



Rethinking and Re-evaluation in Government's Role for Women's Welfare Schemes

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• Abstract

This paper is sort of a small survey investigation to evaluate government schemes that assures us to bring huge changes in the socio-economic conditions of women in India. At present, we are witness of various small or big schemes but cannot comprehensively be considered as effective tool for the welfare of women. The main concern of this discussion is that government should evaluate its all policies and schemes time to time. To deal this subject matter, we must aware to limit our analysis under the discussion of specific schemes only. By and large, we have total four sections in this paper. In the first section, we elaborate the concept of 'woman empowerment' with (the special reference of Ministry of Woman and Child Development). In the second section, we mainly focus on two schemes (Mahila E-haat and Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme) with their main objectives and the roles in an ordinary woman's life. In the third section, we particularly survey the roles and duties of (Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikarn Scheme-SABLA) even though this scheme has been regulated in total 35 states of India. In Rajasthan, total ten districts (Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Bhaanswara, Udaipur, Jhalwar, Dungarpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Barmer and Ganganagar) have been selected for this scheme. In 2000 Ministry of Child and Women welfare (Govt. of India) has started 'Kishori Shakti Yojna' under de-structuring of ICDC. It mainly focused on the age group between (11-18) to look after their physical and mental health through association of family members. In the last section, we may conclude that there is needed urgency not at administrate level for govt. but also at own individual level to verify the certainty of such schemes in future.

Key Words: Women, Ministry, Scheme and Evaluation

• Introduction

At present, we are witness of number of woman welfare schemes all around the world. In India, concerned departments like (Ministry of Woman and Child Development) regularly active for discussing woman's related issues and providing legitimate support to them. In this way, we must little think about the concept of 'woman empowerment' here. At first sight, it seems common and known to all. According to United Nations convention, (Gender Equality and Woman Empowerment) is listed as 5th out of 17th Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹

¹ For more information visit <https://www.unido.org/our-focus/cross-cutting-services/gender-equality-and-empowerment-women>

It means that all woman disrespect of caste, religion, color, and ethnicity must have access to achieve physical, economical, mental, social sorts of development without any fear and unnecessary restrictions. Article 15 (1) perspicuously advocates that the state must have equal attitude for both male and female. Similarly, Article 16 (1) favors employment equality without consult any specific sex. It must be remembered that the notion of woman empowerment is the result of unbearable exploitation of woman in all sects of social, economic and religious inclusion. So, at national and international level various kinds of commissions and legislations as (legal rights and safeguards) required for women's participation and upliftment. For reducing the domestic violence, a woman may approach to concerned authority with 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act [2005]'. Along with 'Dowry Prohibition Act [1961]' was introduced for women to make them free from male party's exploitation. Also, the government is accountable for controlling the determination of sex with Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection Act, [1994]). In a similar way, National Commission for Women Act [1990] takes care of all female matters either related their legal safeguards or different schemes and programs. While Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal, Act [2013] also saves the women identity in all public and private places.² We have enough information here that easily makes us better to understand the notion of woman empowerment. Today, it is also more famous and seems a developed thought or vision in modern feminist era. But we cannot ignore the remote areas where still woman is illiterate not by literacy point of view but also surrounded by the same historical cage of male oriented society. So, even a number of legal or other non-governmental level efforts are in action but the target of (ALL= WOMAN) is not achieved yet.

• **Government Schemes:**

(Mahila- E- Haat and Mahila Shakti Kendra)

As we mentioned in the previous section that the government is worried about the welfare of woman in all spheres of life. For this purpose, it is actively worked for organizing committees, establishing commissions, directing states and passing different acts to regulate the level of women's progress all over the country. In this section, we mainly focus above two schemes here.

Mahila –E- haat

It directly comes under (Ministry of Women and Child Development) that is a kind of Bilingual portal launched on 7th March 2016. It helps the (Woman entrepreneur, SHGs and NGOs) to advertise their products time to time. It has many advantages for such entrepreneur as follows.³

- It is a kind of direct link between vendor and buyer.
- Aadhar ID is relevant.
- By the age of 18 years, woman can display the product or service.
- It is less complicated to login E- Haat and even mobile also be a medium between vendor and buyer.
- Over 2000 products in 18 categories displayed from 24 states.

² For more details see <https://edugeneral.org/blog/polity/women-rights-in-india/>

³ Visit <http://mahilaehaat-rmk.gov.in/en/>

- On 9th September 2016, it has been awarded with SKOCH GOLD.

Under this scheme, Mahila-E – haat organized workshops periodically with the help of state governments and woman development corporations. It is also an important that this portal is upgraded.

Mahila Shakti Kendra

It is another kind of Government's initiative (during 2017-18 up to 2019-20) to improve and empower rural woman by the community participation. It comes under Pradhan Mantri Mahila Sashkatikarn Yojna (PMMSY). It works at central, state, district and block levels. At center level, the main focus on 'Gender Issues' and would monitor, co-ordinate the work progress of State, District and Blocks. At state level, the technical help is provided by State Resource Center for Women (SRCW). While district level center for women (DLCW) collects information related govt. schemes, programs and create a link around 640 districts.⁴ In above all center-state-district-block wise sequence is monitored and co-ordinate with the same sequence here. In this scheme, villager women trained and get awareness easily. But here, it is an important part of 'volunteer' that useful for around 115 backward districts of the scheme.

In both schemes (Mahila –E- haat & Mahila Shakti Kendra), we can observe the initiatives of government for woman's progress. In the first scheme, we find that government is ready to use multimedia for empowering woman in the business line. It develops the user-friendly online portal for woman. In the second scheme, it is regulated at center, state, district and blocks all levels. It is targeted to empower villager woman with volunteer participation around 115 backward blocks of MSK.

Main Focus on Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikarn Scheme- (SALBA)

In this section, we elaborately discuss 'Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikarn Scheme (SALBA)' with its role and importance in an ordinary woman's life. In this scheme, the word 'Kishore' has an important place that may have various derivatives (like 'to produce', 'to identify' etc.). In fact, it indicates all round development of girls. In (2000) Ministry of Child and Women welfare (Govt. of India) has started 'Kishori Shakti Yojna' under de-structuring of ICDS. It covers the age group between (11-18) to look after their physical and mental health through family members' participation. It has been implemented in total 35 states of India. In Rajasthan, total ten districts (Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Bhaanswara, Udaipur, Jhalwar, Dungarpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Barmer and Ganganagar) have been selected for this scheme. The objectives are followed as:

- By literacy, makes them empower.
- By proper nutrition, makes them healthy.
- To spread awareness related health, cleanliness and family issues.
- To prepare them occupation oriented.
- By vocational education change the life of illiterate girls.

⁴ <http://www.wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Final%20Guidelines%20MSK%28English%29%20Scheme.pdf>

❖ **Main Activities**

(A) Kishori Group

At Aganwadi level, in a group around (15-25) Kishoris will be included and then (3 leaders) will also be selected for one year. They would work as ‘Saheli’ and get a certificate from government.

(B) Training kit

Each Aganwadi would have a kit for resolving health; education and law related all issues. Sakhi or Saheli will be trained for using this kit.

(C) Kishori Divas

By the instructions of state government or other bodies, one day will be celebrated in three months. It is an important to associate the mothers on this day.

(D) Kishori Card

It is a kind of record for Kishoris about their health, weight, height etc. It would also include admission, drop out of all Kishoris.⁵ Under SABLA, two main things will be kept in mind. First take care of age group (11-14 then 14-18) Kishoris. Secondly focus on the same age group but dropout only. Thus it is limited with the Kishori age groups to provide them help in terms of hygienic food, reducing the dropout, encouraging admissions and developing vocational abilities.

❖ **Conclusion**

In this paper, we surveyed some women welfare schemes (Mahila –E- haat & Mahila Shakti Kendra and Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikarn Scheme- (SALBA) to re-collect some observations here. By discussing such schemes, we find that our government has definitely regular concern for women’s welfare and to empower them. And also no doubt, women are benefitting with each and every scheme. But after that we must suggest that our government should evaluate the progress report with count the period of years for targeted group or group of women. For evaluation, it is better to find out the drawbacks if any with comparative study of such schemes. If any scheme is played more important role then must be continued till the achieving of last goal. It may also be possible that our government must follow area wise issue/problem oriented approach. It may notice that instead of bundle of schemes better to improve the implementation process with few schemes.

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