



**WELFARE ADMINISTRATION IN TELANGANA
– A STUDY OF WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN NALGONDA
DISTRICT**

Rajeshwari Annampatla
Research Scholar (Ph.D)
Department of Public Administration & HRM
Osmania University, Hyderabad. (T.S)

ABSTRACT

The status of woman's in Hindu society further declined during the medieval period in the form of Sati among some communities, early marriages and a ban on widow remarriages are became a part of common tradition in India. The entry of Mughal into subcontinent of India is the result on women as the Burka (Parda) practice in Manusmriti the Indian women has limited to kitchen room, but in the Islamic society the women has restricted her freedom within their skin and clothes and butter and bread. Government has a responsibility for the women welfare of its citizens which can only be fulfilled by the provisions of adequate social welfare measures. It becomes more obligatory upon the Government to ensure that its people enjoy the basic conditions to attain standards of social welfare facilities as fundamental right irrespective of their race, religion, colour and political belief. Social differentiation with its attendant demarcation of groups and of status of individuals is very widespread feature of the human society.

Keywords: Social Status, Women, Welfare

Introduction:

From the last few decades the position of women in India has been subjected to a lot of changes. In ancient times, Indian women used to enjoy equal position with men. Many reformers and social workers protected the rights of women moreover, because Upanishads have guided the society of role and about the special character of women. But in the time of Medieval period, the privileges of women have been reduced even though arguments and supports of many social reformers. In modern India the role of women has been getting high level status in around the society such as administration, corporate sector and politics even in social reformers.

The status of woman's in Hindu society further declined during the medieval period in the form of Sati among some communities, early marriages and a ban on widow remarriages are became a part of common tradition in India. The entry of Mughal into subcontinent of India is the result on women as the Burka (Parda) practice in Manusmriti the Indian women has limited to kitchen room, but in the Islamic society the women has restricted her freedom within their skin and clothes and butter and bread. Similarly another independent of the practice of Jauhar among the women in the dynasty of Rajaputs in Rajasthan and also the polygamy marriage system in the rulers of Kshatriya's particularly in India it shows the male domination and it led to the gender discrimination was ruled in the medieval India. Since the centuries women has treated as common property for male dominated society.

Government has a responsibility for the women welfare of its citizens which can only be fulfilled by the provisions of adequate social welfare measures. It becomes more obligatory upon the Government to ensure that its people enjoy the basic conditions to attain standards of social welfare facilities as fundamental right irrespective of their race, religion, colour and political belief. Social differentiation with its attendant demarcation of groups and of status of individuals is very widespread feature of the human society. Mostly this status depends on the individual's achievements in various fields. This differentiation is visible in special rights for some groups and disabilities on others in the matters of dress, occupation and even food. In some communities the status of an individual is determined by birth. In Hindu society this theory of status by birth has been carried much farther. Differentiated groups in the matter of special rights and disabilities emerged.

Women welfare problems are becoming more and more complex due to several reasons. In this chapter, attempt has been made to discuss the background of selected women welfare policy and programmes, their satisfaction with personnel aspects and their association. The perceptions have been formulated on the basis of information given by the beneficiaries/ respondents, observations and discussion held. Various reform movements took place to mobilise people create public opinion to bring about reforms in women system. British government also took concrete steps in this direction. Mahatma Gandhi gave this movement the central push it needed. He was the leader of all classes and communities. He considered social discrimination a sin both against God and Men. His perception was that social discrimination could be tackled by bringing awareness and awakening in the society.

The founding fathers of our Constitution were fully conscious of the circumstances in which the alien ruler's had left the country. Constituent Assembly did all that was possible to remove the disabilities suffered by depressed women's. The practice of social discrimination was made an offence, punishable under the law, the right to entry in temple or the practice of any religion has been made a fundamental right of every citizen.

The Constitution of India, while guaranteeing the right to equality of opportunity, enjoins upon the state to reserve posts in public services in favour of women's. Reservation has been provided both in the field of education and employment. The welfare of women has been referred to the state list of the constitution. The Constitution of India enjoins upon the state to strive to promote the welfare of women by securing the protecting as effectively as it may, social order in which justice-social economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of national life.

Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is working as a nodal ministry at the central level to coordinate the working of various schemes for the welfare of women's. To safeguard their interests, a National Commission for Women Welfare has been constituted under the constitution. A National Commission for Women Welfare also functioning to recommend programmes for their welfare. A number of government and non government organisation have also been set up for the purpose. At the national level there are finance schemes for women welfare to bring them in the mainstream.

National Commission for Women and Finance Corporation has been set up to finance eligible beneficiaries belonging to women's self-employment schemes. The union government has no direct role to play in welfare schemes for women's but it provides special assistance and grants in aid to augment the efforts of states.

In the state of Telangana, there is Department of welfare for women's which is working for upliftment of women's. It provides loans to women's for self employment. At district level, there is District Women Welfare Office responsible for execution of various welfare schemes for women's. Women Welfare office looks after these schemes at District level. Though an elaborate administrative structure has been set up from centre to the district level, yet there is a need to coordinate its activities.

Perception of respondents about these schemes reveals that though the government has provided extensive network of services for women welfare schemes, yet this community is still characterised by social backwardness, inadequacy of economic assets and absence of common basic facilities. Though the process of socio economic development is taking place yet it is at a very slow pace. Though women welfare residing in urban areas are in regular employment and thus able to enjoy the benefits of these schemes, yet those living in rural areas are still suffering from social discrimination and economic deprivation.

Under Economic Development sector, financial assistance is provided to individual or group of women welfare to undertake some gainful self-employment. Necessary training and skills are provided to them and then subsidies for economic ventures are given. Another important aspect is educational development. Education is perceived as an important cultural accomplishment on one hand and becomes a weapon against inequality and oppression on the other. A considerable amount has been spent on schemes meant for educational development.

Social security schemes are also being executed to inculcate a feeling of security among women welfare schemes against injustice and exploitation. Emphasis has also been laid on environmental protection of women welfare schemes basis aiming at improvement of their working and living conditions.

Thus crores of rupees have been spent by Government of Telangana on various schemes for welfare of women's yet their net impact upon the welfare of target group in anything to guess. Either for the reason of defective formulation or poor implementation, these schemes suffers from all the maladies generally associated with governmental schemes. Through recently the government of Telangana state has announced several new schemes and revised some of the already existing schemes yet the success yet the success of these measures would depend upon how truthfully these are carried out.

Presently, department is running the following major welfare schemes in the state. All schemes are implemented in the state through the district level offices of the department in association with the revenue and health officials. Directorate is monitoring all the schemes run in the state and takes care of its financial & physical matters along with the redressal of the grievances of the beneficiaries. It provides all the information as and when required by the Government. While implementing welfare schemes in the state, the department goes through lots of procedures, activities and public dealing at state, district, tehsil, revenue circle and village levels.

While implementing welfare schemes in the state, the department goes through lots of procedures, activities and public dealing at state, district, tehsil, revenue circle and village levels. To make the old people capable socially and economically, the Government is assisting old aged people, physically handicapped and widows and destitute women by giving them monthly pension @ Rs.750/- p.m. per person. Near about 13 lakhs records of pensioners covered under the old age, widow and handicapped pension schemes are processed, typed and monitored manually every month at Districts as well as Directorate level.

The eligible applicants are scrutinized, and selected for the benefits by District Level Committee formed under the Chairmanship of respective Deputy Commissioner. The application forms of selected beneficiaries are kept at District Social Welfare Officer office who in turn updates records and report to the department at State Level about the number of beneficiaries for the sanction of necessary budget for disbursement of pension on monthly basis. Records of pension are sorted revenue circle wise and resorted village/ward wise because the circle revenue officer and Village Revenue Officer concerned disbursed the pension village/ward wise using the APR-cum-Feed back reports prepared by the officials of Dist. Social Welfare Officer every month.

Programmes for the Welfare of Women

- Socio-Economic Programme for Needy Destitute Women and the Physically Handicapped.
- Condensed Courses of Education for Women.
- Mahila Mandal Programme.
- Girls Hostels for Scheduled Castes (Scs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- Hostels for Working Women.
- Crèches/Day-Care Centres for Children of Non-working and Ailing Mothers.
- Educational Training Programme for Women.
- Women's Training Centres/ Institute for Rehabilitation of Women in Distress.
- Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).
- Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA).
- Indira Awaas Yojana.
- Application of Science and Technology for Women.
- Employment and Income Generating Production Units.
- Support to Training-cum Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
- Rehabilitation of Handicapped Women-Setting up of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Women.
- Awareness Generation Projects for Rural and Poor Women.
- Grant in aid to State Government for Establishing Women's ITIs.
- Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY).
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).
- National Old Age Pension Scheme.
- National Family Benefit Scheme.
- National Maternity Benefit Scheme.
- Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.
- Community Based Pre-Poor Initiatives Programme (CBPPI).

A self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary usually composed of 10–20 local women or men. A mixed group is generally not preferred. Most self-help groups are located in India, though SHGs can also be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending.

Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of microcredit. A Self-Help Group may be registered or unregistered.

Self-help groups are started by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that generally have broad anti-poverty agendas. Self-help groups are seen as instruments for a variety of goals including empowering women, developing leadership abilities among poor people, increasing school enrollments, and improving nutrition and the use of birth control. Financial inter mediation is generally seen more as an entry point to these other goals, rather than as a primary objective. This can hinder their development as sources of village capital, as well as their efforts to aggregate locally controlled pools of capital through federation, as was historically accomplished by credit unions.

Many self-help groups, especially in India, under NABARD's *SHG Bank Linkage* program, borrow from banks once they have accumulated a base of their own capital and have established a track record of regular repayments. This model has attracted attention as a possible way of delivering microfinance services to poor populations that have been difficult to reach directly through banks or other institutions. "By aggregating their individual savings into a single deposit, self-help groups minimize the bank's transaction costs and generate an attractive volume of deposits. Through self-help groups the bank can serve small rural depositors while paying them a market rate of interest.

Financing under Self Help Groups (SHGs) scheme is based on the concept of Microfinance which is a term for the practice of providing financial services such as microcredit, micro savings and micro insurance to the rural poor. As this program is going on for the last many years, the present study has been carried out keeping in view the objectives that what is the impact of Microfinance on living standards, empowerment of women and poverty alleviation in the Nalgonda district of Talangana State. It has been found that there has been considerable increase in the income, savings and economic assets of the beneficiaries after joining the scheme. The increase in income and savings has raised the standard of living of the members.

To ensure inclusive growth which means including the excluded segments, caring the less cared and using the less used manpower, we need to control corruption, population and inflation. There is a strong case for monitoring and evaluation with good

governance (SMART administration), manpower planning and inflation targeting for achieving the better results in making microfinance under SHGs a success story in India.

Legislative Provisions and Women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women, 2001 (NPEW) was formulated as the blueprint for the future, with the express goal of addressing women's felt needs and bringing about their advancement, development and welfare.

Main features of the Policy

- The advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life.
- Introduction of more responsive judicial legal system that is sensitive to women's needs.
- Ensuring women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in development process.
- Strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanism.
- Partnership with community based organisation; and
- Implementation of international obligations, commitments and cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional level.

National Policies and Schemes for women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women 2001 has as its goal bringing about advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life through creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. The strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanisms and implementation of international obligations/ commitments and co-operation at the international, regional and sub-regional level was another commitment. The National Policy for Welfare of Women 2001 has as its goal bringing about advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life through creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. The strengthening and

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Scope of the Study

The study is confined to the working of some of the women's important welfare programmes in Nalgonda district of Telangana. Nalgonda district is advancing very much in implementing welfare programmes for women in Telangana State. Since the programmes are effectively implemented in Nalgonda district, the poor women have been benefitted to a larger extent, so that it is initiated to study this work and nobody has done this work as on today. This is also one the reasons to take up this study.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To study the concept of women welfare, organisational and administrative set-up of social welfare department at state and district level.
2. To study the welfare schemes and Administration programmes of women in India.
3. To analyse the implementation of welfare programmes, and plans for empowerment of women in Telangana.
4. To examine the awareness level of beneficiaries regarding schemes and programmes for women welfare in Nalgonda District.

Hypotheses of the Study:

Keeping in mind the broad objectives mentioned above, the following hypothesis have been formulated for this work.

1. The development of women is directly associated with economic development;
2. The Government of India has not concentrated much on the development of women and women welfare;
3. The socio-economic background of the respondents show their backwardness and under development;
4. Government welfare programmes in Nalgonda district benefitted a little to the women

folk in the form of increasing income and working hours.

Research Methodology

The study is based on the survey of the entire district taking into account its administrative division like Mandals and villages wherever the Women Welfare administration programmes have been implemented by the Government to uplift the living standards and per capita income of the people. This study is based on both primary and secondary data. The Primary data is collected from the beneficiaries selected villages through personal interview method.

The Secondary data is collected from various published reports by different Governmental organisations, data from Mandal Offices, DRDA reports, programme evaluation reports of the Planning Department, published books, journals of national and International in nature, annual reports, half yearly reports, quarterly reports, monthly reports, fortnightly reports and even weekly reports, daily news papers etc., have been referred for this work.

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