

## **Empowering Women Striving Towards a Strong Nation Building**

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**Abstract:** Women's' empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion impacting the development and growth of economics. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Women empowerment can be understood in very simple way as to make women powerful so that they can take their own decisions regarding their lives and wellbeing in the family and society. It is empowering women to make them able to get their real rights in the society. It is a well-known fact that India is a male dominated country where males are dominated in every area and females are forced to be responsible for only family care and live in the home including other many restrictions. Almost 50% of the population in India is covered by the female hence the full development of the country depends on the half population means women, who are not empowered and still restricted by many social taboos. In such condition, strong support from the government and society is needed for empowering Women in every possible aspects. The Government of India initiated so many Schemes for empowerment of Women. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has started so many Programmes. The study is purely theoretical. The Study is based on secondary data sources. The necessary information about the Women Empowerment Schemes in India and its various components are collected from Books, Journals, Internet Source or related topic.

**Keywords:** Womens' Empowerment, Govt. Schemes

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Women Empowerment is a significant topic of discussion, mainly in underdeveloped and developing nations. The term women empowerment is all about authority, or the power embarked on women sharing indistinguishable rights. The term refers to the liberation of women from socio-economic restraints of reliance. Women comprise around 50% of the country's population, and a bulk of them stays economically dependent on each other without employment. In the age of feminism, a small portion of women in India are freed and can employ their free will and are permitted to carve out their lives the way they want. But there is a considerable division of the women in this nation who require optimistic support. In most Indian villages and semi-urban cities, women are still denied fundamental education and are

never authorized to continue higher education despite amassing the understanding required. They have lately realized that the development that they aspire cannot be achieved unless we achieve gender equality by Empowering the Women.

Women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly per day, and thus, they are considered the backbone of every society. Living in male-dominating societies, women play a wide range of roles, such as caring mothers, loving daughters, and capable colleagues. The best part is that they fit the bill perfectly in every role. Nonetheless, they've also stood as a neglected bunch of society in different parts of the world. In turn, it has resulted in women surviving the brunt of unevenness, financial trustworthiness, oppression, and distinct social evils. Women have been residing under the shackles of enslavement for centuries now that impedes them from attaining professional as well as personal highs

Women Empowerment means promoting women in their social and economic development, providing them equal opportunities of employment, education, economical development and allowing them to socialize; the freedoms and rights that were denied before. It is process which empowers women to know that they too can achieve their aspirations as the men of the society and help them do that. The essential factors for empowerment are:(1) Education: Education gives one the ability to think wisely and take thoughtful decisions.(2) Gender Discrimination: A society which discriminates between the 2 genders can never be empowered.(3) Discrimination based on caste, creed, religion etc. Empowerment of women, particularly rural women has become an important issue in the strategies of balanced development with social justice.

Women empowerment in India is dependent up to a great extent on numerous different variables that encompass geographical setting (urban/rural), social status (caste and class), educational status, and age factor. Actions on the women empowerment exist at the state, local (panchayat), and national levels. However, women encounter differentiation in most sectors like education, economic opportunities, health and medical assistance, and political participation, which demonstrates that there are substantial gaps between strategy advancements and real exercise at the community level.

A long struggle going back over a century has brought women the property rights, voting rights, inequality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment. In addition to the above rights, in India, the customs of purdaha (vile system), female infanticide, child

marriage, sati pratha, dowry system and the state of permanent widowhood are either totally removed or checked to an appreciable extent after independence through legislative measures.

Crafting and execution of a concrete policy framework, dispersing civic awareness, and education concerning the empowerment of women can usher to accomplishing the desired missions in eradicating the plight of women in the society of India. The realm of women empowerment in India is limited to granting balanced rights to women. Apart from these during the last few years, the Government of India has taken the safety and empowerment of women and children into serious consideration and has introduced schemes and initiatives for them like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, Ujjawala, ICDS, Kishori Shakhata Yojana etc., have been launched by the Indian government, which form the main objective of this paper.

## **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.

## **NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NPEW):**

It was adopted in 2001 which states that any forms of violence against women, physical and mental, at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt effectively with a view to eliminate them. It aimed at creating and strengthening institutions and mechanisms/schemes for assistance and prevention of such violence which also includes sexual harassment at the workplace and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. Emphasis has also been laid on setting up various programmes to deal with trafficking in women and girls.

**Under the above policy i.e. NPEW several Women Empowerment Schemes have been formulated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, India. Some of the schemes are as follows:**

## **1. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME (BBBP) - 2015**

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

### **1.1. Description:**

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (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 Padhao (BBBP) Scheme has been introduced to address the issue declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR). This scheme is being implemented through a national campaign and focused multi-sectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs. This scheme is implemented by the joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Prime Minister Modi launched the programme on 22 January 2015 from Panipat, Haryana on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, Prime Minister Modi, called for the eradication of female feticide.

### **1.2. Objective :**

The objectives of this scheme are as follows:

- To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination.
- To ensure survival & protection of the girl child.
- To ensure education of the girl child.

**1.3 Eligibility:** All Girl child

**1.4. Beneficiaries:** All Girl child

### **1.5. Benefits:**

The benefits of this scheme are summarized as below:

- Improvement of the Nutrition status of girls by reducing number of underweight and anemic girls under 5 years of age
- Ensuring girls' attendance and equal care monitored, using joint ICDS NRHM Mother Child Protection Cards.
- Increasing the girl's enrolment in secondary education
- This scheme provides girl's toilet in every school.
- It aims to promote a protective environment for Girl Children through implementation of

### Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

- Train Elected Representatives/ Grassroot functionaries as Community Champions to mobilize communities to improve CSR & promote Girl's education.
- Reduction of Gender differentials and child mortality
- To improve the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)
- Evolving a sustained Social Mobilization and Communication Campaign to change societal norms, to create equal value for the girl child.
- Mobilizing and empowering frontline worker teams as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community/women's/youth groups.
- Developing capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban local bodies - especially women panchayat /urban local body members, to create community and peer support for making panchayats / urban wards girl child friendly.

### 1.6. How to Apply:

Contact to any of the following:

- At the National level, Contact to Ministry of Women and Child Development, India.
- At the State level, Contact to Project Management Unit (PMU) supported by National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) Or Principal Secretary, WCD/Social Welfare
- At the District level, Contact to District Collector/Deputy Commissioner/CEO Zilla Parishad Or District Programme Officer (DPO) in the District ICDS Office
- At the Block level, Contact to Sub Divisional Magistrate/Sub Divisional Officer/Block Development Officer
- At the Gram Panchayat/Ward level, Contact to respective Panchayat Samiti/Ward Samiti
- At Village level, Contact to Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees
- In identified cities/ urban areas, Contact to Municipal Corporations.

## **2. INDIRA GANDHI MATRITVA SAHYOG YOJANA (IGMSY) - 2010**

For the pregnant and lactating women Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

### **2.1. Description :**

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. It provides partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices. It provides cash maternity benefit to the women. The pregnant women of 19 years of age and above is entitled to a cash incentive of Rs. 4000 in three installments for first two live births.

### **2.2 Objective:**

The objectives of this scheme are summarized as below:

- To promoting appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, safe delivery and lactation
- To encouraging the women to follow (optimal) nutrition and Young Child feeding practices, including early and Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months; and
- To providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers in order to contribute to better enabling environment

### **2.3. Eligibility:**

Pregnant Women & Lactating women of 19 years of age and above for their first 2 live births. Women have to register pregnancy at the Anganwadi centre (AWC) within four months of conception. Women have to register the birth.

### **2.4. Beneficiaries:** Pregnant and Lactating Women

### **2.5. Benefits:**

The conditional cash transfer benefits of Rs. 6,000/- to be paid in two installments of Rs. 3,000 /-

- The first transfer (at the end of second birth / pregnancy trimester) of Rs. 3,000 /- to the mother
- The second transfer (three months after delivery) of Rs. 3,000 /- to the mother.

## **2.6. How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the followings:

- Contact to Deputy Director/ District Programme Officer in-charge of the ICDS Cell or
- Contact to Anganwadi worker or Anganwadi Centre (AWC)

## **3. ONE STOP CENTRE SCHEME FOR WOMEN, MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (OSC) - 2015**

### **3.1. Description:**

One Stop Centres (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 redressal. 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 set up in each State/UT. This scheme facilitates access to an integrated range of services including medical, legal, and psychological support. The OSC will be integrated with Helpline No. 181 and other existing helplines. Women affected by violence and in need of redressal, services could be referred to OSC through these helplines.

### **3.2 Objective:**

The objectives of this scheme are as below:

1. To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.
2. To facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counseling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.

### **3.3. Eligibility:**

The OSC will support all women including girls below 18 years of age affected by violence, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.

### **3.4. Beneficiaries:** Women, Girls

### **3.5. Benefits:**

The overall benefits under this scheme are summarized as below:

Emergency Response and Rescue Services OSC will provide rescue and referral services

Medical assistance Women affected by violence would be referred to the nearest Hospital for medical aid/examination. Assistance to women in lodging FIR/NCR/DIR. The OSC will facilitate the lodging of FIR/NCR/DIR. Psycho-social support/ counseling. A skilled counselor providing psycho- social counseling services would be available on call. This counseling the process will give women confidence and support to address violence or to seek justice for the violence perpetuated. Counselors shall follow a prescribed code of ethics, guidelines and protocols for providing counseling services.

#### **3.5.1. Legal Aid and Counselling**

To facilitate access to justice for women affected by violence, legal aid, and counseling would be provided at OSC through empanelled Lawyers or National/State/District Legal Service Authority.

#### **3.5.2 Shelter**

The OSC will provide temporary shelter facility to aggrieved women. For long term shelter requirements, arrangements will be made with Swadhar Greh/Short Stay Homes (managed/affiliated with government/NGO). Women affected by violence along with their children (girls of all ages and boys up till 8 years of age) can avail a temporary shelter at the OSC for a maximum period of 5 days. The admissibility of any woman to the temporary the shelter would be at the discretion of Centre Administrator.

#### **3.5.3 Video Conferencing Facility**

To facilitate speedily and hassle free police and court proceedings the OSC will provide video conferencing facility (through Skype, Google Conferencing etc.). Through this facility, if the aggrieved woman wants, she can record her statement for police/ courts from OSC itself using audio-video electronic

#### **3.6. How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the following:

1. Call to Helpline No. 181
2. Contact to Anganwadi Worker or Community Outreach or Volunteer or
3. Send a text message (SMS/Internet) to the District Programme Officer (DPO) or Protection Officer (PO) or Community Development Programme Officer (CDPO)/ Station House Officer (SHO) or District Magistrate (DM) Or Superintendent of Police (SP) or Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP) or Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the district in which the women is located at the time of accessing OSC. Contact to Supervisor of OSC Administrator
4. Contact to Case Worker or
5. Contact to Police Facilitation Officer (PFO) or



6. Contact to Para Legal Personnel/ Lawyer or
7. Contact to Para Medical Personnel or
8. Contact to Counsellor or IT Staff or
9. Contact to Multi- purpose Helper or
10. Contact to Security Guard/ Night Guard

#### **4. RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME FOR CHILDREN HEALTH CHECK-UP, FOOD, NUTRITION MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - 2006**

##### **4.1.Description:**

With rising employment opportunities for women and the growing need to supplement household income, more and more women are entering the job market. With the breaking up of joint family system and the increasing number of nuclear families, working women need help in terms of quality, substitute care for their young children while they are at work. Creche and Day Care Services are not only required by working mothers but also women belonging to poor families, who require support and relief for childcare as they struggle to cope with the burden of activities, within and outside the home.

Therefore women need a safe place for their children in their absence. It has become necessary to provide support to the young children in terms of quality, substitute care and other services while the mothers are at work. A crèche is a facility which supports/make able to parents to leave their children while they are at work and where children are provided the stimulating environment for their holistic development. Creches are developed in such a way that they provide group care to children, usually up to 6 years of age, who need care, guidance and supervision away from their home during the day.

##### **4.2. Objectives:**

The objectives of this scheme are as follows

1. To provide day-care facilities for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers in the community.
2. To improve nutrition and health status of children.
3. To promote physical, cognitive, social and emotional development (Holistic Development) of children.
4. To educate and empower parents /caregivers for better childcare.

#### **4.3 Eligibility:**

The scheme focuses on children of 6 months to 6 years, of working women in rural and urban areas who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month, or six months in a year.

#### **4.4. Beneficiaries:** Women, Child

#### **4.5. Benefits:**

The scheme will provide the following services:

1. Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
2. Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre- school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
3. Supplementary Nutrition(to be locally sourced)
4. Growth Monitoring.
5. Health Check-up and Immunization.
6. Other services provided under this scheme are as Drinking water and Sanitary Facilities, Food and Cooking Facilities, Growth Monitoring, Health Check- up, Medicine & First Aid Kit, Equipment, and Play Material

#### **4.5. How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the followings:

1. Contact to Anganwadi Centres under ICDS Scheme.
2. Contact to NGOs implementing under this scheme.
3. At Block level like Tehsildar/Block Development Officer, local Child Development Project Officer, a representative from the local Health Department and a Social Welfare Officer of the area.

### **5. SUPPORT TO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (STEP) MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INDIA - 1986**

#### **5.1. Description:**

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 objective 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 the 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.

### **5.2 Objective:**

The objectives of this scheme are as below:

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

**5.3 Eligibility:** All Women who are in the age group of 16 years and above.

**5.4 Beneficiaries:** Women who are in the age group of 16 years and above.

### **5.5.Benefits:**

Under this scheme, Assistance is given in any sector i.e Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc 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.

### **5.6 How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the followings:

1. District Collector or
2. Chief Medical Officer or
3. Superintendent of Police or
4. District Social Welfare Officer/Women and Child Development Officer or
5. Representative of District Legal Services Authority or
6. Representative of the Municipal Corporations/Panchayati Raj Institutions or
7. Other eminent persons of the district at the discretion of District Collector

## **6. SWADHAR GREH- A SCHEME THAT CATERS TO PRIMARY NEEDS OF WOMEN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT - 2001**

## **6.1 Description:**

This scheme Swadhar –A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances 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 into prostitution and are in moral danger.

Swadhar –A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances was initiated by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India. This scheme provides shelter, food, clothing, counseling, training, clinical and legal aid aims to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstance.

## **6.2 Objective:**

Under the Scheme, Swadhar Greh aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To provide to the basic need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are lacking social and economic support.
2. To enable them to recover their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
3. To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
4. To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
5. To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress.
6. To empower/encourage them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

## **6.3 Eligibility:**

The benefits could be availed by women above 18 years of age of the following categories:

1. Women who are deserted and having no any kind of social and economic support
2. Women survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and having no any kind of social and economic support
3. Women prisoners get released from jail and are without family, social and economic support.
4. Women victims of domestic violence, family tension or discord, who are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and have no special protection from exploitation and/ or facing litigation on account of marital disputes.
5. Trafficked women/girls rescued or run away from brothels or other places where they face exploitation and Women affected by HIV/AIDS who do not have any social or economic support. However such women/ girls should first seek assistance under Ujjawala Scheme in

areas where it is in operation.

#### **6.4. Beneficiaries:** Women

#### **6.5. Benefits:**

The benefits of this scheme are as follows:

1. Temporary residential accommodation with the provision of food, clothing, medical facilities etc. are provided to the beneficiaries.
2. Provision of Vocational Training and skill up gradation training for economic rehabilitation of such women to the eligible women.
3. Counseling, awareness generation, and behavioral training are given.
4. Legal aid and Guidance, Medical Facilities are provided
5. Also Counseling through telephone facility is given.

#### **6.6 How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the followings

1. District Collector Or
2. Chief Medical Officer Or
3. Superintendent of Police Or
4. District Social Welfare Officer/Women and Child Development Officer Or
5. Representative of District Legal Services Authority Or
6. Representative of the Municipal Corporations/Panchayati Raj Institutions Or
7. Other eminent persons of the district at the discretion of District Collector

### **7. WOMEN HELPLINE SCHEME FOR WOMEN A SINGLE NATIONAL HELP LINE NUMBER FOR WOMEN - 2015**

#### **7.1 Description:**

Scheme for Universalisation 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 Universalisation of Women Helpline is meant to provide 24 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 (WHL) is working with the One Stop Centre Scheme (OSC) under which one OSC will be set up in every State/UT to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by

violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof. Women affected by violence and in need of redressal services will be referred to OSC through WHL. Under this Scheme, the States/UTs will utilize or augment their existing women helplines through a dedicated single national number. Department of Telecommunication, Government of India has allocated short code 181 to all States/UTs which is being used by some States/UTs such as Delhi, Chandigarh, and Chhattisgarh as Women Helpline. From any post/pre-paid mobile or landline services through any public or private network i.e. GSM, CDMA, 3G, 4G etc can be called to 181 as Women Helpline (WHL).

## **7.2 Objective:**

The objectives of the Scheme are

1. To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information
2. To help crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies such as police/Hospitals/Ambulance services/District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)/Protection Officer (PO)/OSC.
3. To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes and programmes available to the woman affected by violence, in her particular situation within the local area in which she resides or is employed.

## **7.3 Eligibility:**

Any woman or girl facing violence within public or private sphere of life or seeking information about women related programmes or schemes.

## **7.4 Beneficiaries:** Women

## **7.5 Benefits:**

The benefits are summarized as below:

**Violence against Women (VAW) Prevention:** As soon as an aggrieved woman (AG) or somebody on her behalf will contact WHL, she will be immediately assisted by the call responder appointed there. The responder will refer her to relevant support services like medical aid, police assistance or connect her to OSC for professional counseling, shelter, legal aid etc;

**Information of Women Empowerment Schemes and programmes:** The information about the laws, existing schemes and government programs related to women empowerment and protection are provided. It will help to women about processes to be adopted for accessing benefits of these schemes and programs.

## **7.6 How to Apply:**

The Women Helpline will be up and active 24 hours a day 7 days a week to any woman or girl suffering violence or in distress in the following manner:

1. Telephone - landlines, mobile phones through calls, SMS/text messaging, mobile apps and fax messages are considered.
2. Internet - Via emails, web-posts, web-interface, social networking sites i.e. web page, face book, twitter, mygov etc canbe considered.
3. Call to any of the following Women Helpline Nos.
4. Call to Women's Helpline: 181 Toll free
5. Call to 1091- Police Helpline, 102 (Hospital/Ambulance) & 108 (Emergency Response Services)
6. Contact to One Stop Centre(OSC)

## **8. SCHEME FOR WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL HOSTEL, DAY CARE CENTRE AND MEDICAL AID - 2017**

### **8.1 Description:**

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.

### **8.2. Objective:**

The objectives of this scheme are as below:

To promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.

### **8.3 Eligibility:**

The working women and their children should satisfy the following conditions:

1. Working women, who is single, widowed, divorced, separated, married but whose husband or immediate family does not reside in the same city/area. Women belonging to disadvantaged sections of the society are preferred first. Also there is reservation of seats for physically challenged beneficiaries.
2. Women who are under training for job provided the total training period does not exceed one

year. This is only on the condition that there is vacancy available after accommodating working women. The number of women under training for job should not exceed 30% of the total capacity.

3. Girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of
4. 5 years, accompanying working mothers will be provided accommodation, with their mothers. Day Care Centre are serviced for the working mothers, as provided under the scheme.
5. The income of working women should not more than Rs. 50,000/- consolidated (gross) per month in metropolitan cities, or Rs 35,000/- consolidated (gross) per month, in any other place. If yes then the women have to leave the hostel within a period of six months of crossing the income ceiling.

#### **8.4 Beneficiaries:** Working Women

#### **8.5 Benefits:**

Hostel, Day Care Centre and Medical first aid are benefitted to the beneficiaries.

#### **8.6 How to Apply:**

Contact to any of the following:

1. At the District level, Contact to District Collector Or District Magistrate Or Municipal Commissioner Or
2. Contact to District Social Welfare Officer Or Probation Officer Or any other State Government representative
3. Contact to representative of an NGO working in the district that is implementing a project under this Scheme

**9. UJJAWALA (1st April 2016):** It is a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The scheme is implemented by agencies like the Social Welfare/Women and Child Welfare Department of State Government, Women's Development Corporations, Women's Development Centres, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trust or Voluntary Organizations. The agency should be registered under the law and must have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in its Constitution.

**10. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR:** It is the "annual award given by Ministry of Women and Child Development (Government of India) to individual women or to institutions that work



towards the cause of women empowerment”. It is represented by the President of India on International Women’s Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

**11. AWARDEES OF STREE SHAKTI PURUSKAR, 2014:** The government of India instituted 5 national awards which are called ‘Stree Shakti Puraskar’ — a measure to recognise the achievements of individual women in the field of social development. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a citation. The awards are in the names of eminent women personalities in India history, viz. Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Kannagi, Mata Jijabai, Rani Gaidenlou Zeliang and Rani Laxmibai awards.

#### **12.1 AWARDEES OF RAJYA MAHILA SAMMAN & ZILA MAHILA SAMMAN:**

Conferred from 2015 onwards. These awards would recognise and reward selfless work done by exceptional and committed women at the community and grassroots level. One award one very district and one in each State/UT.

**12.2 MAHILA POLICE VOLUNTEERS:** “They would act as a link between police and the community and facilitate women in distress. The MPVs will be chosen by the Home Department of the concerned State/UT through the Superintendent of Police of the district. The MPV will directly report to the Circle Inspector in the Police Thana”.

**12.3. MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRAS (MSK):** “For empowering rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential. It will provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements also empowering them through training and capacity building”.

**12.4. NIRBHAYA FUND:** “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.”

## **Conclusion:**

Empowering Women is to bring equality in the social order in which men and women are both equals in all areas. For a country to have a bright future, society and family to flourish, women empowerment is essential. In ancient India women weren’t treated the same way the men were, so in order for the country to develop, women must be given equal status as men. It is analysed

that role of women has changed tremendously over the period of time and they have been able to create a positive impression in the society. From housewives to CEOs, the transition can be seen at an accelerating rate. Modernization and the advent of the latest technology have widened hope and opportunities for them. They have established themselves socially, politically and economically in almost every field. Women are no longer considered unfit or weak for military or for other defence forces. The goal of the policies and reforms framed by the Government is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. And also elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against woman and the girl children. Women empowerment is the key to strengthen their participation in the decision-making which is the most important key to socio-economic development. According to the data of research, it has been noted that empowering women acts as a potential which accelerates the economic growth and continue development. Thus Government policies are very useful for women empowerment.

For an Indian woman and citizen, freedom does not just mean those guaranteed under the Constitution. It also means more jobs, opportunities for entrepreneurship, increased safety, ease in day-to-day living, and protection of the girl child. In short, the road to women's empowerment has several factors dotting its path. To ensure women are empowered, the government and the public sector need to play important roles to enable their welfare in various sectors. Whether it's providing education, employment, entrepreneur opportunities, or enabling women to leverage technology. A slew of schemes has been launched in recent years to empower women to be independent in their lives by the Government of India. Government has launched various schemes, such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nari Shakti Puraskar, etc., in the last few years, promoting women empowerment at the local level. But still, there is a lot to be done in this area by *the government to promote a safe environment for females, better education, health awareness, facilities*, etc. Women empowerment can be achieved through provision of adequate education facilities, political support, and effective legislation system and employment generation for women

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