



SYLLABUS

Class – II YEAR

SUBJECT: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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| Unit-I | <p>History of Women Empowerment in India Ancient Period, Medieval and Modern Period.</p> <p>2. Concept of Women Empowerment: Meaning, forms, Need and Importance. 3. Dimensions of Women Empowerment: Social, Religious, Economic, Educational and Political.</p> <p>Key Words: Women Empowerment, Social, Religious, Economic, Educational and Political Dimensions.</p> |
| Unit- II | <p>1. Women Empowerment: Constitutional Provisions and Laws</p> <p>2. Women Empowerment Policy and Schemes</p> <p>A. Central Level</p> <p>B. State Level (With Special Reference to Madhya Pradesh),</p> <p>Key Words: Constitutional Provisions, Policy, Central Schemes, State Schemes.</p> |
| Unit – III | <p>1. Women Empowerment: Issues and Challenges.</p> <p>2. Supporting Agencies: NGOs, Self Help Groups and Panchayati Raj Institutions.</p> <p>3. Powerful Women Leadership of India: Ahilya Bai Holkar, Rani Durgavati, Savitri Bai Phule, Mary Kom, Sindhutai Sakpal, Tessy Thomas, Indira Nooyi, Gaura Devi.</p> <p>Key Words: NGOs, Self Help Groups, Panchayati Raj, Women Leadership</p> |



UNIT-I

Women's empowerment can be defined as promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and it is closely aligned with female empowerment – a fundamental human right that's also key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world.

In Western countries, female empowerment is often associated with specific phases of the women's rights movement in history. This movement tends to be split into three waves,

The first began in the 19th and early 20th centuries when suffrage was a key feature.

The second wave of the 1960s included the gender revolution and the role of women in society.

Third-wave feminism is often seen as beginning in the 1990s.

Women's empowerment and promoting women's rights have emerged as a part of a major global movement and are continuing to break new ground in recent years. Days like International Women's Empowerment Day are also gaining momentum. But despite a great deal of progress, women and girls continue to face discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

The Women's Empowerment Principles Created in collaboration between the UN Global Compact and UN Women, the Women's Empowerment Principles are used to empower women in the marketplace, workplace, and community.

The seven Principles are:

- Principle 1: Create high-level corporate leadership for gender equality.



- Principle 2: Treat all people fairly at work, respecting and supporting non-discrimination and human rights.
- Principle 3: Ensure the health, well-being, and safety of all workers, whether male or female.
- Principle 4: Promote education, training, and professional development for women.
- Principle 5: Implement supply chain, marketing practices and enterprise development that empower women.
- Principle 6: Champion equality through community initiatives and advocacy.
- Principle 7: Measure and report publicly on progress to create gender equality.

The global landscape of women's empowerment

Gender equality is a basic human right, and it is also fundamental to have a peaceful, prosperous world. But girls and women continue to face significant challenges all around the world. Women are typically under-represented in power and decision-making roles. They receive unequal pay for equal work, and they often face legal and other barriers that affect their opportunities at work. In the developing world, girls and women are often seen as less valuable than boys. Instead of being sent to school, they are often made to do domestic work at home or are married off for dowry before they are adults. As many as 12 million underage girls are married every year. While some progress is being made in various parts of the world, there is still a great deal left to be done to right the problems of gender inequality.



Why is empowering girls and women so important?

Empowering women is essential to the health and social development of families, communities, and countries. When women are living safe, fulfilled, and productive lives, they can reach their full potential and contribute their skills to the workforce, and can raise happier and healthier children. They are also able to help fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. A key part of this empowerment is education. Girls who are educated can pursue meaningful work and contribute to their country's economy later in life. They are also four times less likely to get married young when they have eight years of education, meaning that they and their families are healthier. Empowering girls is the key to economic growth, political stability, and social transformation. Help empower girls now.

What is women's empowerment?

For centuries women were not treated equally to men in many ways.

- They had no education rights.
- They had no voting rights.
- They had no share in the property of their parents They had no freedom to choose their work.

There was a lot of domination by a male-oriented society.

Women empowerment is the process of giving women the ability to live a happy and respected life in society. Women are empowered when they have unrestricted access to chances in range of domains, such as education, profession, and lifestyle, among others. It involves things like education, awareness, literacy, and training to help them improve their position. It also values decision-making authority. A woman feels powerful when she takes a significant decision. Empowering women is the most important factor in a country's overall growth. If a household has just one earning member, while



another family has both men and women earning, who will have a better standard of living? The solution is straightforward: a household in which both men and women work. As a result, a country where men and women work together grows more quickly. Now we are in a century where we talk about justice, equal rights, and gender equality. Empowerment of Women is the Empowerment of family/ household and in turn development of society and nation.

In India, women are still facing different obstacles in male dominating society.

- They are the victim of abuse
- They are victims of Violent Crime
- There is a stalking
- Harassment at the workplace
- Outright trafficking
- Forced prostitution

As per the UN population fund, 12 million girl children have been aborted in India in the last 3 decades an estimate. The term women empowerment is all about authority, or the power embarked on women sharing indistinguishable rights. The term refers to the liberation of women from socio-economic restraints of reliance. Women comprise around 50% of the country's population, and a bulk of them stays economically dependent on other without employment.

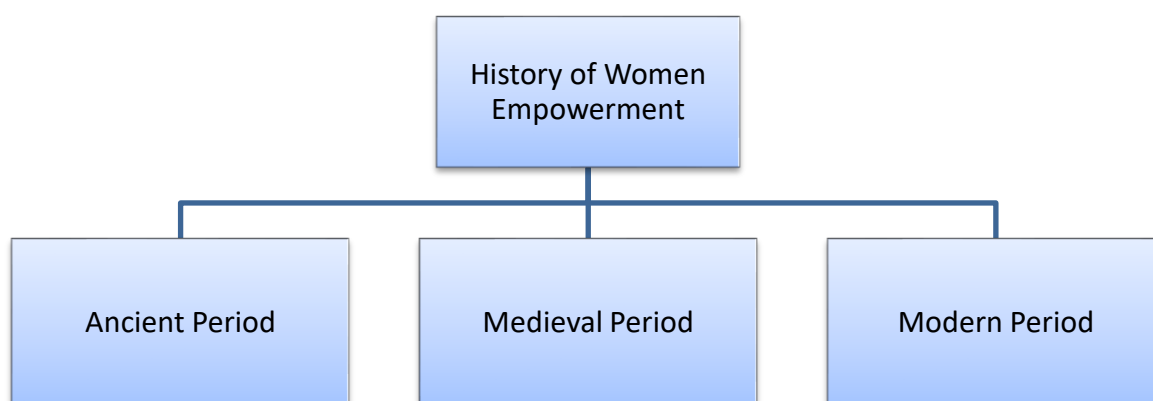
In the age of feminism, a small portion of women in India are freed and can employ their free will, and are permitted to carve out their lives the way they want. But there is a considerable division of the women in this nation who require optimistic support. In most Indian villages and semi-urban cities, women are still denied fundamental education and are never authorized to continue higher education despite amassing the understanding required.



Women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly per day, and thus, they are considered the backbone of every society. Living in male-dominating societies, women play a wide range of roles, such as caring mothers, loving daughters, and capable colleagues. The best part is that they fit the bill perfectly in every role.

Nonetheless, they've also stood as a neglected bunch of society in different parts of the world. In turn, it has resulted in women surviving the brunt of unevenness, financial trustworthiness, oppression, and distinct social evils.

History of Women Empowerment in India



A.) Ancient Period

Women are a gift to society. During the ancient period of India, women played a significant role.

- During Rig Vedic period women enjoyed high status in society.
- Work by ancient Indian grammarians such as Patanjali and Katyayana suggested that women were educated in the early Vedic period. Their conditions were good.



- The women were provided the opportunity to attain high intellectual and spiritual standards. There were many women Rishis during this period.
- Rigvedic verses suggest that women were married at a mature age and were probably free to select their husbands.
- There was no sati system and early marriage. Scriptures such as Upanishads and Rig Vedas mentioned several women sages, and seers notably Maitreyi and Gargi.
- Some kingdoms in ancient India had a tradition such as "nagarvadhu" ("bride of the city") Women competed to win the coveted title of the "nagarvadhu" • "Amrapali" is the most famous example of nagarvadhu.
- According to studies, women enjoyed equal status and rights during the early Vedic period.
- Women were discriminated against since the later Vedic period, especially in education, other rights and facilities.
- Arthashastra imposed more stigmas on women and they were not free to go anywhere without their husbands' permission. "Their conditions become worse in the Gupta period. During Smriti Shastras and Manu Smriti, however, later (approximately 500 B.C) status of women began to decline.
- Manu dictated a woman would be dependent on her father in childhood on husband in her youth and on her son in old age.
- And with the invasion of various Emperors, by and large the status of women began to decline and they faced confinement and restrictions. The practice of child marriage is believed to have started around Sixth Century.



Ancient India had many learned women. Two types of Scholarly women

- 1) Brahnavadini → The women who never married and cultured the Vedas Throughout their lives.
- 2) Sadyodvahas - who studied Vedas till they married.
- 3) Panini - mentioned female Students Studying Vedas
- 4) Katyana called the female teacher Upadhyaya or Upadhyayi.
- 5) Ashoka got his daughter "Sanghamitra" inducted into preaching Buddhism.

B.) Medieval Period

The Indian woman's position in society further deteriorated during the medieval period, when Sati pratha and child marriages in some communities started, ban on widow remarriages became part of social life among some communities in India.

- The conquest and invasion of various emperors from outside in the Indian subcontinent brought the purdah practice to the Indian society
- Among the Rajputs of Rajasthan, the Jauharpratha was practiced. In some parts of India the Devadasis temple women were sexually exploited.
- Polygamy was widely practiced especially among Hindu Kshatriya.

But still during the medieval phase, there were women who excelled in their field, they were

- The Gond queen Rani Durgawati ruled for 15 years and she lost her life in a battle with the Mughal emperor.
- Razia Sultana became the only monarch to have ever ruled Delhi.
- Pandita Ramabai also helped in the cause of women's upliftment



- Kittur Chennamma - She was the queen of the of Princely state kittur in Karnataka led an armed rebellion against the British in response to the Doctrine of lapse. (This was the act enforced. by British govt. to occupy the states and lands of the India of princely states, applied till -1858)
- Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilabai Holdkar, Savitri Bai Phule are examples of successful women in the medieval period.
- Kadambini Ganguly and Anandi Gopala Joshi were a few of the early Indian women to obtain educational degrees.
- The Bhakti movement tried to restore women's status and questioned some of the forms of oppression on her. Mirabai is an example of a female saint-poet during the Bhakti movement. Soon after the bhakti moment Guru Nanakji (first Guru of Sikh) also preached the message of equality between men and women.

Famous reformers who fought for rights and for the upliftment of women.

- 1) Removal of Sati Pratha- 1829 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- 2) Widow Remarriage Act – 1856 - Iswar Chandra Vidhyasagar
- 3) Joytirao Phule Etc.....

C.) Modern Period

Place of women in Independent India.

If we talk about the present scenario or modern phase, women in India participate in all activities such as education, sports politics, media, art, culture, service sector, science, and technology. Indira Gandhi who served as Prime Minister of India for an aggregate period of fifteen years is the world's longest-serving women Prime Minister.

After independence when the constitution of India was framed, it came up with many rights in favour of women.



- The Constitution of India guarantees equality before law (Article 14).
- No discrimination on the grounds of gender, cast, race, religion etc.(Article 15).
- Special provisions to be made by state government in "favour of women and children (Article 15(3))
- Equal opportunity for all citizens in matters related to employment (Article 16).
- Equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)).
- Also just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief(Article 42).
- Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.(Article 23)
- Feminist activism in India picked up momentum during the late 1970s.
- Later governments of India declared 2001 as the Year of Women's empowerment (swashakh).
- The Government of India had adopted the National Policy for Empowerment of Women on 20th March, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The policies/programmes of the Government are all directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women in line with the objective of the National Policy for Empowerment of Women.
- On 9th March 2010, Rajya Sabha passed the Women Reservation bill ensuring 33% reservation to women in Parliament and state legislative bodies.



Today's Condition

- 1) India has largest number of professionally qualified women as estimated.
- 2.) India is among the largest population of workingwomen in the world.
- 3) India has more doctors, surgeons, scientists, and professors than the United States Women Achievers.
- 4) Due to the help of social reformers of India women in India slowly started recognizing their true potential.

Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visiting Space stations.

Concept of Women Empowerment

It is a process or art of giving women the ability to live a happy and respectful life in society. Women are empowered when they have unrestricted access to chances

in a range of domains, such as education, professional life, and lifestyle among others.

"It involves things like, education, awareness, literacy, and training to help them improve their level or position in society's giving them decision-making authority. A woman feels powerful when she takes significant decisions.

Empowering women is the most important factor in a country's overall growth.

Need for Women Empowerment

Almost all countries, regardless of how progressive, have a history of mistreating women. To put it another way, women from all over the world have been defiant to achieve their current standing. While Western nations continue to make progress, third-world countries such as India continue to lag behind in terms of women's empowerment. Women's empowerment is more important than ever in India. India is one of the countries where women are



not safe. This is due to a variety of factors. Not only that, but horrific crimes against women such as rape, acid attacks, the dowry system, honor killings, domestic violence, and other forms of violence against women continue to occur throughout India. Women should account for 50% of the entire population. However, due to female feticide practices, which is still prevailing in the rural and underprivileged sections of Indian societies, the girl-child population is rapidly

Declining, affecting the country's gender ratio. Furthermore, the education and freedom scenario is extremely regressive in this situation. Women are not permitted to continue their education and are married off at a young age. In certain areas, men continue to dominate women, as though it is the woman's responsibility to labour for him indefinitely. They don't let them go out or have any form of freedom and personal life. As a result, we can see how women empowerment is a pressing issue. We must equip these women with the tools they need to stand up for themselves and never be victims of injustice.

Importance of Women Empowerment

For the growth and development of any nation, gender empowerment is a must. It is the empowerment of people of any gender. While conventionally, the aspect of it is mentioned for the empowerment of women, the concept stresses the distinction between biological gender as a role, also referring to other marginalized genders in a particular political or social context. Gender empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in regard to development and economics. Entire nations, businesses, communities, and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment.

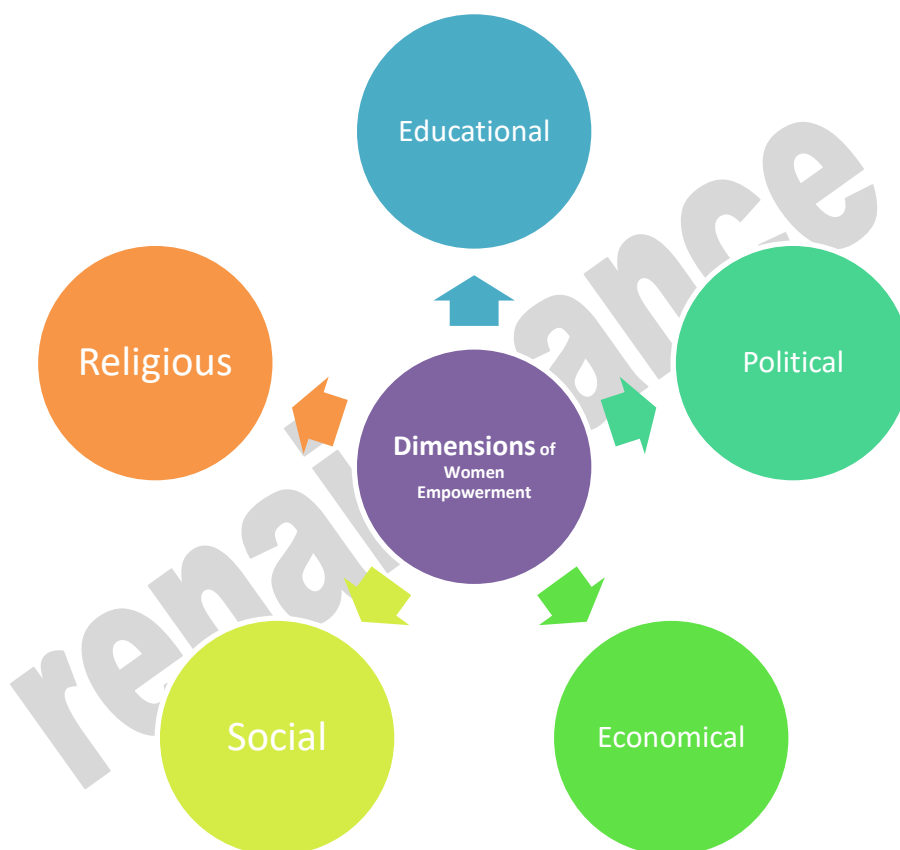
[1] Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. The Human Development and Capabilities



Approach, The Millennium Development Goals, and other credible approaches/goals point to empowerment and participation as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development. Gender empowerment can be measured through the Gender Empowerment Measure, or the GEM. The GEM shows women's participation in a given nation, both politically and economically. Gem is calculated by tracking "the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of the female profession and technical workers; and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence." It then ranks countries given this information. Other measures that take into account the importance of female participation and equality include: the Gender Parity Index and the Gender Development Index.

Dimensions of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is an active and multi-dimensional process which enables women to realize their identity and power in all aspects of life.



- 1) Educational Empowerment: Universal tool to empower the growth of any human being. It empowers women to understand their rights, fight for their freedom and improve their awareness.
- 2) Political Empowerment: Women's reservation and participation in political decision-making matters will contribute to the nation's growth.
- 3) Economical Empowerment: Can be achieved by gender equality at the workplace and equal pay for equal work. Providing her the job training and development programs can help her to achieve economic independence.
- 4) Social Empowerment: Social values set for women are different from men. Education can be imparted to her through various social awareness programs in order to make her aware of raising her voice on



social evils like dowry, domestic violence, and rightful maintenance through ;

Dowry Prohibition Act- 1961.

Domestic Violence Act – 2005

Women has got right to maintenance under section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 etc.

5) Religious Empowerment: Religion is often seen as a barrier to gender parity. Stories abound of gender-based violence done in the name of religion. As a result, in many cases, the issues of religion and gender parity are often dismissed as too complicated to address.



Unit II

I) Women Empowerment: Constitutional Provisions and Laws

Human Rights of Women:

The Fundamental Law in the Constitution of India guarantees equality for women. The Constitution of India not only guarantees equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures to prevent discrimination against women.

- 1) Article 14 of the Constitution of India guarantees equality before law.
- 2) Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender.
- 3) Article 15(3) nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.
- 4) Article 16 states about equal opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment. The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India provided for the reservation of seats (at least 1/3) in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women.
- 5) Article 23 provides against the exploitation of women under the prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.
- 6) Article 39 (a) mentions that the State will direct its policies towards securing all citizens, men and women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.
- 7) Article 39(d) ensures equal pay for equal work.
- 8) Article 42 directs the State to ensure just and humane working conditions.

Women's Rights under Criminal Laws in India



Various provisions have been made with regard to offence against women under Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) and The Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

i. Indian Penal Code

- Section 304(b) deals with the murder of women in connection with the demand of dowry.
- Section 306 of the IPC can punish the suicide victim's husband with up to 10 years imprisonment if found guilty.
- Sections 312 to 318 deal with punishment for causing miscarriage.
- Section 354 provides punishment for outraging the modesty of any woman.
- Section 366 deals with Kidnapping for marriage against her will.
- Sections 375 and 376 of the Code deal with the offence of rape.
- Section 494 protects women from bigamy.

ii.Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

- Under section 125, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the woman has got right to maintenance.

iii.Women's Rights under Personal Laws in India

- Hindu Adoption Maintenance Act, 1956 –
 - Section 18-A provides for the obligations of the husband to maintain his wife.
 - Section 18(2) provides the right of a wife to live separately and
 - Section 19 provides for the maintenance of the widow by her father-in-law.
- Hindu Succession Act, 1956
 - Section 14 of the Act provides for the property of female Hindu to be her absolute property.



- The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act 1956
 - Section 6 of the Act provides for the mother as a natural guardian of minor below 5 years.
- Women's Rights under the Labour laws of India
 - Human rights against exploitation, the right to maternity benefits, facilities in factories for women workers, and equal pay for equal work with men is provided in The Equal Remuneration Act, of 1976. Maternity benefits are to be given to women.

II.) Women Empowerment Policy and Schemes

A.) Central Level Schemes

➤ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The objectives of this initiative are:

- Prevention of gender-biased gender-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

➤ 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.

- **The objectives of the Scheme are:**

- To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.



- To facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.

➤ **WOMEN HELPLINE SCHEME**

- The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital) and information about women related government schemes programs across the country through a single uniform number. Women Helpline (WHL) will be integrated with One Stop Centre Scheme (OSC) under which one OSC shall be established in every State/UT to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected.

- **The objectives of the Scheme are:**

- To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information.
- To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies such as police/Hospitals/Ambulance services/District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)/Protection Officer (PO)/OSC.
- To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes and programmes available to the woman affected by violence, in her particular situation within the local area in which she resides or is employed.

➤ **UJJAWALA**



- A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Effective 1st April 2016)

- **THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME** • To prevent the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
- To facilitate the rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- To provide rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- To facilitate the reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large
- To facilitate the repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.



SCHEME FOR WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL

- With the progressive change in the socio-economic condition of the country, more and more women are leaving their homes in search of employment in big cities as well as urban and rural industrial clusters. One of the main difficulties faced by such women is the lack of safe and conveniently located accommodation. The Government of India being concerned about the difficulties faced by such working women, introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for the construction of new/ expansion of existing buildings for providing hostel facilities to



working women in cities, smaller towns and also in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. Based on an evaluation, the existing scheme has been revised to promote the availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments.

➤ **SWADHAR GREH A Scheme –**

- It caters to the primary needs of women in difficult circumstances.
- **Objectives:** Under the Scheme, Swadhar Greh will be set up in every district with a capacity of 30 women with the following objectives:
 - To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care for women in distress and those who are without any social and economic support.
 - To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
 - To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
 - To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
 - To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress.
 - To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

➤ **“NARI SHAKTI PURUSKAR”**

- Every Year, the Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrates International Women Day on 8th March. The significance of International Women’s Day lies in our re-affirmation of improving the condition of women, especially those at the margins of our society and empowering them to take their rightful place in society. Ministry of Women and Child



Development, has revised the guidelines for Women Awards for conferring on eminent women, organizations and institutions. These awards will be called “Nari Shakti Puruskars”. Now, from the year 2016, 20 Nari Shakti Puruskars shall be conferred every year. The awards will be conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women’s Day (IWD). The Award in each category shall carry a Certificate and a cash amount. The award would be given to eminent or outstanding Institutions or organizations and individuals.

➤ **FRAMEWORK FOR NIRBHAYA FUND BACKGROUND**

•Violence and abuse against women and girls are frequent on streets, in public transportation and in other public places. Such occurrences restrict women’s right to mobility, discouraging their freedom to walk freely and move in public spaces of their choice. Such violence also limits their access to essential services and adversely impact their health and wellbeing. In this context, and following the tragedy of December 2012, the Government has set up a dedicated fund – Nirbhaya Fund – which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance dt 25.03.2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal Ministry to appraise/recommend proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. MWCD further has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments.

➤ **Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme**



- One-stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment digital literacy, health and nutrition.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**

- From 01.01.2017, the Maternity Benefit Programme is implemented in all the districts of the country. The programme is named as 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY). Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of ` 5000/- is provided directly to the Bank / Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for first living child of the family subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health. PMMVY is implemented using the platform of Anganwadi Services scheme of Umbrella ICDS under Ministry of Women and Child Development in respect of States/ UTs implementing scheme through Women and Child Development Department/ Social Welfare Department and through Health system in respect of States/ UTs where the scheme is implemented by Health & Family Welfare Department.

B.) State Level Schemes

State Govt. Schemes For Women Empowerment in Madhya Pradesh

➤ **Ladli Laxmi Yojana**

- **About the scheme:**

Ladli Laxmi Yojna was implemented in Madhya Pradesh from 01.04.2007 with the objective of creating positive thinking among the public towards girl child birth, improving gender ratio, improving the educational level and health status of girls and laying the foundation for their good future.

- **Benefits of the scheme:**



Those whose parents are the domicile of Madhya Pradesh, are not income tax payers. Second episode of the child before the parent application to be accepted by the family planning. The final payment of Rs. 1 lakh will be made on the girl child attaining the age of 21 years and appearing in class 12th examination, but the condition will be that the girl should not be married before the age of 18 years.

➤ **Lado Campaign**

- **About the scheme:**

- Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country, which started the Lado campaign in 2013 for the prevention of child marriage. The main objective of the Lado campaign is to eliminate the evils like child marriage with a positive change in the mindset of the population through community participation. For effective implementation of the campaign, the participants have to be sensitized about the campaign by organizing workshops on the district, block, school, village level and service providers. Along with this, various mediums such as wall writing at service providers' shops and prominent places, awareness rally, Rath Yatra, oath not to do child marriage in government / religious programs, jingles, documentaries, street plays, through advertisements in hoardings and dailies, efforts are made to spread the message of Lado campaign to the general public. This campaign plays an important role in the effective implementation of child marriage law for girls below 18 years of age and children below 21 years of age as per Child Marriage Prohibition Act-2006.



➤ **Shaurya Dal**

- In order to create a conducive environment towards women in the state and to make them self-reliant and capable, Shaurya Dal has been formed on the basis of evaluation at each Anganwadi level. The formation of Shaurya Dal will be a continuous process. In this group, women, men and youth who are sensitive and have acceptance in the community of the village are elected as members. Anganwadi workers, helpers and ASHA workers are also members of this team. This team will endeavor to sensitize the community towards women and girl child at the Panchayat level, provide necessary support and assistance. To create an egalitarian society by improving social evils and making women socially and economically capable. Shaurya teams are being formed at each Anganwadi center level.

- **Aims and Objectives of Shaurya Dal:**

- Shaurya Dal will play its role with self-motivation, sensitivity and responsibility to maintain the age-old dignity and country-friendly glory of women.

- **Main functions and roles of Shaurya Dal**

- To get help to the women victims of any violence (such as dowry, violence, disease, other offenses, etc.), to contact the appropriate government officer, to bring awareness in the society not to do child marriage.
- To make villagers and residents aware about making and using toilets from house to house on the lines of "No toilet, no marriage".



➤ **Chief Minister Women Empowerment Scheme**

• **About the scheme:**

- Victims of any kind of violence, women do not get family support, then all the avenues of living are closed and for such difficult situations, special support is needed to be restored in the family and society. If any victim woman is linked with a skill upgradation training program to promote self-reliance, then she can feed herself as well as her family. For this purpose, "Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana" has been started in the state from September 2013

◀ - Purpose -

Helping women in an emergency.

Rehabilitation of the aggrieved woman.

To motivate women for self-employment.

To make women self-reliant.

To raise the social, economic and educational level of women.

To restore the distressed / victim / helpless / destitute women in the main stream of the society by making them self-reliant.

➤ **Chief Minister Community Leadership Capacity Development**

Program About the scheme:

Document of setting goals and policies for the development of Madhya Pradesh. Vision 2018 has been created. In Madhya Pradesh Vision Paper 2018, the target of making proper use of women's empowerment in the development of the state is fixed. The Chief Minister's Community Leadership Capacity Development Program for Social Work Graduate Course (Social Leadership) was launched on 12.02.2015 at Chitrakoot through the realization of the goal.



renaissance

college of commerce & management

CLASS:- B.Com, B.Com (Hons), BBA & BAJMC II YEAR

SUBJECT: - Women Empowerment

- Purpose - To prepare such energetic youth and girls in rural and urban areas, who have a good understanding of development, and who can identify the problems of the area and take the decisive initiative to solve them. The responsibility of conducting this course of Madhya Pradesh government was given to Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot district, Satna.
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Unit III

I) Women Empowerment: Issues and Challenges.

Issues : Take a closer look at some of the urgent issues women are facing during their lifetime. They are broadly divided into social, educational, economic issues etc.

- 1) Educational Issues – Not every woman has the privilege to get a good education that helps her in her overall development. This is one of the major issues.
- 2) Financial Dependency – Most of the time woman is financially dependent on her father, husband or son.
- 3) Health Issues – Due to unawareness about their personal health, women face a lot of issues.
- 4) Emotional Stability – Women by their nature are emotional and it affects their decisions.
- 5) Gender inequality – This is one of the major issues faced by her in most of the dimensions.
- 6) Violence / Harassment / Stalking – Domestic violence, harassment or stalking in public places creates fear in her and she restricts herself from going out.
- 7) Digital Insecurity – Online harassment is another issue arising from the use of internet technology.
- 8) Awareness – Less education among females results in less awareness about their fundamental rights and legal provisions.

Challenges: Women face discrimination in most areas such as education, economic opportunity, health and medical, political, and social participation, indicating that there is a substantial gap between strategy planning and progress and actual practice at the community level.



There are many challenges faced in women empowerment in India. Targeting the challenges will directly benefit women's empowerment in India.

- 1) **Education:-** The country has taken a leap since independence and is concerned about education. As per the research report the gap between women and men is wide. 82.14% of adult males are well educated, while in India only 65.46% of adult females are considered literate. Gender bias is in higher education.
- 2) **Poverty leads to exploitation -** Poverty is considered to be the biggest threat to world peace and eradication of poverty should be as important a national goal. Poverty leads to the exploitation of women.
- 3) **Health Awareness and Safety -** Women's health and safety matters are paramount in the interest of the country and are important factors in the assessment of women's empowerment in the country.
- 4) **Professional/Employment Inequality -** This inequality is prevalent in employment and promotion, women face barriers in a male-dominated environment.
- 5) **Household Gender Inequality -** In India gender differences is one of the major challenges. Sharing household work, childcare, and other workloads are still part of woman's share of work.
- 6) **Unemployment -** It is becoming more and more difficult for women to find the right job for themselves due to various reasons. Sometimes they also face exploitation and harassment in the workplace.
- 7) **Intolerable Conditions -** Uneducated women are more likely to divorce and leave their husbands at any stage of life. They will have to live their whole lives for fear of divorce.



8) Geographical Settings - This is one of the challenges which restrict the growth of women empowerment.

II) Women Empowerment: Supporting Agencies – NGOs, Self Help Groups and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

1.) **NGOs** - India has a complicated track record when it comes to women's rights and women empowerment. But now, many social organizations are tirelessly working to put an end to inequality and support women. This has progressed over the last decades. More girls are going to school, fewer girls are forced into early marriage, more women can be seen in positions of leadership, and laws are being reformed to advance gender equality. Here are four organizations that have been helping empower women in various ways:

- **Pradan** - It is a 38-year-old organization, which has been working extensively towards reaching out to the poorest communities, building human capabilities, and building women's self-reliant collectives as change agents. Pradan is also the NSO (DDAY-NRLM Support Organisation) for the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, which provides a piece of knowledge and capacity-building role in these key ministries.
- **Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3)** - Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3), formerly known as the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), India, started working in India in 1987. Their programmes are aimed at equipping girls and women with practical life skills, improved confidence in personal decision-making, and increased self-esteem.



- Centre for Social Research - It was founded by a group of social scientists from JNU, CSR was established in 1983 in New Delhi.
- Breakthrough - Breakthrough is a human rights organization seeking to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable.

2.) **Self Help Groups** – SHG are informal associations of people who come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. Supplemented with mutual help. The number of members consists of 10 and above.

Concept of SHG - Participative financial services management is more responsive and efficient. There is the creation of common funds by contributing small savings on regular basis. They have a flexible democratic system of working. The loan is provided mainly on trust without any security. Amounts loaned are small, frequent and for a short duration which they can utilize in their education or business development.

Role of SHG in women empowerment –

- In their economic development by making them financially independent.
- Psychological empowerment
- Social empowerment
- Managerial empowerment
- Political empowerment
- Educational empowerment

3.) **Panchayati Raj Institutions** – The Amendments 73rd and 74th in the year 1993 to the Indian Constitution have served as a breakthrough towards ensuring equal access and increased participation in political



power structure for women. The PRIs will play a central role in the process of increasing women's participation in various political fields. The PRIs and the local self-governments will be actively involved in the implementation and execution of the National Policy for Women Empowerment at the grassroots level.

Initiatives for active participation in PRIs :

- Steps to improve female literacy in the rural area.
- To develop women's leadership and communication skills.
- To make them understand other layers of local self-governance.
- Improve their socio-economic conditions.
- Awareness in rural women about new responsibilities as local legislators.
- To improve their technical knowledge.
- Etc.....

III) Powerful Women Leadership of India

1.) Ahilya Bai Holkar - 1725-1795 - Ahilyabai Holkar was born on May 31, 1725, in the village of Chondi near Jamkhed, Ahmednagar. Ahilyabai Holkar was a woman ahead of her time. She was an outspoken supporter of women's rights. The Brave Maratha Queen Who Championed Women's Education and Empowerment.





2.) Rani Durgavati – 5th October 1524 – 24th June 1564 – Was a ruling Queen of Gondwana from 1550 until 1564. Dalpat Shah her husband died in 1550 and due to the young age of Vir Narayan, Durgavati took the reins of the Gondwana kingdom. Rani Durgavati promoted peace, trade, and good will throughout her realm.



3.) Savitri Bai Phule – 3rd January 1831 – 1897 - A pioneer who challenged oppressive social norms in her quest for women's education, equality and justice, Savitribai Phule is formally recognised as India's first woman teacher.





4.) MC Mary Kom – 24th November 1982 – She is an Indian amateur boxer. She was also the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Games (in 2014) and at the Commonwealth Games (2018). she has become a member of the Indian Upper House of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha. She was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2020.



5.) Sindhutai Sapkal – 14th November 1948 -4th January 2022 - She has devoted her entire life to orphans. As a result, she is fondly called 'Mai' (mother). She has nurtured over 1050 orphaned children. As of today, she has a grand family of 207 sons-in-law, and 36 daughters-in-law. Sindhutai Sapkal also known as the mother of orphans, an Indian social worker and social activist is known particularly for her work in raising orphan children.





6.) Tessy Thomas – April 1963 - Distinguished Scientist & Director General - Aeronautical Systems (AS). PhD in Missile Guidance from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad. She was associated with Agni Programme right from its developmental flights. She lead a major project AGNI-4 as Project Director, for a state-of-art system with many new technologies for the first time and successfully flight tested and proven. She was also Project Director (Mission) for the long range AGNI-5 system, which was successfully flight tested and proven. As Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory, DRDO, she held multi-dimensional roles and responsibilities and lead the development of strategic missile system from 2014 to 2018.



7.) Indira Nooyi – 28th October 1955 - In 1994 Nooyi joined PepsiCo as senior vice president of corporate strategy and development. In 2001 she was named president and chief financial officer of the company. Nooyi was responsible for guiding a major restructuring, which included the company's spin-off of its restaurants—which included KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell—into Tricon Global Restaurants (which later became Yum! Brands, Inc.). Nooyi assumed the title of CEO in October 2006 and the next year became chairman of the board as well. The fifth chairman and CEO in PepsiCo's 42-year history, Nooyi was the first



woman to lead the soft-drink and snack-food giant and one of only 11 female chief executives of Fortune 500 companies.



8.) Gaura Devi – 1925-1991 - The Environmental Activist who played a prominent role in The Chipko Movement. Gaura Devi, the environmentalist whose courage defined the Chipko movement, was a living icon. As a local resident, she rallied the women in the vicinity to fight the loggers, and their joint efforts saved more than two thousand trees from being felled. The campaign became a focal point for subsequent peaceful conservation movements in India, while also garnering global attention.