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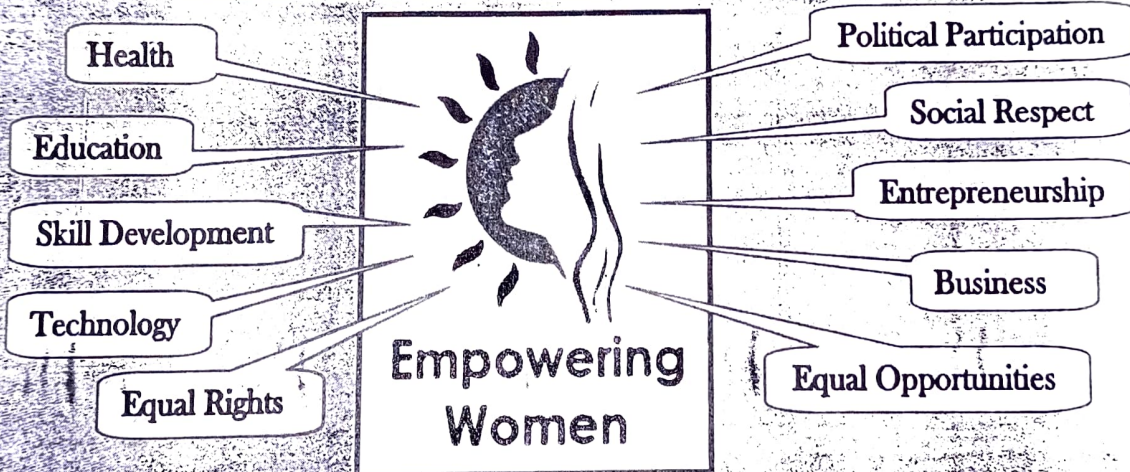
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**Women Empowerment**

Through Entrepreneurship & Skill Development



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## **Role of Government Schemes in Women's Empowerment : A Sociological Study**

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### **Preface:-**

Women who had lived in slavery for hundreds of years had no rights and freedoms. Shudras and women were treated with utmost contempt in society. Women of Indian society had no right in choosing a life partner, getting an education, participating in social and cultural activities, claiming heritage, etc. In the name of customs and traditions, women faced a hard life. Therefore, time was needed to improve it. Recognizing this, social reformers like Mahatma Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, etc. tried to break many of the customs and traditions prevailing in the society and spent their entire lives there. As a far-reaching consequence of this, today's woman appears to be breathing free. Despite the drastic change in the lives of Indian women, not everyone in the society seems to see this way of life.

Globally, less and more of all countries have seen male and female inequalities. The idea that she should be abolished was emphasized, and in many countries, different women's movements and women's struggles were created. In view of the growing opposition of women, the United Nations declared 1975 the year as the World Woman of the Year and made women's issues available to the world stage. Each country developed different developmental plans to solve those problems by taking a sympathetic view of women's problems for this, our nation is also not exception and see the positive impact of this on the lives of women in Indian society.

### **Research Statement:-**

The present research paper intended to show various developmental schemes created by Indian government and states governments for women empowerment. The research is compiled and analyzed in the research presented in Research on "the Role of Government Schemes in Women's Empowerment: A Sociological Study".

### **Research Methods:-**

In any social research, one has to base the research methodology to study the problem. Therefore, the analytical research method has been used in the presented research. An attempt has been made to review the various schemes of the government for women empowerment while compiling information in accordance with women's empowerment.

### **Areas of research: -**

In the presented research paper, the contribution of various government schemes in women's empowerment has been reviewed, as the field of research has to be fixed in order to compile objective facts. That is, the contribution of government schemes to women's empowerment is the limitation of this research work.

### **Data Collection: -**

In the presented research only secondary material was used for the collection of data and reference books were used in magazines, journals, news paper and the Internet is also used.

### **Objectives of the research: -**

1. To Explain the concept of women empowerment.
2. To review the various schemes implemented by the Government for the empowerment of women.





**Hypothesis of Research: -**

1. Empowerment of women has been promoted through the government's plans and initiatives of various social organizations.
2. Due to female education, women are able to work in different fields with equal to man.
3. The benefits of various schemes of the government are not as beneficial to the women in the rural areas as they are to the rural areas.

**Data Analysis: -**

Women and men are the major element of society. A small proportion of the social system appears to be the same in all countries. In any country, women constitute 40.47 per cent of the total population, and women are neglected, there will be no overall development of the country. Considering the data that all the countries of the world started developing efforts for women empowerment at their level, the Government of India declared 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment. The Government of India has set up The National Women's Commission and tried to achieve parallel development of women by adopting different policies. There is no area in which women have not made their debut. From bus conductor to pilot of aircraft, Indian women have been floated from various states to the Chief Minister, Prime Minister and President. Yet you cannot say that all Indian women have developed at the same level. The concepts of development and women empowerment of the country are interdependent, therefore, the government has worked to create awareness among the women. Creating a social system without gender discrimination, eliminating male and female inequalities, empowering women to get social, political, economic, rights will mean women empowerment. Conscious efforts were made at the government level for this. As a result, the various schemes implemented by the Government helped to bring about a drastic change in the lives of Indian women.

**Definition of Women Empowerment: -**

1. "Empowerment of women in social, educational and political fields through the Law and Welfare Program is to empower them to provide them equal rights with men, to provide opportunities for development and to reduce that feminine inequality."
2. "In Indian society, the process of getting a chance to behave in a society like a man is called female empowerment".

Women are a valuable human resource and for the sustainable development of the country it is imperative to develop them in all social, educational, economic, cultural and political field. Women population in India is 40.47 percent of the total population. The principle of equality of men and women is laid down in the Indian Constitution as proposed in the fundamental rights and duties and guidelines. Therefore, the Government of India has endeavored to make the overall development welfare program of women. Different type of welfare program for women in India as follows.

**1. National Soccer Diet Program: -**

Under the direction of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, the Government launched a national succulent diet program in India in 1960, in which the government tries to feed pregnant women and lactating children under the age of five.

**2. Women's prosperity scheme: -**

The Central Government started the scheme in 1993, which provides financial supports to the women through the self help group, helps to set up the savings group, finances the women through the scheme to set up various small scale, cottage industries by empowering the women. Assistance is provided by government of India by providing different types of schemes.

**3. Women's Protection Home: -**

Police protection of women is given under the Prevention of Immoral Trade Act 1956 to free women who are trafficked into the prostitution business. Rehabilitation of such women by providing them



with basic necessities, as well as providing medical facilities, making them self-sufficient, helping them to do business, the mission of raising their family is done through Women Protection Home.

**4. Balika Samriddhi Yojana: -**

The scheme provides for the financial assistance of a maximum of two girls below the poverty line born after August 15, 1997 and a grant of Rs 500 is given after the birth of the girl. The subsidy is deposited in their provident fund account or National Savings Scheme or bank savings account, and Rs 300 for the education of 1st to 3rd, Rs. 500 for education of fourth, Rs. 600 for education of fifth, Rs. Subsidy is given to girls every year from Rs. 1000 per year. This money should be used to educate girls and buy their uniforms;

**5. Government girls' hostel: -**

In Indian society we see that there are many instances of thousands of girls completing their education by taking advantage of the fact that the girl's independent living quarters have been set up in every district in all the states of the country to provide women with education to benefit their families.

**6. Government Female Hostel: -**

To provide protection and basic facilities to the illiterate, destitute, abandoned, Kumarimata, oppressed women in the age group of 18 to 40, such hostels have been set up in every district in most states of the country. A needy woman can live in this hostel for two to three years. Various forms of financial aid are also provided by the government in the form of grants to such women.

**7. Assisting grants to the Women's Board for the vocational training of women: -**

Monthly training run by NGOs, Rs 28,500 is given for six months training as recurring deposit through the Mahila Vikas Mandal, which provides training for sewing, embroidery, food making, etc. Similarly, a grant of Rs 21 thousand 500 is given annually. 75 per month as well.

**8. Devdasi Welfare Scheme: -**

A monthly grant of Rs 300 is given to women above the age of 40 for the economically weaker section. In this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 10,000 has been provided for the marriage of their daughters, Rs. 400 for the daughter of Devadasi women and Rs. 370 for the boy for the purchase of school books and uniforms.

**9. Indra Gandhi Friendship Cooperation Scheme: -**

The scheme was launched by the Central Government in 2010 and provides cash incentive of Rs 4000 for first two offspring to mothers over 19 years of age.

**10. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme: -**

The Scheme came into force on October 2, 1975 and the Government has taken responsibility for providing basic facilities and healthy food to mothers and children who are undergoing governmental efforts to prevent malnutrition of children and their mothers under 6 years of age and to provide competent health facilities.

**11. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vikas Yojana: -**

The scheme was launched in July 2007 and it provides assistance to the education of women belonging to Scheduled Castes and minority communities and women below poverty line.

**12. Sabla Yojana: -**

The scheme is implemented in 2011 and efforts are being made to provide protection to out-of-school girls in the age group of 11-18. It involves efforts to develop nutritional, health and vitality skills for adolescent girls.

**13. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana: -**





This is a central government scheme implemented on January 22, 2015 and the scheme gives special interest to the girls on the account of their parents. Also, some amount is given to the concerned girl through the government. The money deposited in the account can be used only for the girl's. This amount can be used by parents for girls' education and marriage. The primary provision of this scheme.

#### 14. Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana:

The scheme came into force on May 1, 2016, in which the central government is determined to provide free LPG gas to women below poverty line. A campaign to connect gas to every household has been made under this scheme and this is a flagship scheme the Prime Minister of India, Honorable Narendra Modi.

#### Summary: -

In this way, after the independence, India tried to achieve full development of women by successfully implementing various schemes implemented by the Government for empowering women in the country. Still we have not seen many women have not benefited from the various schemes and facilities of the government. Due to illiteracy and ignorance, many women from rural and tribal areas are facing hardship in their life. It is a fact that the social life of rural, tribal women and urban women seems to be in stark contrast. Therefore, there is a need of the hour to provide special facilities to rural women to empower rural women at comparable levels in urban areas. Only then we can say that women in India will be empowered at a balanced level.

#### Conclusion: -

1. Due to the various development schemes implemented by the Government, women empowerment in India has been driven.
2. Government schemes appear to be benefited to women in urban areas as compared to rural and tribal areas.
3. Not all the schemes of the government have reached to the common women in rural and tribal areas even today, many of the names of the schemes are not even known to the women of the rural and tribal areas, but the educated men are not aware of these schemes. As a result, not all the schemes of the government have reached the rural and tribal people.

#### Recommendations: -

1. To promote equitable social development for women at all levels, the need of the hour is to promote and disseminate various government schemes in urban and rural areas.
2. Appointment of a special envoy to help the rural areas to reach out to the schemes so that the children of the younger generation pay special honorarium and use them as information ambassadors will help the women to become aware of various schemes.

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