

Major Advancements Over The Years and Role of NCW

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Introduction

Empowerment of women is a major social phenomenon which requires an understanding of its multi-dimensional influence, including our family structures and units. The 2011 census contains an important message because it is a far from a balanced gender ratio. More worrisome is a child sex ratio in the 0-6 age groups as it reflects the continuing bias against girls. The challenge is to work towards a balanced population and if these prejudices are to be overcome, the rights of women need to be protected. Greater access to education, health, skill building, credit facilities and opportunities for decision making and legal rights should be made available to women to empower them.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in our constitution which guarantees equality to women, and empowers the state to adopt measure of positive determination in favor of women for removing the cumulative socio-economic, educational disadvantages faced by them. Within a framework of democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programs have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres.

The government has several programs which cover welfare and support services, awareness generation and gender sensitization. These programs play a supplementary role to other developmental programs in health, education, agriculture and rural development sectors. All these efforts are directed to make women economically and socially empowered so that they can become equal and active partners in national development along with men.

Role of National Commission For Women

The commission has taken a number of initiatives to create a awareness among women and their capacity building to exercise their right for dignified life and sensitizing the police personnel. Some of these initiatives include 'Violence free home-a women's right', 'Jago' as well as MOUs signed with other organizations for partnership.

Mahila Adhikar Abhiyan, has been launched in Rajasthan successfully in 2011, Street plays initially in few states namely Rajasthan, Punjab and Participation in Vatsalya Mela etc. The commission has also bought out a number of publications,. Some of them are 'Chalo Gaon Ki Ore', 'Meera Didi Se Poocho', 'Sexual

Harassment at work place,' Problems relating to NRI Marriages -Dowry and Don'ts The Nowhere Brides, Handbook on Laws relating to Dowry and Domestic Violence, Do not Fear- Do not Bear- Do not Admit, Abandoned Indian Women Trapped In NRI Marriage and the way Out,' 'Bahut Hua Ab Aur Nahi Sahna' etc.

NCW concentrates not only on women's empowerment but also on their growth and development including health care and education. In order to bring down atrocities committed against women, there should be interaction between NCW, the police and the Media, Rashtra Mahila, a monthly news letter of the Commission, highlights the activities of the commission as well as successful stories with regard to complaints lodged before the commission and also important court and Government decisions affecting women.

A number of foreign delegations have visited NCW to have an insight about the working of NCW and its role in safeguarding the interests of women and also understand the status of Indian women in politics and their empowerment.

New Draft Bill Recommendations

- Prevention of crimes in the Name of Honor & Traditional Bill, 2010.
 - Scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation to victims of Acid Attack.
 - Scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of Rape.
 - National Commission for Women has proposed a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing matching assistance to State Governments to encourage them to appoint independent Protection Officers with supporting staff for effective implementation of PWDVA.
- In course of the last 20 years, NCW has been striving onwards enabling to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life by securing her due rights and entitlements through suitable policy formulations, legislative measures, effective enforcement of laws, etc.

Major Advancements Over The Years

Women and Education: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has had positive outcomes for girl child education leading to an increase in the gender parity index (GPI) in primary (0.94) as well as upper primary (0.92) education, Enrolment of girls at primary level and upper primary level increased over the years. Data also

shows that the number of girls in schools in the age group of 5-14 years has increased from 79.6 percent in 2004-05 to 87.7 percent in 2009-10. Similarly, the number of girls in the educational system in 15-19 years age group increased from 40.3 percent to 54.6 percent over the same period. The challenge is to translate the high enrolment into high attendance rates.

Women and Health: As per the Indian Human Development Report, fertility rates have come down and have reached replacement levels in a number of states; Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has come down to 212 per 1,00,000 live births in 2009 from 301 in 2003. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), though still high, has fallen to 50 per 1000 in 2009. Institutional deliveries have risen from 39 percent in 2006 to 78 percent in 2009.

Women and Economy:

By March 2010, 69.53 Lakh Self Help Group (SHGs) including those formed under the SGSY had been covered under the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development's (NABARD) SHG-bank linkage program. Of these 76 percent are exclusively women SHGs, accounting for 72.5 percent of savings and 82 percent of outstanding loans.

Promoting Gender Mainstreaming Through Gender-budgeting (Gb): GB, as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming, has been adopted by the government in 2005. The magnitude of GB allocations as a percentage of total budgets has also gone up from 2.79 percent in 2005-06 to 6.22 percent in 2011-12.

National Mission For Empowerment of Women (Nmew):

It includes introduction of convergence-cum-facilitation centers for Women at district, tehsil/block and village levels. The first such pilot convergence project was launched in Pali district in Rajasthan on 16 September 2011 with the opening of 150-village-level centers.

Conclusion

When women would believe in their own self and consider themselves as the markers of the history and an individual at par with man. And this can only happen when women are educated and in all sense empowered. Similarly, the issue of empowerment of women is only possible with her active participation in India polity, economic affairs and every walk of life as emphasized by Mahatma Gandhi and other social activities and theoreticians.

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