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A study on government schemes for women empowerment: With special reference to rural development and women and child welfare development

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Abstract

Women's empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development. Women empowerment is empowering the women to take their own decisions for their personal dependent. Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions, etc by leaving all the social and family limitations. It is to bring equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. The Government of Telangana has implemented all the welfare schemes framed by Government of India as well as the State has been giving all the priority to the women as per the Constitution of India, but still it has been observed that women are not able to reach to the mainstream of the society so the state felt the need that is empowering women is not enough, they should take the initiative to justify the empowerment. The present paper is an attempt to study the government initiatives schemes or programmes and allocation of budget of both central government and state government for women's empowerment in Women & Child welfare and Rural Development from 2014 to 2019. The Government of Telangana state has initiated so many programmes for women empowerment. The Study is based on secondary data sources. The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The necessary information about the Women Empowerment Programmes in Telangana state and its various components are collected from Annual Plan of Telangana Budget documents Books, Journals, Internet Source or related topic and % GSDP annual growth form the financial year 2014-2019 technique is used from the Ministry of Statistics and Planning Commission of India.

Keywords: Women, women empowerment, government schemes, women & child welfare, rural development, budget allocation and GSDP

Introduction

Women

Women are the epitome of strength, love, sacrifice and courage. The role of women in today's world has changed significantly and for better. Women are now self-sufficient, well aware and financially independent. They have attained immense success in every field, whether it is sports, politics or academics. With the encouragement of co-education, women are now marching side by side with men, in every walk of life. Women are important in our society. Every woman has her own job or duty in this modern society in which men are still the 'strongest gender'.

Women Empowerment

The 21st century has brought a new hope and has empowered women in a positive manner. Earlier they were under the shadow of a husband or a father, but now they have established their own identity and are independent. Education is an important key to success. Empowering women would become more pertinent if women were well informed and educated. A woman needs to understand her rights so that she can walk at par with men. Mother Teresa, Indra Nooyi, Pratibha Patil, Kalpana Chawla and a lot more have been very significant in their own sphere and are an idol for every woman in India and across the globe.

Changing role of women

The role of women has changed tremendously and they have been able to create a positive impression in the society. From housewives to CEOs, the transition can be seen at an accelerating rate.

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Modernization and the advent of the latest technology have widened hope and opportunities for them. They have established themselves socially, politically and economically in almost every field. Women are no longer considered unfit or weak for military or for other defense forces. Recently, Avani Chaturvedi has set a perfect example and has created a milestone by becoming India's first female fighter pilot.

Honorable Chief Minister of Telangana State, Mr.K. Chandrashekhar Rao is keen on providing women equal growth opportunities in all spheres of life and protection of women was ensured in the state. He said that the government is spending Rs 40,000 crores on as many as 35 welfare schemes. He cited a CAG report quoting that Telangana state stood first in revenue growth in the country by recording 17.82 per cent rate in the financial year 2016-17.

Telangana Government has initiated various schemes in order to

1. encourage women empowerment
2. promote development and empowerment, gender equality and gender justice of women
3. ensure women's social, economic and political

empowerment, fulfillment of their rights, promoting their participation and leadership

4. protect women from domestic violence
5. For women development and protection.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the central and state government initiatives schemes in rural development and Women & Child development department.
2. To analyses allocation of budget of both Central and State government for women's empowerment in rural development department as per % GSDP annual growth form the financial year 2014-2019.
3. To analyses allocation of budget of both Central government and State government for women's empowerment in Women & Child welfare development department as per % GSDP annual growth form the financial year 2014-2019.

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

GSDP is the market value of all officially recognized final goods and services produced within the State in a given period of time. The growth of GSDP of the State is an important economic indicator of the State economy.

Table 1: Statement of GSDP in Telangana State

Years	Rs. (In Crores)
2014-15	5,05,849
2015-16	5,77,902
2016-17	6,59,676
2017-18	7,53,804
2018-19	8,66,875

Ministry of Rural Development

Being the nodal Ministry for most of the development and welfare activities in the rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development plays a pivotal role in the overall development strategy of the country. The vision and mission of the Ministry is sustainable and inclusive growth of rural India through a multipronged strategy for eradication of poverty by increasing livelihoods opportunities, providing social safety net and developing infrastructure for growth. This is expected to improve quality of life in rural India and to correct the developmental imbalances, aiming in the process, to reach out to most disadvantaged sections of the society.

Central Government Initiatives

1. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011. "To reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor."
2. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year this act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women.

3. The "Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana" (MKSP), a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM) seeks to improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her. MKSP recognizes the identity of "Mahila" as "Kisan" and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices.
4. DRDA Administration - has been introduced from 1st April, 1999 based on the recommendations of an inter-ministerial committee known as Shankar Committee. The objective of the scheme is to strengthen the DRDAs and to make them more professional and effective.

Table 2: List of Centrally assisted state plan schemes wise budget allocation for women in Telangana state in Rural Development Department.

Name of The Schemes	BE 2014-15 (in lakhs)	BE 2015-16 (in lakhs)	BE 2016-17 (in lakhs)	BE 2017-18 (in lakhs)	BE 2018-19 (in lakhs)
National Rural Livelihood Mission	11937.62	10333.76	7601	10000	7500
% of GSDP	0.023599177	0.017881509	0.011522323	0.013266048	0.008651766
MGNREGA	212272.73	235241.42	235277.78	300000	150682
% of GSDP	0.419636552	0.407061093	0.356656571	0.397981438	0.173822062
Mahila kisan Shashitikan Yojana	-	100	0	0	0
% of GSDP	-	0.00017304	0	0	0
DRDA Admistration	-	-	-	-	695
% of GSDP	-	-	-	-	0.00080173

From the above table it is observed that NRLM budget allocation estimate is gradually reduced from 0.02% to 0.008% in 2018-19 as compared to 2014-15. Similarly MGNREGA scheme is declined from 0.41% to 0.17%. Only in 2015-16 Mahila kisan Shashitikan Yojana budget was allocated as 100 lakhs and DRDA Admistration in 2018-19 was 0.0008% as per GSDP.

Telangana State Government Initiatives

1. ABHAYA HASTHAM - Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced Velugu Pension and Insurance Scheme for the (Rural and Urban) SHG women in November 2009 to provide income security in old age. The aim was to provide security to all enrolled SHG women with dignity in old age. Each enrolled member under the scheme is entitled to get minimum pension of Rs. 500 after completion of 60 years of her age and all the enrolled members between age group of 18 to 59 years are eligible to get Insurance coverage under JBY scheme.
2. The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a non-contributory old age pension scheme that covers Indians who are 60 years and above and live below the poverty line. All IGNOAPS beneficiaries aged 60-79 receive a monthly pension of Rs. 300 (Rs. 200 by central government and Rs. 100 by state government). Those 80 years and above receive a monthly pension amount of Rs.500.States are strongly urged to provide an additional amount at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries can get a decent level of assistance.
3. Stree Nidhi is a unique model of credit delivery using the technology platform to provide timely and affordable credit to Self Help Group Members. Tech savvy rural women are proving second to none when it comes to catching with technology-backed banking operations. So unique is their ease of doing business that they turned into niche players in scripting the success story of branch-less banking operations under Stree Nidhi to the tune of Rs 1,300 crore annually.
4. Aasara Pension Scheme – Telangana Government, as part of its social safety net strategy introduced Aasara Pension Scheme of Rs.1000with a view to ensure secured life with dignity for the poor. This scheme is meant to protect the most vulnerable sections of society in particular the old and infirm, people with HIV-AIDS, widows, incapacitated weaver sand toddy tappers, who have lost their means of livelihood with growing age, in order to support their day to day minimum needs.
5. Pension to Beedi Workers - In some places in Telangana, women are eking out a living by making Beedis and thus supporting their families and their livelihood. But whatever hard work they are doing, they are not earning the amount that would sustain their families. Understanding their plight, the government has sanctioned Rs. 1000per month as pension.
6. Pension Scheme for Single Women Telangana government is the first in the country to start pension scheme from April 2017 for single women from poor families to provide them financial support. Under Single Women Pension Scheme, an amount of Rs. 1000 will be provided in the form of pension whose annual income is below Rs 2 lakh and belong to Below Poverty Line families.

Table 3: List of Telangana assisted state plan schemes wise budget allocation for women in Telangana state in Rural Development Department.

Name of The Schemes	BE 2014-15 (in lakhs)	BE 2015-16 (in lakhs)	BE 2016-17 (in lakhs)	BE 2017-18 (in lakhs)	BE 2018-19 (in lakhs)
Assistance to D.R.D.As for Self Employment of Self Help Groups of Women in Rural Areas (SHGs)	42	42	0	900	900
% of GSDP	8.30287E-05	7.26767E-05	0	0.001193944	0.001038212
Pension Scheme to DWACRA Women (YSR Abhaya Hastam)	12960	201987.84	14027.4	6101.8	915
% of GSDP	0.025620294	0.349519192	0.021264075	0.008094677	0.001055516
Indiramma Pensions to Old Age Persons and Widows	131577.41	7460	0	0	0
% of GSDP	0.260112029	0.012908763	0	0	0
Interest Free Loans to DWACRA Women (Vaddileni Runalu)	19734.01	14843.92	14843.92	4504.54	75470
% of GSDP	0.039011662	0.025685878	0.022501834	0.005975744	0.087059841
Streenidhi	1100	1100	1100	400	400
% of GSDP	0.002174562	0.001903437	0.001667485	0.000530642	0.000461428
Financial assistance to Beedi Workers	-	18805	18805	41148.12	49302.92

% of GSDP	-	0.032540119	0.028506418	0.054587293	0.056874313
Aasara pension to weavers	-	3636.84	287827	287157.74	292848.38
% of GSDP	-	0.006293178	0.436315706	0.380944834	0.33782077
Financial assistance to Single Women	-	-	-	17292.8	9953.03
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.022940711	0.011481505

It seems that all the schemes in rural development assisted by Telangana government is decreased gradually from 2014-2019 and Indiramma Pensions to Old Age Persons and Widows scheme where the budget is zero from the last three years.

Ministry of Women and Child Development

The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, came into existence as a separate Ministry with effect from 30th January, 2006; earlier since 1985 it was a Department under the Ministry of Human Resources Development. The Ministry was constituted with the prime intention of addressing gaps in State action for women and children for promoting inter-Ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child-centred legislation, policies and programmes.

Central Government Initiatives

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a flagship scheme of Government of India, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana to arrest the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of Women over a lifecycle continuum. The objectives are: Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child & Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
2. One Stop Centres (OSCs) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the

workplace. Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race and culture will be facilitated with support and redressal. Aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting who have reached out or been referred to the OSC will be provided with specialized services.

3. Ujjwala Scheme - The Ministry of W&CD, New Delhi formulated "Ujjwala"-a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation. This Scheme provides food, shelter, clothing, counseling and legal aid to the inmates of Ujjwala Homes.
4. Swadhar Scheme purports to address the specific vulnerability of each group of women in difficult circumstances through a Home-based holistic and integrated approach. It aims at covering the primary needs of shelter, food, and clothing besides emotional support, counselling and a package for rehabilitation and reintegration specifically for the Women and girls rescued from trafficking.
5. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 have come into force w.e.f. 26th October 2006. Under the Act abuses such as Physical Abuse, Sexual abuse, Verbal and Emotional Abuse, Economic Abuse are considered as Domestic Violence.

Table 4: List of Centrally assisted state plan schemes wise budget allocation for women in Telangana state in Women & Child welfare Development Department.

Name of The Schemes	BE 2014-15 (in lakhs)	BE 2015-16 (in lakhs)	BE 2016-17 (in lakhs)	BE 2017-18 (in lakhs)	BE 2018-19 (in lakhs)
Schemes to set up the scrw under national mission state resource center for women	59.61	0	0	0	0
% of GSDP	0.000117841	0	0	0	0
Integrated child protection scheme (ICPS)	1379.93	2268.04	1301.65	1599.2	2115.28
% of GSDP	0.002727948	0.00392461	0.001973166	0.002121506	0.002440121
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	55044	52847.9	39414.25	4498.42	3522.41
% of GSDP	0.108815081	0.091447858	0.059747891	0.005967626	0.004063342
Kishore Shakti Yojana	-	-	-	197.23	0
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.000261646	0
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	-	-	-	108.79	0
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.000144321	0
Setting Up Women Helpline Hyderabad	-	-	-	68.16	0
% of GSDP	-	-	-	9.04214E-05	0
Scheme to Set Up the SRCW under National Mission for Empowerment of Women	-	-	-	86.2	24
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.000114353	2.76857E-05
Scheme to Set Up of One Stop Centre in Telangana	-	-	-	377	0
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.00050013	0
Ujjawala Scheme	-	-	-	73.85	227.83
% of GSDP	-	-	-	9.79698E-05	0.000262818
Mahila Sakthi Kendras	-	-	-	0	0
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0	0
Swadhar Greh Scheme	-	-	-	207.34	586.74
% of GSDP	-	-	-	0.000275058	0.000676845
National Nutrition Mission	-	-	-	-	1500
% of GSDP	-	-	-	-	0.001730353

From the table it was observed that most of the schemes like Mahila Sakthi Kendras, Scheme to set up of One Stop Centre in Telangana, Kishore Shakti Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao & Setting up Women Helpline Hyderabad allocation of budget is only in 2017-18 and remaining all are nil. Only ICPS & ICDS a budget was allocated with declining %.

Telangana State Government Initiatives

1. Bangaru Talli Scheme which provides incentives for achieving certain milestones to the girl child till she reaches the age of 21 years. It is meant to take care of the girl child in every household from her birth till she completes her graduation.
2. Government of Telangana provides financial relief to the victims of atrocities i.e., Rape, Dowry Death, Kidnap, Trafficking, Acid Attack etc through WD&CW Department. The financial assistance consists of Gang Rape Rs. 1, 00,000, Rape Case Rs.50, 000, Dowry Death Rs. 50,000, Trafficking Rs. 20,000, Kidnap Rs.20, 000, Acid Attacks Rs.1, 00,000, Hacked or Throat Slit Rs.50, 000.
3. Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is the main component of ICDS to tackle malnutrition. SNP services are provided to Pregnant & Lactating women

and children between 7 months to 6 years. Food models were devised in consultation with stakeholders to provide for calories / protein/RDA as per GOI norms.

4. National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established in 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution. The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women.
5. SHE Teams were launched on 24th October, 2014 by Sri M. Mahendar Reddy, IPS, Commissioner of Police, and Hyderabad. These SHE Teams are headed by Smt. Swathi Lakra, IPS, Addl. Commissioner of Police, Crimes & SIT. About 100 teams were formed keeping in view of the Telangana Government vision for Safe and Secure Environment for Women. The Aim of these Teams is to Curb Eve-Teasing and Harassment of Women in Public Places.

Table 4: List of Telangana assisted state plan schemes wise budget allocation for women in Telangana state in Women & Child welfare Development Department.

Name of The Schemes	BE 2014-15 (in lakhs)	BE 2015-16 (in lakhs)	BE 2016-17 (in lakhs)	BE 2017-18 (in lakhs)	BE 2018-19 (in lakhs)
Assistance to Telangana Women Cooperative Finance Corporation	750	950	1200	600	7014.2
% of GSDP	0.001482656	0.001643877	0.001819075	0.000795963	0.008091363
Bangaru talli	387.66	1287.66	0	0	0
% of GSDP	0.000766355	0.002228163	0	0	0
Financial Assistance to Women and girl victims	87	87	0	0	0
% of GSDP	0.000171988	0.000150545	0	0	0
Girl child protection scheme (GCPS)	426.39	1041.91	2662	1000	1805
% of GSDP	0.00084292	0.001802918	0.004035314	0.001326605	0.002082192
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	364.99	5684.04	21734	1200	6400.4
% of GSDP	0.000721539	0.009835647	0.032946477	0.001591926	0.007383302
Scheme for implementation of protection for women from domestic violence	101.72	101.72	0	0	0
% of GSDP	0.000201088	0.000176016	0	0	0
Centres / institution for rehabilitation of women in distress	11.1	11.1	0	0	0
% of GSDP	2.19433E-05	1.92074E-05	0	0	0
State commission for women	82.09	82.09	0	31.83	15.3
% of GSDP	0.000162282	0.000142048	0	4.22258E-05	1.76496E-05
State commission for protection of child rights	65	65	0	0.4	84.8
% of GSDP	0.000128497	0.000112476	0	5.30642E-07	9.78226E-05
Women welfare centres	18.33	11.7	0	182.99	210.84
% of GSDP	3.62361E-05	2.02456E-05	0	0.000242755	0.000243218
Safety and security of women	1000	1000	3000	500	1233.57
% of GSDP	0.001976875	0.001730397	0.004547687	0.000663302	0.001423008

It seems that all the schemes in Women & Child welfare development assisted by Telangana government is decreased gradually from 2014-2019 and some schemes like Bangaru talli, Financial Assistance to Women and girl victims, Scheme for implementation of protection for women from domestic violence & Centres / institution for rehabilitation of women in distress budget was zero and all other schemes to be reduced as per % GSDP in Telangana.

Conclusion

Today's women are adorned with patience and perseverance, which has helped them to attain the pinnacle of success. Earlier, women were seen only as housewives who were projected to cook, clean and take care of their family. Today-along with handling tough clients at office, they successfully multitask at home too. Women are more focused and have a unique decision making power even at

senior leadership level, in the most optimal manner, and at times are in a better position than men. Empowering women can help the society to grow and develop at a faster pace. Newly formed Telangana State has become a role model for other States in motivating self-help groups, initiatives aimed at women's empowerment, early childhood education, health and nutrition for pregnant women and newly born to improve quality of life but still it seems to be allocation of budget is not benefited to all women in Telangana.

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