
Gender Budgeting

Dr.Indu Sharma

Assistant Prof. of Public Administration Ch. Dhajja Ram Janta College Butana , Sonipat

ABSTRACT :

Women empowerment has become the agenda of almost all countries around the world. For this a lot of initiatives have been made at national and international level. Gender budgeting is a new mechanism to empower women by main streaming the issue of gender budget within the macro economic theory. It is important to note that this mainstreaming is done not only in quantities terms that is flowing some resources towards women. Rather it is a qualitative phenomenon as well as it aims to understand gender issues by providing a gender lens to budgetary process and make the process gender sensitive. In this paper we are discuss gender budgeting in India and then analyses the trends of gender budgeting in the Ministry of Women and Child Development (W&CD). Gender budget is defined as “It is a variety of processes and tools aimed at facilitating an assessment of the gender impact of the government budgets”. Hence gender budget is the practical application of gender mainstream in the budgetary process. It means a gender based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality. It does not call for a sprat equal budget for women and men. Rather then it strives to make budget gender sensitive by adopting the various tool for gender main streaming. It enables to track the budget as it calls for monitoring, analysis, reformulation the budget. Thus equality, transparency, efficiency and accountability are its cardinal values.

INTRODUCTION:-

Gender budgeting concept was introduced in Australia in 1983 1st time in the world. Time being time many other countries use Gender budgeting to empower the women. In India the central government of India introduced gender budgeting in 2005-06 as a budgetary practice. It has institutionalized Gender Budgeting by introducing a Gender Budget Statement (GBS) since 2005-06. The GBS captures the total quantum of resources earmarked for the women in a financial year.

OBJECTIVE OF THE GENDER BUDGETING:-

Objective of the gender budgeting is to ensure that policy commitment and financial

outlays are made on a gender perspective. Various initiatives with the objective of influencing and effecting gender equality and development are identified under gender specific budgeting. Similarly, it also ensures that is made in the budget in gender specific manner.

COMPONENTS OF GENDER BUDGET:-

1. Specifically targeted expenditure to women, child and girls.
2. Pro-Women allocations, which are the composite expenditure schemes with a significant women's component;
3. Residual Public expenditures that have gender-differential impacts.

A BOOST FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY:-

Mrs. Maneka Gandhi Ji run ministry of Women and child Development and has received 27% increase in budget allocation in financial Year 2017-18. From being allotted Rs. 17640 crore last year this year its expenditure limit is at Rs. 22,095 crore an announcement that quickly led to the ministry proclaiming this as **Budget for Women & children**. While this is an Improvement on the funds allocated. The government has announced an increased corpus for the Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyog Yojana budget jump 4 time with Rs.2700 crores being set aside this year as compared to Rs.634 crore in 2016-17. As per this scheme Rs. 6000 will be given to those mothers who seek institutional delivery and vaccination a cue from the PM's demonetization announcement to expand maternity benefit for women. But this scheme has been criticized in the past for being non-inclusive and as one that alienates a large group of women based on the lengthy list of eligibility conditions.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN:-

Finance minister ArunJaitley has also announced the setting up of Mahila Shakti Kendras at village levels. Each one of these centers will be linked to about 14 lakh Anganwadi centers. The budgetary allocation is Rs.500 crores for this project.

As per the finance Minister, this expected to be a one stop convergent support service for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition. The government believes that such center will increase the access of the essential services for women.

MNREGA AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:-

In financial year 2017-18 the fund for MNREGA has been allotted 48,000 crore a 25% like, as being suggested by the government. But activists maintain that this increase is a mere 1% as last year's budgetary allocation was later revised and increased. Under the MNGEGA one third of the employment opportunities are reserved for women. Now for this positive trajectory to continue, we need for the government to invest more in this scheme that by its own admission, has been a success.

THE NIRBHAYA FUND:-

The Nirbhaya Fund has been rise 9 times jump in budgetary allocation- Rs.28.9 crore is the corpus set aside for this year. Now despite the controversy over the underutilization of this fund and the center's denial of this allegation, this year allocation was done reportedly at the behalf of the police. Their agenda is to reportedly install many more CCTV cameras, facilitate self-defense classes for women, among other things. The minister that controls disbursements for this fund is the women and child Development Minister. As per the department, about Rs.400 crores has been spent so far out of a corpus of Rs.1530 crores from previous years.

There are more reference to women in this budget than in the previous year claims of Naari Shakti are all very well but the government needs to ensure that the phrase lives up to its true meaning and that the women of the country are not reduced to mere digits in what is being touted as an all inclusive budget.

CONCLUSION:-

It concluded that a positive trend over the past couple of year has been the pre-budget consultations organized by the Ministry of finance, aimed at ensuring that the voices of women are also heard in the budget making process. In addition to meeting in regarding to women's rights organization, the ministry also held a dialogue with UN women along with MWCD to discuss key issues pertaining of GRD. The coming budget must be emphasis on the strengthening of the key institutions, adequate investments for schemes that address gender concern and the effective implementation of those schemes. The Rio +20 the goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Sustainable Development Goal is an achievement for women's right advocates across the world.

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