

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Muslim women are a minority within a minority. The Constitution gives equal rights to women of all communities. The Holy Quran also has made learning and gaining knowledge obligatory for Muslims, with no discrimination between men and women. The urgent need is to take meaningful steps for the upliftment of Muslims who are living in abject poverty. The problem of backwardness for Muslim women is a long term process. Muslims are far lagging behind than the other communities economically, socially, educationally as well as politically.

Some suggestions are given below for the upliftment of their status:

### **1. Sensitization and awareness**

- Collecting information on knowledge, beliefs and attitudes about the life of Muslim women can help identify gaps in public understanding that can be bridged through education and public information.
- Increase awareness among Muslims about the importance of education, various employment opportunities, and self employment schemes. Parents should develop affirmative approach towards girl's higher education.
- Awareness, motivation and participation in different spheres of life are necessary for the socio-economic development of Muslim women. Civil Society or NGOs can play a positive role in the Muslim dominated areas through awareness generation and helping them to access the necessary resources.
- The sensitization of religious leaders is very much necessary because they are the influential member of the community and many people still follow them blindly. So they can facilitate and activate public through their voices.
- Dialogue on Muslim social, economic and educational issues also needs to be initiated with the media, politicians, bureaucrats, and non-governmental organizations.
- Sensitize caste leaders, involve religious leaders, counsel parents; and encourage boys and men's involvement to stop early marriage.

## **2. Safe environment at Home**

- Muslim women like other women also face violence at various levels. They should also get the autonomy to benefit from their right to safety and security.
- An issue of safety and security of these women should be taken into consideration.

## **3. Capacity Building**

- Supporting them in obtaining loans and implementing initiatives under a Government micro-credit program.
- Integrating the Muslim women into community structures through their participation in village self-help groups;
- Creating a virtual network in each state among women to exchange information on health issues;
- Human resource capability can be improved through effectual education, training, and recruitment.
- Make girls aware of the ill effects of early marriage, their right to pursue education or vocational training, etc. to shape up their future by themselves. They should encourage girls to say “No” to marriage.
- Promote life skills education/ workshops for adolescents focusing also on the need to delay marriage, child bearing, use of contraceptives, etc.
- The Ministries & Departments in charge of Minority communities should give emphasis to all the programmes related to education, employment and health care of Muslim women exclusively.

## **4. Education**

- There is need to develop more girls’ school to reduce the problem of accessibility of schools. The Government should make Muslim girls' education a matter of high priority.
- Drop out children should be identified regularly.
- Partnership with local authorities and private school authorities should be explored to use the existing infrastructure

- Government of India should again extend some concession policy and programs to augment the share of Muslim work participation in Government jobs.
- Governmental scholarships are also essential for the poor and deprived Muslims. Muslims should be provided reservation in higher studies.
- Upgradation of Madarsa education is necessary to lift up the educational status of traditional Muslims. There is also need to have a linkage of Madarsas with higher secondary school board.
- Government should open good Urdu medium schools wherever there is its requirement and also to ensure high quality textbooks for students in the Urdu language.

## **5. Health Care**

- More stress should be given towards the notion of small family norms for the enhancement of socio-economic condition of Muslims.
- Health infrastructure should be strengthened.
- Women should have proper access to reproductive health services.
- Sexual health programmes to be initiated for adolescent boys and girls.
- Health care intervention activities need to focus on areas like malnutrition, personal and environmental hygiene, sanitation, preventive health care, reproductive health etc.

## **6. Research**

- Research on the issues related to backwardness of Muslim women should be extensively conducted to understand the root cause of the problem in different areas and then formulate various policies according to the demand of the place.
- Data need to be disaggregated by population features, such as age, sex, and socioeconomic status, to unearth patterns, trends, and information about Muslim women of different classes.