services will be referred to osc through whL. The objective of the scheme to provide toll free 24 hours telecom service to women affected by violence, seeking support and information. To provide information about the appropriate support services government schemes and programmes available to women affected by violence.
47. **Ujjawala:**¹⁶ Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is an organized crime that violates basic human rights. The problem of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is especially challenging due to its myriad complexities and variations. Poverty low status of women, lack of a protective environment etc, are some of the causes for trafficking keeping the above issues and gaps in mind the MWCD has formulated a central scheme comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking for rescue rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitations “ujjawala” The scheme was conceived primarily for the purpose of preventing trafficking on the one hand and rescue and rehabilitation of victims on the other. It came into effect in 2016.
48. **Nirbhaya Fund:** violence and above against women and girls is frequent on streets, in public transportation and in other public places such occurrences restrict women’s right to mobility, discouraging their freedom to walk freely and move in public spaces of their choice. In this context and following the incident of December 2012, the government had set up a dedicated fund Nirbhaya fund which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non lapsable corpus fund being administered by department of economic affairs, ministry of finance. MWCD further has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes in conjunction with the line ministers and departments.”¹⁷
49. **Mahila Police Volunteers:** Gender based violence (GBV) faced by women in public and private spaces, including domestic violence, sexual assault rape, voyeurism, staking etc, is a major threat to women equality and empowerment.

It is a matter of common knowledge that women who are victim of violence or harassment may not find it easy to approach the police or other authorities for getting help or support. It would therefore be desirable to provide an effective alternative for getting help and support.

In order to promote these objectives and increase focused community outreach the government of India started the scheme of Mahila Police volunteers in all states and UT’s who will act as a link between Police and the community and facilitate women in distress. MPVS are envisaged as empowered responsible socially aware women for fostering leadership in local settings to facilitate Police outreach on gender concerns. They act as an interface between society and the Police.”¹⁸

50. **Mahila-E-Haat:** The ministry of women and child development launched “Mahila-E-Haat” a bilingual portal on March 07, 2016. This is a unique direct online marketing platform leveraging technology for supporting women entrepreneurs/ SHGS/NGOS for showcasing the products/ services which are made/ manufactured/undertaken by them. It is an initiative for meeting aspirations and needs of women. The USP of this online marketing platform are facilitating direct contact between the vendors and buyers, as by displaying their contact number, address as also the basic cost of products/ services. Since its launch over 17 lakh visitors/ hits have been received by the Mahila-E-Haat portal sensitization advocacy, training, packing and soft

¹⁶ <http://wcd.nic.in/scheme/ujjawala-comprehensive-scheme-prevention-trafficking-and-rescue-rehabilitation-and-re>

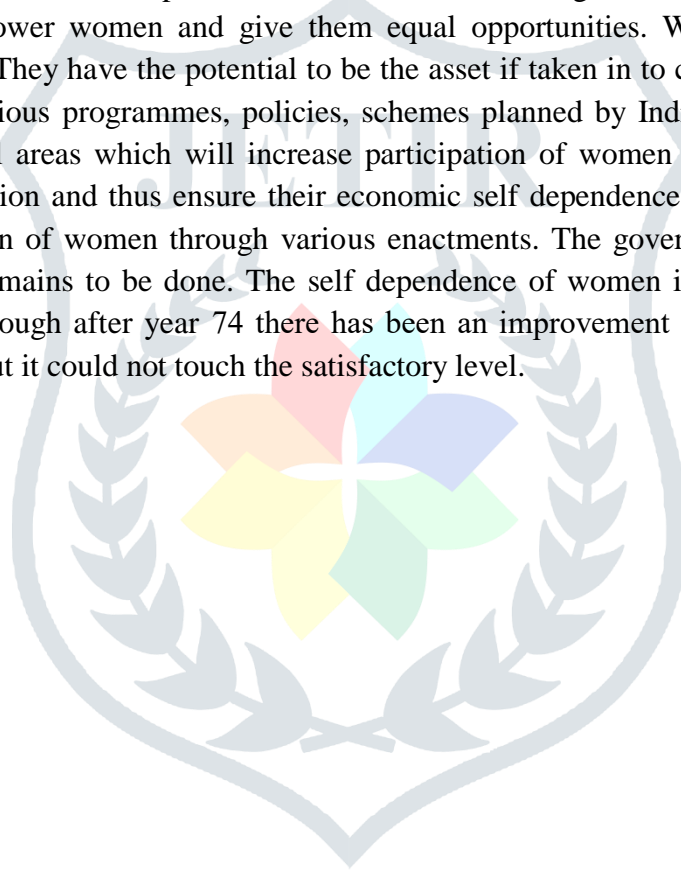
¹⁷ <http://wcd.nic.in/scheme/nirbhaya>

¹⁸ <http://wcd.nic.in/scheme/mahila-police-volunteers>

intervention workshops on Mahila-E-Haat are organized periodically with the support of state government & women development corporations, New Delhi and any others. This exclusive portal is the first in the country to provide a special focused marketing platform for women. It aims at financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women.”¹⁹

51. **National Creche schemes:** This scheme is being implemented as centrally sponsored schemes through states/UTS with effect from January 01, 2017 to provide day care facilities to children of working mothers. The salient features of the national crèche scheme are as follows day care facilities including sleeping facilities, early stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school education for 03 to 06 years old children, supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, health check up and immunization. Creches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half hours per day, the number of children in the crèche should not be more than 25 per crèche with one worker and one helper respectively.

Conclusion: India is on the cusp of becoming a super power but this dream cannot be achieved till 50% of population consisting of women are empowered. In addition to there government is also working towards bringing legislation to empower women and give them equal opportunities. Women are not insensitive to progress and developments. They have the potential to be the asset if taken in to confidence and entrusted with responsibility. There are various programmes, policies, schemes planned by Indian government to encourage women employment in rural areas which will increase participation of women in rural development. It will elevate their status and position and thus ensure their economic self dependence. In conclusion it can be said that strengthened the position of women through various enactments. The government has achieved much in this regard but much still remains to be done. The self dependence of women is a precondition to cease the exploitation of women. Although after year 74 there has been an improvement in women’s employment and their socio-economic level but it could not touch the satisfactory level.



¹⁹ <http://wcd.nic.in/scheme/mahila-e-haat>