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Guest Editor:
Daud Salim Faruque

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Department of Anthropology
University of Lucknow, Lucknow, India

Prerogatives and convolutions of human rights for women

*Mahfooz Alam**

ABSTRACT

Inhumanity against women in various parts of the country is that she is considered as a drain on the family's resources. The female child is seldom given a civil status in the household, being treated as an unwelcome guest in her own home, discriminated right from birth, and sometimes even before birth. The evidence is the rampant occurrence of female infanticides in many parts of India. 'International Human Right Law' is a source of norms and standard of practices of human Right, for the application of these norms to take place on the domestic level, appropriate institutional arrangements have to be made, and municipal law, as well as court practice, have to absorb the principal and standards established by international law. Human rights norms are dynamic and are constantly evolving according to the emerging understanding of the contents of rights and violations. Violence against women is but part of the cultural pattern throughout their life cycle, yielding no dignified place of respect for women. This research paper highlights the problem of gender justice in the light of human rights and solutions as well.

Keywords: Human Rights, CEDAW, Gender Justice, Women, Legislation.

Introduction

The term 'Human Rights' belongs to the vocabulary of humanity and is simply addressed as, "These are essential for life as a member of the human family and possessed by every human being irrespective of their nationality, race, religion, sex, etc. Following the natural law theory of 'Human Rights' that "those are not created by any legislation." Man's inhumanity to man has been the most condemnable black chapter in the history of mankind. History has innumerable examples of human rights violations pushing people to the worst of consequences, such as hunger strikes, land encroachments, and even armed struggle. In such situations, even judicial interventions have failed to protect the innocent. Many activists have sought solutions only through popular resistance movements that gained momentum to protect the rights of their citizens.

One of the glaring examples is the judgment of the Rajasthan High Court in the late '80s, in the case of the practice of 'Sati,' where Roop Kanwar was burnt alive along with her deceased husband. No doubt, the culprits had been immediately arrested as an eyewitness. Still, ultimately all of them were acquitted because "there had been no eye witness" despite the gruesome and cold-blooded murder took place openly in public. The subsequent judgment that favoured the culprits stated that "there must be respect for people's sentiments," i.e., the sentiments of those who believed in their religious rights. This was one

* Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, India
 xalam89@gmail.com

of the worst precedents for even cold-blooded murder being justified in the name of religion and culture, denying a woman even her fundamental Right to survive in this World⁶.

Inhumanity against women in various parts of the country is that she is considered as a drain on the family's resources. The female child is seldom given a civil status in the household, being treated as an unwelcome guest in her own home, discriminated right from birth, and sometimes even before birth. The evidence is the rampant occurrence of female infanticides in many parts of India. The story of this dependence of womanhood is as ancient as the days of 'Manu.' The great law giver, who had laid down the Hindu social order. This great personality, besides, to his codification of the unwritten law of classical Hindu customs, has forewarned the society that women should never be given freedom. Unfortunately, these laws cannot be ignored as mere fiction of a bygone era but remain alive as fears that continue to haunt the lives of many women, making them inferior, dependent, and lesser equals.

'International Human Right Law' is a source of norms and standard of practices of human Right, for the application of these norms to take place on the domestic level, appropriate institutional arrangements have to be made, and municipal law, as well as court practice, have to absorb the principal and standards established by international law. Human rights norms are dynamic and are constantly evolving according to the emerging understanding of the contents of rights and violations. Women's participation in this dynamic process in recent years has given new meaning to the concept and content of rights for women.

Violence against women is the most disregarding example of treating women as inferior beings. Such violence manifests as rape, dowry deaths, and many forms of domestic violence. Such atrocities, when condoned or ignored by the States or society as unimportant domestic incidents, further instill only insecurity in the minds of women, creating permanent stumbling blocks to their progress. Violence against women is but part of the cultural pattern throughout their life cycle, yielding no dignified place of respect for women. Over the span, the transformation of the position of the individuals after the Second World War has been one of the most remarkable expansions in the contemporary international law, in addition to this, the states or individuals are regarded as the real subjects and beneficiaries of international law by virtue of having Right and duties flowing directly from international law⁷. The assertion of the human rights of women is one of the remarkable manifestations of the debate and whole struggle. Various legal provisions, institutions, and organizations have been enacted and established to ensure women a better standard of life and human rights.

In the beginning, international politics and law discriminated against women and firmly avoided the equal status of women with men. After the Second World War, with the raising voice of women for their freedom and rights, the situation changed considerably. The demand for rights, freedom, and to recognize the existence of women in society with men continued for a long time in history. During the drafting stages of the Charter of the United Nations efforts to satisfy the hunger of gender justice were made and the protest voices of women and their status in society were answered.

The former President of USA, Henry Truman, appreciating her efforts termed her as the 'First Lady of the World' who was campaigner of promoting the human rights of the people

⁶.Arunachalam Jaya, Women's Equality a Struggle for Survival, p195, Gyan Publishing House, 2005, New Delhi.

⁷ International Law is the body of rules, which are legally binding on states in their intercourse with each other. These rules are primarily those which govern the relation of states, but states are not only the subject of International Law, International Organization and to some extent individuals are also may be the subject of right conferred and duties imposed by International Law. (International Law: H.O. Agrawal CLA Alld. 10th ed. 1992 P 4).

of the World. The efforts of Mrs. Roosevelt could not be put out of our mind, because her great efforts significantly changed the face of international politics and opened the gates for the adoption of several legal documents on gender justice. Afterward, a series of special instruments have been adopted for the protection of women's rights to eliminate gender-based discrimination in a different form. A positive outcome of her efforts for women has been experienced throughout. On the world level platform, a series of international commitments have been made. On the initiation of UDHR, numerous countries on the globe scampered to the commitment of securing the human rights of their citizens.

It supported that all the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Declaration are to be enjoyed entirely without discrimination on the ground of sex. With the same thoughts, the principles reiterated in the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights were adopted in the year of 1966. Apart from the general provisions which guarantee the human rights of women, the U.N. since 1952, adopted several conventions and declarations to promote the status of women in all possible dimensions with respect. During this period, several conferences were conducted to appraise the status of women and to develop specific and very effective strategies in order to swab unfair practices of gender discrimination followed around the World. The U.N. in the year of 1979 adopted The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (popularly referred to as the CEDAW Convention) was an important one. The U.N. in 1979 adopted 'the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and prohibit discrimination against women. However, no mechanism was approved for the enforcement of such laws. The U.N., in direction to screening the situation in the advancement of women's rights and to question the procedure, accepted an optional Practice to the CEDAW Convention in 1999, which came into force in the year 2000. The Protocol is a subsidiary agreement with the CEDAW Convention. According to the Protocol, the U.N. established a Committee to receive complaints from women or individuals for slightly 'crucial or planned abuses' of the Convention.

However, only women belonging to states, which are parties to the Protocol, could make complaints to U.N. monitoring committee and other have no right to claim for any violation of rights, and the Protocol has led to a number of decisions on the issues related to domestic violence, forced sterilization, parental leave and systematic killing of women, etc. The Protocol also established a distinctive feature that was an 'inquiry procedure' that allows the Committee to initiate investigations into suspected crucial or systematic violations by a state party against women. In this regard, the Committee granted the power to carry out visits to the country in question. These Conferences and the Conventions for the elimination of discrimination against women could not achieve the desired result; women's human rights are still disregarded and violated worldwide. Inequalities between men and women have roots in social norms and values, and the combined efforts are still waiting to approach the concept of gender justice universally.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble Whereas recognition of the intrinsic dignity and of the equal and absolute rights of all members of the human family is the basis of liberty, impartiality and harmony in the World, Whereas disrespect and contempt for human rights have resulted in brutal acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the beginning of a world in which human beings shall enjoy liberty of speech and certainty and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest ambition of the ordinary people, Whereas it is vital, if man is not to be duty-bound to have remedy, as a last resort, to revolt against autocracy and domination, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law, Whereas it is energetic to sponsor the expansion of welcoming relations between nations, Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Deed confirmed their belief in fundamental human rights, in

the dignity and wealth of the human person and in the identical rights of men and women and have resolute to promote social advancement and healthier morals of life in more freedom, Whereas Member States have guaranteed themselves to attain, in support with the United Nations, the promotion of universal admiration for and compliance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Whereas a common thought of these rights and freedoms is of the utmost prominence for the full realization of this pledge, Now, therefore, The General Assembly, Announces this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a conjoint standard of accomplishment for all peoples and all states, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration always in mind, shall struggle by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive actions, national and international, to secure their universal and effective acknowledgement and compliance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1 of the UDHR guarantees the Right to dignity to all human beings and the spirit of brotherhood to one another.

Article 2 of the UDHR restricted discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth, or another status.

Article 3 of the UDHR guarantees to all human beings the Right to life and liberty.

Article 4 of the UDHR imposed restrictions against slavery and bonded labour.

Article 7. This Article Relates to the Right to Equality to all the human beings.

Article 9. This Article relates to Right against Exploitation.

Article 12 -This Article deals with the Right to privacy for all human beings.

Article 16 -This Article deals with the right to freedom of marriage without any discrimination to all human beings.

Article 17 -This Article guarantees to Right to the property to all human beings.

Article 23 -This Article guarantees the Right to work and equal pay for equal work to all human beings.

Article 25 -This Article Guarantees to all human beings the right to food, clothing, livelihood, and social care and protection of children.

Article 26 -This Article guarantees the Right to education to all human beings.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Described as an international bill of rights for women, it was instituted on 3 September 1981 and has been ratified by 189 states. Over 50 countries that have ratified the Convention have done so subject to certain declarations, reservations, and oppositions, with 38 countries who vetoed the implementation article 29, which addresses means of settlement for disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention.

Summary-

The Convention has a parallel format to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, " with its dual nature of admiration to the orbit of its practical compulsions and its universal screening of mechanics." The Convention is classified into six parts, with 30 Articles in total.

Part I (Articles 1-6) deals with the non-discrimination on the sex and sex trafficking.

Part II (Articles 7-9) sketches women's rights in the public sphere with importance on political life, representation, and rights to nationality.

Part III (Articles 10-14) defines the economic and social rights of women, mainly focusing on education, employment, and health. Part III also contains special protections for rural women and the problems they face.

Part IV (Article 15 and 16) guarantees to women's Right to equality in marriage and family life laterally with the Right to equality before the law.

Part V (Articles 17-22) establishes the Committee and procedure on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as well as the states parties.

Part VI (Articles 23-30) defines the effects of the Convention on other treaties, administration, the commitment of the state's parties.

Human Rights for females at the National level-

NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2001)

The standard of gender equality is preserved in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only guarantees equality to women but also authorizes to the State to implement trials of positive discrimination in favour of females. Within the agenda of an autonomous polity, our legislations, advancement policies, Plans, and programmes have pointed at women's development in diverse ranges. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards has been an obvious shift in the tactic to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the upliftment of women has been recognized as the central issue in shaping the position of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to secure the rights and legal human rights of females⁸. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have giving reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for females, establishing a powerful framework for their participating in dynamic at the local levels. India has also ratified several international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of females⁹. Key among them is the confirmation of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993. The Policy also takes note of the assurances of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the other Sectoral Policies relating to the empowerment of Women. The women's movement and a wide-spread system of non-Government Organizations that have a strong grass-roots presence and deep insight into women's concerns have participated in inspiring initiatives for the upliftment of females.

Gender dissimilarity manifests itself in various forms, the foremost obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the populace in the last few eras. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and social levels are a few of the other signs. Segregation against girl children, adolescent girls, and women persists in parts of the country. The underlying causes of gender disparity are related to social and economic structure, which is based on informal and formal norms and practices. The fundamental causes of sexual orientation imbalance are related to social and financial structure, which is based on casual and formal standards, and hones.

Goal and Objectives of the National policy for women

The goal of this Policy is to cook up the improvement, expansion, and emancipation of women. The Policy will be widely circulated so as to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals. Specifically, the aims of this Policy include-

- Creating an environment through positive financial and social policies for full upliftment of females to enable them to realize their full potential.
- The de-jure and de-facto delight of all human rights and vital freedom by women on an identical basis with men in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural, and civil.
- Equal access to contribution and decision making of women in the social, political, and economic life of the nation.

⁸National Policy for Women Empowerment | Ministry of Women
<https://wcd.nic.in/womendevlopment/national-policy-women-empowerment>

⁹*Ibid*

- Equal access to women to health care, excellence education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office, etc.
- Strengthening legal systems aimed at the removal of all forms of discrimination against women.
- Changing societal attitudes and civic practices by dynamic contribution and participation of both men and women.
- Mainstreaming a gender perception in the progress process.
- Eradication of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and
- Building and consolidation partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.
- The development of property rights in a patriarchal system has contributed to the subordinate status of women. The Policy would goal to boost up the deviations in laws relating to ownership of property and inheritance by evolving consensus in order to make them gender just.

Economic empowerment of Women

Since women comprise the majority of the populace under the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination, macro-economic policies and poverty eradication programmes will specifically address the needs and problems of such women. There has been moved forward execution of programmes which are already women-oriented with special targets for women. Steps have been taken for mobilization of destitute women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social alternatives, along with necessary bolster measures to enhance their capabilities. A Scheme has been launched by the Indian Government on the name of Indian Prime Minister, i.e., Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojna.

Social Empowerment of Women –

Education-

Equal participation in education for women and girls has been ensured. Special measures have been taken to remove discrimination, universalize education, eradicate illiteracy, create a gender-sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate life-long learning as well as the development of occupation/vocation/technical skills by women. Falling the gender gap in secondary and higher education would be a focus area. Sectoral time targets in existing policies have been achieved, with a special focus on girls and women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections, including the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes/Minorities. Gender-sensitive curricula have been developed at all levels of the educational system in order to address sex stereotyping as one of the causes of gender discrimination¹⁰. To complete this goal, the Government of India launched the Scheme of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and Scholarships Schemes.

Health-

A universal method to women's health and well-being, which includes both nutrition and health services, will be approved, and special care has been given to the necessities of females and the girl at all stages of the life cycle. The decrease of infant mortality and maternal mortality, which are sensitive pointers of human development, is a priority concern. This policy restates the national demographic goals for Infant Mortality Rate (IMR),

¹⁰National Policy for Women Empowerment | Ministry of Women
<https://wcd.nic.in/womendevlopment/national-policy-women-empowerment>

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) set out in the National Population Policy 2000. Females should have access to comprehensive, reasonable, and quality health care. Measures will be implemented that take into account the reproductive rights of women to enable them to exercise informed choices, their susceptibility to sexual and health problems together with endemic, infectious and infectious diseases such as malaria, TB, and water-borne diseases as well as hypertension and cardio-pulmonary diseases. The communal, developmental, and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases will be tackled from a gender perception¹¹.

To efficiently meet problems of infant and maternal mortality and early marriage, the availability of good and accurate data at the micro-level on deaths, birth and marriages is necessary. Stringent operation of registration of births and deaths would be ensured and registration of marriages would be made mandatory.

In the light of National Population Policy (2000) to population stabilization, this Policy recognizes the critical need of men and women to have access to safe, effective and affordable methods of family planning of their choice and the need to appropriately address the issues of early marriages and gap of children. Interferences such as spread of education, compulsory registration of marriage and distinct programmes like BSY should effect on delaying the age of marriage so that by 2022 child marriages are abolished¹².

Women's old-style knowledge about health care and nutrition will be recognized through proper documentation and its use will be encouraged. The use of Indian and substitute systems of medicine should be improved within the framework of overall health set-up accessible for females. For completion of the objectives related to the health the Government India introduced many policies like Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Aarogya Yojna and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna and many more.

Nutrition

In light of the high risk of malnutrition and disease that females face at all the three critical stages viz., infancy and childhood, adolescent and reproductive phase, focused attention would be paid to meeting the nutritional needs of women at all stages of the life cycle. This is also imperative in view of the grave association between the health of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women with the health of infant and young children. Special efforts will be made to challenge the problem of macro and micro nutrient deficiencies especially amongst pregnant and lactating women as it leads to various diseases and disabilities. For achieving the target, the Government of India Introduced a Scheme named as Scheme for Adolescent Girls 2018.

Intra-household discrimination in nutritional matters viz-à-viz girls and women will be sought to be ended through appropriate strategies¹³. Extensive use of nutrition education would be made to address the issues of intra-household imbalances in nutrition and the special needs of pregnant and lactating women. Women's contribution should also be ensured in the planning, superintendence and delivery of the system.

Housing and Shelter-Women's viewpoints should be included in housing policies, planning of housing colonies and provision of shelter both in rural and urban areas. Special devotion should be given for providing adequate and safe housing and accommodation for women including single women, heads of households, working women, students, apprentices and trainees.

¹¹*Ibid*

¹²*Ibid*

¹³Versity Document: 2012. <https://versitydoc.blogspot.com/2012/>

Women in Difficult Circumstances-

In recognition of the multiplicity of women's circumstances and in acknowledgement of the requirements of specially disadvantaged groups, measures and platforms will be undertaken to provide them with special support. These groups include females in extreme scarcity, deprived women, females in conflict states, women affected by natural calamities, women in less developed regions, the disabled widows, elderly women, single women in difficult circumstances, women heading households, those displaced from employment, migrants, women who are victims of marital violence, deserted women and prostitutes etc.¹⁴For the removal of such types of disparities some initiative taken by the Indian Government. The Indian Government launched some pension Schemes named as Scheme (IGNWPS Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension)¹⁵and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).

Violence against women

All practices of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or social practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eradicate its occurrence. Institutions and mechanisms/arrangements for assistance will be created and strengthened for hindrance of such violence, including sexual harassment at work place and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. A special prominence will also be laid on programmes and measures to deal with trafficking in women and girls.

Rights of the Girl Child-

All practices of discrimination against the girl child and violation of her rights shall be eradicated by undertaking tough methods both preventive and punitive within and outside the family. These would relate explicitly to stringent enforcement of laws against prenatal sex selection and the practices of female foeticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution etc. Elimination of discrimination in the behavior of the girl child within the domestic region and society and plan of a positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered. There will be special prominence on the necessities of the girl child and keeping of considerable investments in the areas relating to food and nutrition, health and education, and in vocational education. In execution of programmes for eliminating child labour, there will be a special attention on girl children.

Legislations

The existing statutory structure will be reviewed and additional statutory measures taken by identified departments to implement the Policy. This will also involve a review of all existing laws including personal, customary and tribal laws, subordinate statute, related rules as well as executive and administrative regulations to eliminate all gender discriminatory references. The specific measures necessary would be evolved through a consultation procedure involving civil society, National Commission for Women and Department of Women and Child Development. In appropriate cases the consultation method would be widened to include other participants too.

Effective application of statute would be promoted by involving civil society and community. Appropriate changes in statute will be undertaken, if required.

In addition, following other specific measures will be taken to implement the legislation effectively.

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) | East Khasi
<https://eastkhasihills.gov.in/scheme/nsap/>

- Strict enforcement of all relevant legal provisions and speedy redressal of grievances will be ensured, with a special focus on violence and gender related atrocities.
- Measures to prevent and punish sexual harassment at the place of work, protection for women workers in the organized/ unorganized sector and strict enforcement of relevant laws such as Equal Remuneration Act and Minimum Wages Act will be undertaken,
- Crimes against women, their incidence, prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution will be regularly reviewed at all Crime Review fora and Conferences at the Central, State and District levels. Recognized, local, voluntary organizations will be authorized to lodge Complaints and facilitate registration, investigations and legal proceedings related to violence and atrocities against girls and women.
- Women's Cells in Police Stations, Encourage Women Police Stations Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Counselling Centers, Legal Aid Centers and Nyaya Panchayats will be strengthened and expanded to eliminate violence and atrocities against women.
- Widespread dissemination of information on all aspects of legal rights, human rights and other entitlements of women, through specially designed legal literacy programmes and rights information programmes will be done.

Gender Sensitization: Preparing of staff of official, administrative and legal wings of the State with an extraordinary center on approach and program composers, usage and improvement offices, law authorization apparatus and the legal, as well as non-governmental organizations will be attempted. Other measures will incorporate; Promoting societal awareness to gender issues and women's human rights.

- Review of curriculum and educational materials to include gender education and human rights issues.
- Removal of all references derogatory to the dignity of women from all public documents and legal instruments.
- Use of different forms of mass media to communicate social messages relating to women's equality and empowerment.
- In the light of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the ministry of women and child development of India launched and introduced many Schemes for the empowerment of females. Few are discussed here as under-

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana¹⁶-

Features of the scheme-

- It permits a family to open an account for a girl child, and if there are two girls then two accounts, one for each girl.
- However, third account can also be opened, provide the first or second delivery results in twins or triplets.
- Minimum Rs 1000 And maximum Rs 1.5 lakh can be deposit in one financial year.
- The deposit can be made until the completion of 14 years from the date of the opening account.
- The account can be closed only when the girls turns 21. If the account is not closed and the money is not withdrawn even after turning 21, interest can be earned on the amount.
- A birth certificate must be compulsory at the opening of the account.

Benefits of Scheme -

The account can be open and operated by the guardian as soon as a girl child turn 10.

¹⁶ Government Schemes – mosaic. <http://mosaicworkskills.com/5-government-schemes-to-aid-economic-development-and-financial-stability/>

Up to 50 % of the balance can be withdrawn to meet the educational requirements of the girl after she turns 18. Offers an interest rate of 8.6%.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)¹⁷- For the enforcement of the UNDHR and CEDAW the Indian government launched Schemes of pensions for women. The Scheme is called as Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Schemes. This Scheme Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), introduced in the year 2009, provides BPL (Below Poverty Line) widows in the age group 40 to 64 (later revised 40 to 59) with a monthly pension of Rs. 200 per beneficiary. After they attain the age of 60, they qualify for pension under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). They should get up to 2000. This programme was started in 2007 under the ministry for rural development. the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) only covers aged 40-59, some State Governments have launched state widow pension schemes. In Chhattisgarh, the Sukhad Sahara Yojana grants a monthly pension to all widows aged 18-50. The Lakshmi Bai Pension Yojana in Bihar covers all widows above 18 years of age, whose annual family income is below ₹60,000 (US\$870).

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna -

PMJD Yojna is a scheme for needy and poor people with a national goal with financial inclusion such as saving and deposit accounts, credits, remittance, insurance, pension etc at affordable rates. The scheme has been announced on 15th august 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

These are the benefits of the scheme-

- The government plans of rs.one lakh accident cover and Rs 30000 insurance cover for those who opened their account in the bank before 26 January.
- 4 % interest per annum on the money deposit.
- Zero balance accounts mean no criteria for minimum balance
- Money can be transferred to any account throughout India
- Money transfer through government schemes directly the account
- If you continue operating your account for six months and the available balance is Rs 5000, you can avail overdraft facility from your bank.

UJJAWALA A-

Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Effective 1st April, 2016) Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development Ujjawala A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME

- To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
- To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- To provide rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large

¹⁷ National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) | East Khasi <https://eastkhasihills.gov.in/scheme/nsap/>

- To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

BENEFICIARIES

- Women and children who are vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- Women and children who are victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The implementing organizations must fulfil the following eligibility conditions:

1. The agency should be registered under law and must have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in its Constitution;
2. The organization must not work for the profit of any individual or body of individuals;
3. It should ordinarily have three years' experience after its registration;
4. Its financial position should be sound;
5. It should have facilities, resources, experience and personnel to initiate the scheme for which assistance is sought;
6. Voluntary organisations should be registered with the NGO PS portal of NITI Aayog.

SCHEME FOR WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL-With the progressive change in the socio-economic fabric of the country more and 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. The Government of India being concerned about the difficulties faced by such working women, introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for construction of new/ expansion of existing buildings for providing hostel facilities to working women in cities, smaller towns and also in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. Based on an evaluation, the existing scheme has been revised to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments.

Objectives- The objective of the scheme is 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. The scheme is assisting projects for construction of new hostel buildings, expansion of existing hostel buildings and hostel buildings in rented premises. The working women's hostel projects being assisted under this scheme shall be made available to all working women without any distinction with respect to caste, religion, marital status etc., subject to norms prescribed under the scheme. While the projects assisted under this scheme are meant for working women, women under training for job may also be accommodated in such hostels subject to the condition that taken together, such trainees should not occupy more than 30% of the total capacity the hostel and they may be accommodated in the hostels only when adequate numbers of working women are not available. Children of working women, up to the age of 18 years for girls and up to the age of 5 years for boys may be accommodated in such hostels with their mothers.

Beneficiaries- Following categories of working women and their children are being covered under this Scheme:

- (i) Working women, who may be single, widowed, divorced, separated, married but whose husband or immediate family does not reside in the same city/area. Particular preference may be given to women from disadvantaged sections of the society. There should be also provision for reservation of seats for physically challenged beneficiaries.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 5 years, accompanying working mothers will be provided accommodation, with their mothers. Working mothers may also avail of the services of the Day Care Centre, as provided under the scheme.

NATIONAL MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEME (NMBS) Under NMBS there is a provision for the payment of Rs. 500 per pregnancy to women belonging to poor households for pre-natal and post-natal maternity care upto first two live births. The benefit is provided to eligible women of 19 years and above. 160 The Head-Count Ratio (H) for the scheme NMBS shows that 80% of the beneficiaries were below poverty line. The value of Income gap ratio viz. 0.35 implies that most of the beneficiaries were in the upper income-slab below poverty line. In the calculation of Sen-index the value of Ginni co-efficient (G) is 0.16. Which signifies a very low degree of income disparity among the beneficiaries below poverty line. The Sen-index value, viz. 0.36 indicates that more beneficiaries were in the upper income-slab below poverty line.

PRAGATI SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR GIRLS STUDENT

Pragati is a MHRD System being implemented by of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for Advancement of Girls pursuing Technical Education. Education is one of the most vital means of empowering females with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence compulsory to participate fully in the development process. This is an attempt to give young Women the opportunity to further her education and prepare for a successful future by "Empowering Women through Technical Education.

Conclusion-

"Today as we stand at beginning of the 21st century we are still unable to boast such a society where there is total gender equality or gender equity. As per theories and texts women got a higher place and worshiped but the truth was otherwise. In the name of safety, sacrifices, physical weakness and love for them, they got trapped in four walls which, with the passing of time becomes their weakness as made them illiterate, shy and weak in reality. Until recently the question of gender equality was merely a topic of theoretical discussion. The reality of women's lives remains invisible to men and women alike and this invisibility persists at all levels beginning with the family to the nation. Although geographically men and women share the same space yet they live in different worlds. The mere fact that women hold up half the sky doesn't appear to give them a position of dignity and equality. It is true that over the years women have made great strides in many areas with notable progress in reducing some gender gaps. Still the afflicted world in which we live is characterized by deeply unequal sharing of the burden of the adversities between women and sprawling inequalities persist in their access to education, health care, physical and financial resources and opportunities in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres." However there are so many schemes are launched by the Central as well as State Government on the basis of the **Cedaw** and **UDHR** .But all the schemes are registered in the books or can say the launching of schemes are sufficient in India. But the implementation is zero. There is a need to implicate at the grass root level.

As suggestions, I think morally we are weak, if we resurrected our morals then we give respect and equal status to every gender. No need to more laws and schemes for the gender justice and equalization.

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