



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA: CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN REFERENCE OF NIRBHAYA SCHEME AND PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA.

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ABSTRACT:

The term good governance is used as successful achievement of the political and institutional goals. It relates to the process of development where the major concerns are to minimize the issues regarding human being development e.g. Human rights, civil culture, Economic development, Women Empowerment, Political and social rights etc. Since 2014 on 25 December every year Good governance day observed in the country called "Sushashan Divas" on the birth occasion of former Prime Minister Late Shri A.B. Vajpayee Ji. Governance is an all-inclusive term covering various aspects of the organizations and structure of government which have an impact on the efficiency of government and the delivery of public services and incorporates accountability, transparency, financial devolution, political administrative and administrative vigilance to check corruption. For the beneficiaries of women the government has been adopted different schemes and programs.

The place of women in India has always been very important, and this is the reason that women here are considered to be the form of Goddess. Looking at the statistics, it is known that there has been an increase in the cases of female harassment in India since last few years. But the other positive aspect in this context is that the government has recognized the issues related to women and introduced different schemes to fight with the atrocities against the women and uplift their spirit, great opportunity for contribution in countries economy and development. various schemes and campaigns are being implemented by the Government of India from time to time for the empowerment of women. The national credit fund for women, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, Ujjwala yojana and Nirbhaya Yojana are examples of such schemes. Through these schemes, not only women empowerment has got a boost in the country but women have also got economic support. Therefore, both the above schemes are the best examples of good governance in the country. This paper will focus on the role of government in the empowerment of women, various schemes or programs initiated by the government of India and critical analysis of the policies of the government mainly Nirbhaya scheme or PMUY.

KEYWORDS:

GOOD GOVERNANCE, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, WELFARE SCHEMES, AWARENESS, WELLNESS OF WOMEN.

INTRODUCTION:

The concept of women empowerment has under a sea change from welfare oriented approach to equity approach. It has been understood as the process by which the powerless gain a greater control over the circumstances of their lives. What is governance and good governance? Recently the terms governance and good governance are being increasingly used in development literature. Governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented, an analysis of governance focuses on the formal and informal actors involved in decision making and implementing the decisions made and the formal and informal structures that have been set in place to arrive at and implement the decisions.

GOOD GOVERNANCE: IT HAS 08 MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS.

- Participatory
- Consensus oriented
- Accountable
- Transparent

- Responsive
- Effective and efficient
- Equitable and Inclusive
- Follows the rule of law

It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities taken into account and the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision making government of India has initiated lot of schemes for the empowerment or welfare of women.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

These are the major objectives of the study-

- To define the status of women empowerment in India
- To study the government scheme for women empowerment
- To analyze the status of Nirbhaya and Ujjwala Yojana

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Dimri, K. (2019). In her article entitled "Empowering Women: Striding Towards Progress" the author tried to examine the status of Women empowerment and also discussed the Nirbhaya Fund.
2. Dabadge, A., Sreenivas, A., & Josey, A. (2018). In the article entitled "What has the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana" the authors described a detailed analysis of PMUY. In the article they tried to defined every aspects of the PMUY.
3. Ranjan, R., & Singh, S. (2020). "Household cooking fuel patterns in rural India: Pre-and post-Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana", this article discuss on the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in detailed. In this article the author's gives a detailed analysis about the Household cooking fuel patterns in rural areas of India, and also gives a comparative study of the LPG uses status pre and post the PMUY.
9. Swayasjdha
10. Swa Shakti group
11. Support to training and employment programme for women
12. Swalamban
13. Swadhar
14. Integrated child protection scheme
15. Dhanalakashmi 2008
16. Short stay homes
17. Ujjwala
18. Beti bachao beti padhao scheme
19. One stop center scheme
20. Women helpline scheme
21. NIRBHAYA
22. Mahila police valunteers
23. Nari Shakti puraskar

WELFARE SCHEME FOR WOMEN IN INDIA:

Under article 15 (3), the constitution of India allows for positive discrimination in favor of women. The article, under right to equality, states that "Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any special provisions for women and children". In addition, the directive principles of state policy states that: The state shall in particular direct its policy towards securing that the citizen's men and women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the nation from the ramparts of Red fort on 15 August gave a powerful message to people asking them to take a pledge to stop disrespecting women. "A distortion has crept in our conduct and we at times insult women can we take a pledge to get rid of this in our behavior" the prime minister said. Mentioning the Nari Shakti PM Modi said that "Respect for women is an important pillar for India's growth we need to support our Nari Shakti".

The government programs for women development began as early as 1954 in India but the actual participation began only in 1974. At present the government of India has over 34 schemes for women operated by different department and ministries. Some of these are as follow.

1. The Rashtriya Mahila kosh (National credit fund for women) was set up in 1993 to make credit available for lower income women in India.
2. Mother and child tracking system
3. Indra Gandhi matritva sahyaog yojana
4. Conditional maternity benefit plan
5. Rajiv Gandhi scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls
6. Digital laado – giving digital wings to daughters
7. Mahila samridhi yojana, October 1993
8. Women entrepreneur development programme given top priority in 1997-98

NIRBHAYA SCHEME:

The government of India had set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya. Fund for implementations of Initiatives aimed at enhancing the security and safety for women in the country. An empowered committee of officers constituted under Nirbhaya framework appraises and recommends the proposals for funding under Nirbhaya fund is conjunction with the concerned ministries/ departments /Implementing Agencies .After Appraisal by the Ec the concerned ministries departments obtain approval of their respective competent financial authorities to release fund out of their respective budgets and implement the approved schemes directly through states implementing agencies.

Under the Nirbhaya Fund, one of the schemes namely "One Stop Centre (OSC) Schemes" is implemented across the country since 1st April 2015. OSCs aim to facilitate women affected by violence with range of integrated service under one roof such as police facilitation, medical aid, providing legal and psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter. OSCs are to be set up within 2 kms radius of the hospitals or medical facilities either in new constructed building in an approved design or in per- existing buildings. Under the scheme, One Stop Centers are being set up in all districts of the country. So far 704 OSCs have been operationalized and more than three lakh women have been assisted through them.

The details of funds released and utilized under the OSC scheme during last three years, State/UT-wise including Karnataka, Rajasthan and Assam are placed at

ANNEXURE-I.

The details of number of centers set up under the scheme, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan and Assam are paced at

ANNEXURE-II.

The ministry of women and child Development has

decided to implement the umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women as an integrated women empowerment programme under the name 'Mission Shakti', including the component of One Stop Centers. For providing speedy assistance and services distressed and violence affected women at OSCs the Ministry has decided to set up more OSCs, in areas which are distant from district headquarters or having high rates

of crime against women, to enhance the costing provisions for OSCs and to further enhance the synergy and coordination of OSCs with the other initiatives of the government, including those under Nirbhaya Fund and under mission Shakti. The information was given by the union Minister for women and child Development, smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, in a written reply in the Lok sabha.

TABLE NO. 01: THE STATE/UT-WISE DETAILS OF FOUNDS RELEASED AND UTILIZED UNDER THE SCHEME(OSC)DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No.	States /UTs	Amount released			Utilization
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3687641	4159792	3859069	7990951
2	Andhra Pradesh	39063148	26099278	21105250	35143545
3	Arunachal Pradesh	78202084	13418151	52014408	8811508
4	Assam	78695087	80408520	63614400	15492697
5	Bihar	30832455	104609180	70966339	989813
6	Chandigarh	930799	1500450	3383756	2381249
7	Chhattisgarh	66244372	67738483	35320987	87736269
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	50000	7345503	4601200	306879
9	Delhi	0	36255285	18304950	8851903
10	Goa	492000	1500450	3000900	392000
11	Gujarat	562669778	67951666	85084669	63336101
12	Haryana	47960546	40192416	40443694	42362758
13	Himachal Pradesh	10118850	31729794	19805400	1703950
14	Jammu and Kashmir	15020425	9639473	22483933	7253204
15	Jharkhand	70436941	40853107	69124908	3553664
16	Karnataka	59444419	58203580	73508758	17423208
17	Kerala	28331849	14090453	23705850	8516076
18	Ladakh-UT	0	0	6545042	2203172
19	Lakshadweep	0	2091225	1350225	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	112391390	167092445	104431900	60519822
21	Maharashtra	38929425	66998501	64620010	21344257
22	Manipur	35722445	24884407	50193815	20436592
23	Meghalaya	18639947	37430224	21161595	9674467
24	Mizoram	27264535	21870881	17263928	17065675
25	Nagaland	45487024	20934647	33590577	42979808
26	Odisha	77459998	20934647	93155192	15005985
27	Puducherry	4766836	4376136	7201800	0

28	Punjab	52633488	35183739	48461272	33738091
29	Rajasthan	30860275	67711508	56686911	227338091
30	Sikkim	3923225	6809569	6601800	123608
31	Tamil Nadu	113995447	71359691	106060397	117407585
32	Telangana	58948915	62446827	77573415	30635786
33	Tripura	26901349	6001800	15603600	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	222830497	123193989	228832664	129811493
35	Uttarakhand	27225409	22907445	27308659	30360381

Source: Statistical website, Govt. of India.

TABLE NO. 02: THE STATE/UT-WISE DETAILS OF NUMBER OF CENTERS SET UP UNDER THE SCHEME (OSC)

S. No.	States /UTs	Number of OSCs set up
1	Andaman and Nicobar(UT)	03
2	Andhra Pradesh	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	24
4	Assam	33
5	Bihar	38
6	Chhattisgarh	01
7	Chandigarh	27
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman &Diu (UT)	03
9	Delhi (UT)	11
10	Goa	02
11	Gujrat	33
12	Haryana	22
13	Himachal Pradesh	12
14	Jammu& Kashmir (UT)	20
15	Jharkhand	24
16	Karnataka	30
17	Kerala	14
18	Lakshadweep (UT)	01
19	Ladakh (UT)	02
20	Maharashtra	37
21	Madhya Pradesh	52
22	Manipur	16
23	Meghalaya	11
24	Mizoram	08
25	Nagaland	11

26	Odisha	30
27	Punjab	22
28	Puducherry (UT)	04
29	Rajasthan	33
30	Sikkim	04
31	Tamil Nadu	34
32	Telangana	33
33	Tripura	08
34	Uttar Pradesh	75
35	Uttarakhand	13
36	West Bengal	00
Total		704

Source: Statistical website, Govt. of India.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA:

In May 2016 ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas (MOPNG) introduced the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana as a flagship scheme with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to rural and deprived household which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow dung cakes etc. usages of traditional cooking fuel had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as on the environment. The scheme was launched on 1st may 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In the first Year of its launch, the connections distributed were 22 million against the target of 15 million. As of 23 October 2017, 30 million connections were distributed, 44% of which were given to families belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes . The number crossed 58 million by December 2018. In 2018 Union Budget of India, its scope was widened to include 80 million poor households. 21000 awareness camps were conducted by oil marketing companies (OMC). The scheme led to an increase in LPG consumption by 56% in 2019 as compared to 2014. The highly popular scheme has benefited over 14.6 million BPL families in Uttar Pradesh, 8.8 million in west Bengal 8.5 million in Bihar, 7.1 million Madhya Pradesh and 6.3 million in Rajasthan. In the Union Budget of 2021-2022, the government announced that 1 Crore more connections be provided under this scheme.

At the 107 the Indian Science Congress held in January 2020 in Bengaluru, Narendra Modi declared that technology has helped India “in recognizing the 8 Crore [80 Million] women who were still using coal or wood for cooking” and also “in understanding how many new distribution centers must be built, via the help of technology. The national Family Health Surveys demonstrate significant improvement in access to cleaner cooking fuels due to PMUY. Yearly growth in access to cleaner fuel accelerated around 2015 and increased by

almost seven times, 0.8% in rural areas before 2015 to 5.6% after

The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connection to the deprived households by March 2020. On 7th September 2019, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India handed over the 8th Crore LPG connection in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The release of 8 Crore LPG connection under the scheme has also helped in increasing the LPG coverage 62% on 1st may 2016 to 99.8% as on 1st April 2021. Under the Union Budget for FY 21-22, provision for release of additional 1 Crore

According to the latest Govt. reports under PMUY 1.0 total 94969244 LPG Connections has been distributed to the rural women up to 1 September 2022. And there were 15087935 LPG Connections has been distributed under PMUY 2.0 up to 1 September 2022. The impact of this scheme can be identified with these data analysis that in the financial year of 2014-15 the domestic sale of the LPG was 16041, but in the financial year of 2021-22 it was 25502. So a growth rate of 59 percent can be seen in the LPG distribution. The another scenario shows that in April 2014 total domestic LPG users were 14.52 crore across the country, in which number of PMUY users were zero, but in the April 2022 the total number of LPG users were 30.53 crore in which number of PMUY users were almost 9 crore. It shows the successful ratio of the PMUY Scheme.

CONCLUSION:

The study reveals that women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individual or communities of the women. Govt. of India made a lot of efforts to improve the conditions of women in the country. The different kind of govt. schemes related to women empowerment had played a major role to change the life style and social status of women in the country. These schemes also improved the sense of self-importance

among the women of the country. These policies like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Nirbhaya Scheme, PMUY and Dhanalakshmi also ensures the safety and wellness of the women and also had a great contribution in the upliftment of the status of women in the country.

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