

FEATURES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES FOR BENEFIT OF INDIAN WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including business. All companies have baseline responsibilities to respect human rights, including the rights of women and girls. Beyond these baseline responsibilities, companies also have the opportunity to support the empowerment of women and girls through core business, social investment, public policy engagement and partnerships. As the engine for 90 percent of jobs in developing countries, technological innovation, capital creation and investment, responsible business is critical to the advancement of women's and girls' empowerment around the world. With a growing business case, private sector leaders are increasingly developing and adapting policies and practices, and implementing cutting edge initiatives, to advance women's empowerment within their workplaces, marketplaces.

Keywords: Empowering Women, Gender Equality, Stakeholders, Human Rights, Social Investment.

Introduction

All stakeholders, including business, must work together to empower women and girls to achieve gender equality. By law, every company must defend human rights, especially those of women and girls. Under the fundamental obligations, government has the chance to assist the empowerment of women and girls through partnerships, core business, social investment, and involvement in public policy. The growth of women's and girls' empowerment globally depends on technological innovation, capital creation, and investment, which together account for 90% of jobs in emerging nations. Executives in the private sector are increasingly developing and altering policies and procedures, as well as putting forward cutting-edge initiatives, to advance women's emancipation in their workplaces and markets due to a rising commercial case. Various schemes by Indian government have been launched for securing the better future of girls/women. Some of these are as follows:

Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India

The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, became a separate Ministry after previously existing as a Department within the Ministry of Human Resources Development since 1985.

The Ministry's main goal when it was established was to close gaps in State activity for women and children. Encouraging cross-ministerial and cross-sector collaboration to develop child centers laws, policies, and programmes that are gender fair. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse. Do away with all harmful customs, including child, early, and forced marriage. Recognize and value unpaid care giving and household work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policing.

Objective

To adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

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Sukanya Samridhi Account/Yojana

The Sukanya Samridhi Yojna is designed for parents who have been given a girl and are looking for ways to secure the financial future of their child. This yojana or scheme gives an opportunity to the parents to invest in the plans for the welfare of their girl's children. One should invest in these types of schemes. The best present you can offer your daughter upon her birth is systematic planning for savings of hermits, a small deposit programme that is used to satisfy the needs of the girl child. Under this scheme, an account can be opened by the natural guardian of a girl child who is 10 years old or less.

- **Eligibility**

Only two girl children may have accounts opened by a parent or guardian, and a depositor may only open and manage one account per child. Any Indian post office or authorized business branch can open the accounts in banks. At first, the interest rate was changed for the fiscal years 2016–17 to 8.6%. Rs. as a minimum of Rs 250 must be deposited.

- **Features**

In this scheme any amount in multiples of Rs 100 can be deposited. However, the highest deposit limit for this is 150,000. If the minimum deposit of Rs. 250, (initially which was 1000) is not made in a year, a fine of Rs. 50 will be put on. The account allows 50% withdrawal at the age of and communities. In the opening of SDGs in September provides a tremendous opportunity for companies to further align their strategies and operations with global priorities by mainstreaming the gender equality of corporate sustainability and systematically and strategically scaling up actions which support the development and livelihoods of girls and women.

Support for Employment & Training Program (STEP)

Since 1986–1987, the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme has been run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as a "Central Sector Scheme." The STEP scheme aims to provide women employability-enhancing skills as well as the knowledge and abilities necessary for them to start their own businesses or work for themselves. The scheme is designed to help all women in the country who are 16 years of age or older, especially rural women. A grant-in-aid is awarded to institutions or organizations, including NGOs, under the Scheme. The STEP scheme will provide assistance in any industry for teaching skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to agriculture, horticulture, food processing, handlooms, tailoring, stitching, embroidery, zari, etc., handicrafts, computer & IT enable services, along with soft skills and work-related skills like spoken English, gems & jewellery, travel & tourism, and hospitality.

The proposals under STEP are considered as the guidelines. For proposals of organizations from North Eastern states, verification of credentials is got done through ministry of home affairs before release of funds. Approval would be given only for such number as are considered viable and the maximum number of beneficiaries in a project shall not exceed 200.

- **Eligibility**

The implementing agencies must be registered at least for 3 years and experience/existence in the sector is concerned and establishes link organizations that, with their knowledge, resources, and experience, would help the project be implemented. While selecting a non-governmental organisation as an implementing agency. It would be ensured that the selected organization has adequate infrastructure and technical expertise in the sector. Its financial position should be sound and it should have facilities, resources, experience and administrative capabilities for undertaking the project.

- **Features**

The project programme for a period of 2-4 years depending upon the nature, kind of activities and number of beneficiaries to be undertaken. Implementing agencies under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or the relevant state acts, public sector organizations, district rural development agencies, federations, co-operatives, and voluntary organizations are responsible for carrying out the programme.

Although their main offices may be in urban locations, STEP recipients must be businesses, organisations, or government entities operating in rural areas. The project's beneficiaries will be marginalized women who are impoverished or have little assets, with a concentration on SC/ ST households, households headed by women, and families living below the poverty line.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

Every year, issues associated to pregnancy shatter about 56,000 Indian women. In a similar vein, every year more than 13 lakh infants pass away within a year of birth, with the first four weeks of life accounting for over two-thirds of these deaths. Out of these, over 75% of the deaths occur within a week of delivery, with the majority of them taking place in the first two days.

- **Eligibility and Features**

The National Health Mission (NHM) is implementing the reproductive and child health program to encourage institutional births so that competent attendance at birth is available and mothers and newborns can be rescued from pregnancy-related deaths. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has introduced a number of programmes, including Janani.

The Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a crucial intervention, is responsible for the extraordinary increase in institutional deliveries. While JSY integrates cash assistance with antenatal care during the pregnancy period, institutional care during delivery, and immediate post-partum period in a health centre by establishing a system of coordinated care by field level health worker, National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) is linked to providing better diet for pregnant women from BPL families. The JSY would be a completely centrally funded programme.

The Yojna has recognised ASHA, the certified social health activist, as an efficient conduit between the government and the underprivileged expectant mothers in the eight EAG states, as well as Assam, J&K, and the remaining NE States, which are all low-performing states. Wherever AWW ((Anganwadi workers)) and TBAs or ASHA-like activists have been active in other eligible states and UTs, She can be connected to this Yojana for this reason in order to provide the services. All pregnant people living in families that are below the poverty line (BPL) and who are at least 19 years old two live births at most.

Building partnerships through a process of recognition/ accreditation with doctors, hospitals/nursing homes/clinics from the private sector specially in the rural areas to provide better services to the JSY beneficiaries. The programme prioritizes helping low-income expectant mothers, with special consideration given to states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan, Orissa, and Jammu and Kashmir that have low institutional delivery rates. The other states have been designated as High performing States, in contrast to these states, which have been designated as Low Performing States (LPS). In order to enable mothers from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to give birth in medical facilities, cash aid is to be given to them. The assistance will be available as per the following rates pregnant mother in rural areas 6000/- and amount of pregnant mother in urban areas 4000/-.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

The Government of India administers a maternity benefits programme called the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY). It was introduced in 2010, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development is responsible for its implementation (WCD). For the first two live births, it is a conditional cash transfer programme for lactating and pregnant women who are at least 19 years old. It gives women a salary supplement to make up for the portion of their income lost while caring for children and giving birth, as well as creating safe delivery and feeding environments a practice. In order to execute the act's provision for a cash maternity benefit of \$6,000, the scheme was established under the National Food Security Act, 2013 in 2013.

Through bank accounts or post office accounts, the beneficiaries are given a total of Rs 6000 in two installments. The first payment is made during the third trimester, or seven to nine months of pregnancy, and the second payment is made six months following delivery, provided that certain requirements are met. All employees of government agencies and PSUs are not included in the programme because they are eligible for paid maternity leave.

- **Eligibility and Features**

For the first two live births, pregnant women above the age of 19 are eligible for benefits under the IGMSY. All employees in the organised sector are not included in the programme since they are eligible for paid maternity leave.

The first transfer (at the end of second birth/pregnancy trimester) of Rs. 3,000 requires the mother to register her pregnancy at the Anganwadi Center (AWC) within four months of conception; Attend at least one prenatal care (PNC) session, and take iron folic (IFA) acid tablets and tetanus toxoid

injection (TTI); and attend at least one counselling session at AWC or healthcare centre. The second transfer (three months after delivery) of Rs.3,000 requires the mother to register the birth; immunize the child with oral polio vaccine (OPV) and Bacillus Calmette– Guérin (BCG) vaccine at birth, at six weeks, and at 10 weeks of age; and attend at least two growth monitoring sessions within three months of delivery.

Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) Scheme

It was introduced by the Indian government in 2010. Goal group women that are pregnant are: For the first or second live birth, the person must be at least 19 years old and not be employed by the government or the public sector. The IGMSY's goals include encouraging women to practice (optimal) nutrition and feeding practices, including early and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months; providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers; and attempting to partially make up for wage loss to pregnant and lactating women. Important IGMSY is a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme for pregnant and lactating mother.

- **Eligibility and Features**

The programme aims to partially make up for the earnings losses experienced by pregnant and nursing mothers before and after childbirth. The beneficiaries are paid Rs. 6,000/- in 3 installments per pregnant & lactating woman between the 2nd trimester and till the child attains the age of 6 months on fulfilling specific conditions related to maternal and child health.

Rajiv Gandhi Program for Adolescent Girl Empowerment (SABLA)

Introduction "SABLA," also known as the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls in the 200 chosen districts. Girls between the ages of 11 and 18 make up roughly 16.75% (Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, 2001) of the country's 49.6514 crores (or 8.3 crores) total female population. Only 53.87% of women are literate, while 33% of the world's 8.3 billion girls are underweight. The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), a government sponsored programme of the Government of India launched on April 1, 2011, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, reaches approximately 56.2% of women (age 15–49).

- **Eligibility and Features**

SABLA is a scheme to empower adolescent girls of 11-18 years by improving of their nutritional and health status, upgrading various skills like home competencies, life skills, and vocational skills. The girls will also be equipped with information on health and family welfare, hygiene and guidance on existing public services.

Kishori Shakti Yojana (using the infrastructure of integrated child development services (ICDS).

- **Eligibility and Features**

The Scheme's goals were to improve the nutritional and physical health of girls between the ages of 11 and 18 as well as to give them the tools they needed to advance their domestic and career skills. It also aimed to support their overall development by raising their awareness of issues like nutrition, personal hygiene, health, and family welfare and management. The plan allocated Rs. 1.1 lakh annually for each project. This programme targets 2-3 aanganwadis who are also given supplemental nutrition by the state governments. The programme is being implemented on the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) framework, with Anganwadi Centers (AWC) serving as the main hub for service delivery. Launched On April 1, 2011, the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India began.

- **Eligibility and Features**

Adolescent girls between the ages of 11 and 18 would be covered by the Scheme under all ICDS initiatives in 200 designated districts across all States and UTs in the nation. The target audience will be split into two age groups—11 to 15 and 15 to 18—in order to receive the proper attention. Objectives • Make it possible for teenage girls to improve their health status and self development. For the girls who need them, the medical officer/auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) will give them the deworming pills (as per State specific guidelines). On this day, the AGs' height and weight will be measured. By noting significant achievements, Kishori cards will be created and kept for each girl. The AG will be weighed using the scales provided by ICDS. In order to provide out-of-school girls over 16 with vocational training and guidance towards self-employment after becoming 18 years old, a partnership with the National Skill Development Programme (NSDP) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment has been establish.

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