



# “Women Empowerment: Challenges and Government Policies.”

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## Abstract :

*Women empowerment means their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economic and political systems of a society. Even though the world economy has developed into global economy, in both developed and developing countries women have been suppressed in all walks of life for generations. Women empowerment is far easier said than done. This in a certain respect demands a revolutionary change in the socio cultural values of the society. Still gender bias and beliefs are playing as chief obstacles for the growth of women empowerment worldwide. In India also, in spite of various laws that protect women’s rights, the gender inequalities are one of the highest in the world.*

## CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN INDIA :

There are many challenges that are currently plaguing the issues of women’s rights in India. A lot of issues are redundant and quite basic which has been faced across the country; they are contributory causes to the overarching status of women in India. Targeting these issues will directly benefit the empowerment of women in India.

. **EDUCATION** - While the country has grown from leaps and bounds since its independence the gap between women and men education is severe. In comparison to 82.14% of adult educated men, only 65.46% of adult literate women are there in India. Additionally, the norm of culture that states that the man of the family is the be-all and end-all of family’s decisions is gradually deteriorating the Indian society. I

. **POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY** - Due to abject poverty, women are exploited as domestic helps and wives whose incomes are usurped by the man of the house. If poverty were not a concern, then the girl child will be able to follow her dreams without concerns of sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and no education or work.

. **HEALTH AND SAFETY** - The health and safety concerns of women are paramount for the wellbeing of a country, and are important factors in gauging the empowerment of women in a country. However there are alarming concerns where maternal healthcare is concerned. While there are several programs that have been set into motion by the Government and several NGOs in the country, there is still a wide gap that exists between those under protection and those not. .

## GOVERNMENT SCHEME :

There are number of schemes running under the women empowerment mission we will discuss the major schemes here:-

1. Schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying Fisheries
2. Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
3. Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post harvest Operations
4. Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension
5. Assistance to Cooperatives
6. National Bamboo Mission



7. Central Poultry Development Organisation
8. Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management
9. Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing & Demonstration
10. Gramin Bhandaran Yojna
11. Capacity Building to enhance Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture and Registration of Organic Products
12. Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture
13. Marketing Assistance Scheme
14. Scheme of Support to Voluntary Agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development
15. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

The all above schemes are indirectly influencing the women workers and their economic condition. These schemes basically give stress on the individual training and entrepreneurship. They also provide employment to the people through various means.

**Conclusion** : These schemes aims to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation program generate public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity. It also facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody. It provides rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counseling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.

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