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Topic- Women education through five years plan in India

Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-1985)

The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85), marked a landmark in the history of women's development by including a separate chapter and adopting a multi-disciplinary approach with the three pronged thrust on health, education and employment. This Plan reviewed the status and situation of women in general and came to the conclusion that inspite of legal and constitutional guarantees; women had lagged behind men in all sectors. It stressed that the main strategy for women's development was three-fold education, employment and health. For the first time, it clearly spelt out that economic independence would accelerate improvement in the status of women and suggested the setting up of cells at the district level for increasing women's participation through selfemployment. It also wanted the government to review the adequacy of the implementing machinery of various special legislations passed for the protection of women's right. It referred, as usual, to the need for increasing enrollment of the girls at the elementary level, thus encouraging the promotion of education for women in backward areas

Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-1990)

The Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-90) operationalized the concern for equity and empowerment articulated by the International Decade for Women. During this Plan efforts were made to provide welfare measures to all sections of society

especially the underprivileged section-the women. A significant step in this direction was to identify/promote the 'beneficiaries-oriented programmes' for women in different developmental sectors, which extend direct benefits to women. Women Mahila Mandals were established. Many Art and Craft centres were opened for women in order to enhance their employment opportunities. Support to Training-cumEmployment for Women (STEP) was launched in 1987 to strengthen the skills among women with a view to promote employment opportunities for women. Employment and income generating training-cum-production centres for women were started to train women in order to make them independent.

Eight Five Year Plan (1992- 1997)

Women, in deed, are not benefited from Women's development programme of India's Five Year Plan; rather, they were excluded from the benefits. In the UN questionnaire undertaken during women's Decade; instead of benefiting women, development leads to further marginalisation of women. The New Economic Policy (in the name of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation) benefited the urban rich and harmful to both rural poor including men and women.

The approach of 8th Plan marked a shift from 'development' to 'empowerment' of women. Some major initiatives in approach to women development schemes are:-

- i) Setting up of the National Commission for Women (NCW) in 1992 to safeguard the rights and interest of women.
- ii) Setting up of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) in 1993 to meet the micro-credit needs of poor and asset less women.
- iii) Adoption of National Nutrition Policy (NNP) in 1993 in conformity with the constitutional commitment to improve nutritional status of the people in general and in particular that of children, adolescent girls, expectant and nursing mother.
- iv) Launching of the Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) in 1993 to promote thrift activities amongst women.

- v) Setting up of National Creche Fund (NCF) in 1994 to provide crèche services to the children of working mothers.
- vi) Launching of Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) in 1995 advocating an integrated approach for women empowerment through women SHGs. [IMY was renamed as Integrated Women's Empowerment Programme (Swayamidha) in 1999 and Mahila Samridhi Yojana was merged with it" (Eleventh Five Year Plan, GOI)].

The 8th Plan made 73rd and 74th Amendment Act of 1993 to the constitution of India which have provided for reserved of women seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women. Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme (Aug. 15, 1997) was set up to establish girls' school in districts having low female literacy rate. The 8th Plan (1992-97) with human development as its major focus played a very important role in the development of women. It promised to ensure that benefits of development from different sectors do not bypass women, implement special programmes to complement the general development programmes and to monitor the flow of benefits to women from other development sectors and enable women to function as equal partners and participants in the development process (10th FYP, Plan Comm. GOI, p.218). For economic empowerment & to provide "Near full employment," the government has reset its priorities to accord special emphasis to keep women gainfully engaged through employment cum income generation activities. The ultimate objective of all these efforts is to make women economically independent and self-reliant. Some of the important initiative thus undertaken in this direction include launching of programmes viz., 'Work and Wage', 'Learn while you earn', 'Credit for Entrepreneurial/Self Employment Ventures', Employment Guaranty (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas), STEP (Support for Training and Employment), TEPC(Training cum Employment cum Production Centres) popularly known as NORAD are some of the important women-specific employment cum training programmes. There exist a few more programmes like, IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment Programmes), JRY (Jawahar Rozgar Yojana), NRY

(Nehru Rozgar Yojana), PMRY (Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana) which extend 30 to 40% reservation of benefits for women. The schemes of Hostels for Working Women, Crèches for Children of Working/ Ailing Mothers, National Crèche Fund and Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls extend support services for women. The scheme of Hostels for Working Women provides safe and cheap accommodation to working women/girls who come to cities/ towns in search of employment.

Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002)

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) made two significant changes in the conventional strategy of planning for women. 'Empowerment of women' became one of the 9 primary objectives of the 9th plan. Women were considered to be empowerment as the agents of social change and development. The plan attempted 'convergence of existing services' available in both women-specific and women related sectors with a special strategy of 'women component Plan' (WCP) (10th FYP, Plan Comm. GOI). The Govt adopted Bhagya Shree Bal Kalyan Policy (Oct. 19, 1998) to uplift the girls conditions and Rajrajeswari Mahila Kalyan Yojana (Oct. 19, 1998) to Provide insurance protection to women.

“The 9th plan emphasised on the strategies of:-

- i) Reservation of rd seats for women in parliament and state Lagislative Assemblies.
- ii) Convergence of existing services, resources, infrastructure and manpower in women specific and women-related sections.
- iii) Adoption of special strategy of women component plan (WCP) to ensure that not less than 30% of funds/ benefits flow to women from other development sectors.
- iv) Organising women SHGs as a major process of empowering women.
- v) High priority to reproductive child health care.
- vi) Universalizing on-going supplementary feeding programme- Special Nutrition Programme (SNP) and Mid-Day Meals (MDM).

- vii) Ensuring easy and equal access to education for women and girls through special action Plan of 1998
- viii) Elimination of gender bias in all educational programmes INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH CULTURE SOCIETY ISSN: 2456-6683 Volume - 3, Issue - 4, Apr – 2019 Monthly, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Indexed Journal Impact Factor: 4.526 Publication Date: 30/04/2019 Available online on - WWW.IJRCS.ORG Page 67
- ix) Free education for girls up to college level including professional courses.
- x) Promoting skill development amongst women in modern upcoming trades etc.
- xi) Adoption of “National Policy for Empowerment of Women”.

Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007)

The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has set certain monitorable targets for women. These are: The Swyamsidha programme, a recast version of the Indira Mahila Yojna, organizes women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for income generation activities. It also facilitates access to services such as literacy, health, non-formal education, water-supply etc. One of the basic principles of governance laid down in the United Progressive Alliance Government’s National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) is to empower women politically, educationally, economically and legally. The Women’s Component Plan (WCP) involved efforts to ensure that not less than 30 percent of funds/benefits were earmarked for women under the various schemes of the women-related ministries/departments. Women are under-represented in the process of the formulation and implementation of the Plan itself. WCP seems an afterthought, simply added on to preexisting development programmes and projects. The actual experiences of women in empowering themselves need to be first understood and those experiences used as a benchmark. To make women’s grassroots political participation a living reality, they should be enabled to monitor and audit the various programmes and schemes at the level of Panchayat through a local committee. Given patriarchal domination and women’s consequent lack of an independent voice in

decisionmaking, the elected women representatives to PRIs may be restrained in independently exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties. At every step, there is a need to increase the participation of women in the process of formulation and implementation of development planning so that gender equity issues are accounted for plans have a positive impact on women.

Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012)

The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) reads: “An important divide which compels immediate attention relates to gender. Special, focused efforts made to purge society of this malaise by creating an enabling environment for women to become economically, politically and socially empowered”. However, past Plans have expressed similar concern with respect to the gender divide. The strategy for women is confined to three areas- violence against women, economic empowerment and women’s health. A major challenge before the 11th Plan was to enable the creation of an environment for women that is safe and free from violence. Regular campaigns of issues such as female foeticide, physical abuse, trafficking, gender discrimination and domestic violence may be organized. Finally, the 11th Plan recognised that a nation cannot be healthy unless its women are healthy. It strived to reduce the incidence of anemia and malnutrition among the adolescent girls to break the cycle of ill-health and infant mortality [15]. In a unique move, the government has constituted a committee of “feminist” economists to ensure gender sensitive allocation of public resources in the 11th Five Year Plan. Apart from identifying significant trends for women in economy and suggesting policy measures to integrate them into the growth agenda, the group looked at assessment standards being used to evaluate progress- both sector-wise and in micro-economic segments and offer suggestions which helped device more sensitive indicators to reflect gender issues [16].

Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017)

It is widely believed that men enjoy all the power and position; women were treated as second rate and lower human spheres. Twelfth Five Year Plan entitled

as 'Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth'. This plan had decided at the growth rate 8.2%. The Planning Commission is pushing for special dispensation for single woman, particularly those who are single by choice. Women participation in favour related work, both in agriculture and animal husbandry. In framing policies/schemes for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the special needs of women must be taken due care of. The focus of the Twelfth Five Year Plan is on the health, education, urbanization and governance.