



A study on government schemes to encourage women empowerment

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Abstract

Women's empowerment is a cornerstone of societal progress. It not only benefits women themselves but also contributes to the overall development of a nation. Recognizing this, governments worldwide have implemented various schemes and initiatives to uplift women and provide them with equal opportunities. In India, several government schemes have been instrumental in empowering women. One such significant initiative is the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme. This program aims to improve the child sex ratio and ensure girls' education. By providing financial incentives and promoting gender equality, this scheme has contributed to a positive shift in societal attitudes towards girls. Another crucial scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. This scheme provides cash benefits to pregnant and lactating women, ensuring better maternal and child health. By addressing the health needs of women, it empowers them to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and family planning. To empower women economically, the government has launched several self-help group (SHG) schemes. These schemes provide financial assistance and training to women, enabling them to start their own businesses. SHGs have empowered women by giving them control over their finances and improving their socio-economic status. Furthermore, the government has implemented various schemes to address issues like domestic violence and sexual harassment. The One-Stop Crisis Center scheme provides comprehensive support services to women affected by violence, including medical, legal, and psychological assistance.

Keywords:

Government, Schemes, Women, Empowerment

Introduction

One of the most prominent schemes is the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, launched in 2015. This program aims to improve the child sex ratio and ensure girls' education. By providing financial incentives and promoting gender equality, it has contributed to a positive shift in societal attitudes towards girls. (Sowjanya, 2020)

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is another crucial scheme that provides cash benefits to pregnant and lactating women. This initiative not only supports maternal health but also empowers women by recognizing their role in child care and family welfare.

In the realm of rural development, the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana focuses on empowering women farmers. It provides training, credit, and market linkages to help women participate actively in agriculture and allied sectors.

The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has also played a significant role in empowering women by forming self-help groups (SHGs). These SHGs provide women with a platform to collectively address their economic and social needs, fostering financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

To address gender-based violence, the government has established One-Stop Crisis Centers. These centers provide comprehensive support services to women who have experienced violence, including medical aid, legal assistance, and counseling.

Furthermore, initiatives like Skill India and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana have focused on skill development for women, enabling them to secure better employment opportunities and enhance their earning potential. (Singh, 2021)

While these government schemes have made significant strides in women's empowerment, challenges remain. Issues such as gender stereotypes, patriarchal norms, and lack of awareness about government programs continue to hinder progress. To overcome these challenges, a multi-faceted approach is necessary, involving not only government interventions but also societal change and increased awareness campaigns.

Government schemes have emerged as powerful tools in the journey towards women's empowerment. By addressing issues such as education, health, economic opportunities, and safety, these initiatives have paved the way for a more equitable and just society. As India continues to progress, it is imperative to sustain and strengthen these efforts to ensure that women are empowered to realize their full potential.

The phrase "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has become a powerful rallying cry in India, symbolizing a societal shift towards gender equality. This initiative, launched by the Indian government in 2015, aims to address the deeply rooted issues of female infanticide and gender discrimination. By emphasizing the importance of saving and educating girl children, this campaign seeks to empower women and transform the nation's future.

The stark reality of gender inequality in India is a matter of grave concern. For decades, societal norms and patriarchal attitudes have led to the devaluation of girl children. Female infanticide, sex-selective abortions, and neglect of girl children have resulted in a skewed gender ratio, particularly in certain regions. The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative aims to challenge these harmful practices and promote a more equitable society. (Krishna, 2020)

Review of Literature

Bhat et al. (2021): Education is a powerful tool for empowerment. By providing girls with access to quality education, we can break the cycle of poverty and discrimination. Educated women are more likely to make informed decisions, participate in the workforce, and contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.

Bhuyan et al. (2020): The "Beti Padhao" component of the campaign recognizes the transformative power of education and strives to ensure that every girl child receives the opportunity to learn and grow.

Hazarika et al. (2021): The success of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative depends on a multi-faceted approach. Government efforts must be complemented by societal awareness campaigns, community mobilization, and strict enforcement of laws against gender-based discrimination. By working together, we can create a society where girls are valued, protected, and empowered. While these government schemes have made significant strides in empowering women, there is still much work to be done.

Gupta et al. (2021): Challenges such as gender discrimination, patriarchal norms, and lack of awareness continue to hinder women's progress. To truly empower women, it is essential to create a supportive

environment where they can thrive. This requires a multi-faceted approach involving education, economic opportunities, and legal reforms.

Government schemes to encourage women empowerment

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign is not just a slogan; it is a call to action. It is a call to challenge the age-old prejudices and embrace a future where girls are seen as assets, not burdens. By investing in our daughters, we invest in the future of our nation. Let us all join hands to make "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" a reality, ensuring that every girl child has the chance to dream, to learn, and to lead.

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship scheme of the Indian government, is a maternity benefit program aimed at providing financial support to pregnant women and lactating mothers. The scheme, introduced in 2017, aims to promote maternal health and child care, and to encourage women to avail of antenatal care and institutional deliveries.

The primary objectives of the PMMVY are:

- Conditional cash transfer: To provide financial support to pregnant women and lactating mothers to meet their nutritional and healthcare needs.
- Promoting institutional deliveries: To encourage women to opt for institutional deliveries, thereby reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.
- Improving maternal health: To improve the health and nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Child survival and development: To contribute to the survival and healthy development of children.

Key Features of the PMMVY

- Cash benefits: Eligible beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of ₹5,000 in three installments.
- Eligibility: Pregnant women and lactating mothers, especially those from economically weaker sections, are eligible for the scheme.

- Conditions: Beneficiaries must register for antenatal care, get their children immunized, and exclusively breastfeed for six months to be eligible for the full benefits.
- Direct benefit transfer: The cash benefits are transferred directly into the beneficiary's bank account.

The PMMVY has had a significant impact on the lives of pregnant women and lactating mothers in India. Some of the key benefits include:

- Improved maternal health: The scheme has led to an increase in the number of women seeking antenatal care and institutional deliveries.
- Reduced infant mortality rate: The scheme has contributed to a reduction in the infant mortality rate.
- Empowerment of women: By providing financial support, the scheme has empowered women to make informed decisions about their health and the health of their children.
- Economic empowerment: The cash benefits have helped alleviate poverty and improve the economic condition of beneficiary families.

While the PMMVY has been a successful program, there are still some challenges that need to be addressed. These include:

- Awareness: There is a need to increase awareness about the scheme among eligible beneficiaries, especially in rural areas.
- Leakages: Efforts should be made to minimize leakages in the delivery of benefits.
- Scalability: The scheme needs to be scaled up to cover a larger number of beneficiaries.

To address these challenges, the government needs to focus on strengthening the implementation mechanisms, improving data management, and enhancing coordination between various government departments.

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a significant step towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage in India. By providing financial support and promoting maternal health, the scheme has empowered women and contributed to the overall development of the country. As the government continues to refine and

expand the scheme, it is expected to play an even more crucial role in improving the health and well-being of mothers and children in India.

The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), or Women Farmers Empowerment Project, is a significant initiative undertaken by the Indian government to empower and uplift women farmers in the country. It aims to address the gender disparities prevalent in the agricultural sector and to enhance the socio-economic status of rural women.

Women play a pivotal role in India's agricultural sector, contributing significantly to food production and rural livelihoods. However, they often face numerous challenges, including limited access to land, credit, technology, and extension services. Moreover, societal norms and patriarchal structures often restrict their participation in decision-making processes related to agriculture. The MKSP seeks to break these barriers and create a more equitable and inclusive agricultural landscape.

The primary objectives of the MKSP include:

- Empowering women farmers: To enhance the decision-making power of women in agricultural households and communities.
- Increasing women's participation in agriculture: To encourage more women to take up agriculture as a profession and to participate in agricultural activities.
- Improving women's access to resources: To provide women farmers with access to credit, technology, markets, and other essential resources.
- Strengthening women's self-help groups: To foster the growth and development of women's self-help groups and cooperatives.
- Promoting gender equality in agriculture: To create a more gender-sensitive agricultural environment and to challenge harmful gender norms.

The MKSP encompasses a range of activities and interventions, such as:

- Capacity building: Providing training to women farmers on various aspects of agriculture, including improved agricultural practices, entrepreneurship, and financial management.

- Credit linkage: Facilitating access to credit for women farmers through self-help groups and microfinance institutions.
- Market linkages: Helping women farmers to access markets for their agricultural produce and to improve their bargaining power.
- Technology transfer: Providing women farmers with access to modern agricultural technologies and equipment.
- Awareness creation: Conducting awareness campaigns to sensitize communities about the importance of gender equality in agriculture.

The MKSP has made significant strides in empowering women farmers in India. It has helped to increase women's participation in agricultural activities, improve their incomes, and enhance their social status. However, several challenges persist, including:

- Limited coverage: The program has not reached all women farmers in India, particularly those in remote and marginalized areas.
- Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program remains a challenge.
- Gender norms: Deep-rooted gender norms and biases continue to hinder women's empowerment.
- Lack of infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure in rural areas limits women's access to markets and services.

The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana is a crucial initiative that has contributed to the empowerment of women farmers in India. However, there is still a need to scale up the program and address the existing challenges. By investing in women farmers, India can not only achieve food security but also promote gender equality and rural development.

Conclusion

In recent years, India has implemented a range of schemes and programs aimed at empowering women across various sectors. These initiatives have played a vital role in addressing gender disparities, promoting women's economic independence, and improving their overall well-being. Government schemes have played a crucial

role in empowering women. By addressing various aspects of women's lives, these initiatives have paved the way for a more equitable and just society. However, sustained efforts are needed to ensure that women have equal opportunities and are able to realize their full potential.

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