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**“An overview on: Gender Budgeting an emerging tool towards empowering the women of India”**

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**Abstract:**

The present paper primarily deals with “**Gender Budgeting an emerging tool towards empowering the women of India** and throws light on particularly” agency approach “to observe women empowerment. Divided into two section first section deals with the concept of women empowerment and it highlights on National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 and second section is an overview of the efforts put in India for empowering women through gender Budgeting. This paper hinges fundamentally on secondary sources of data related to different Government publications like publication of Planning Commission of India, Annual report of Ministry of Women and Child Development and some of the research papers.

***Key words: Empowerment, Agency, Gender Gap, Access to Resources, Gender Budgeting, Economic participation and opportunity.***

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution of India guaranteed Gender equality which not only prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex but goes emphasize positively discrimination in favour of women. Further our country is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) under which society has an obligation to work towards ensuring gender equality. Several constitutional provisions reiterate India's commitment towards the socio-economic development of women and protect their right of participation in political and decision making processes. As per Census 2011, the population of India is 1,210.19 million comprising 586.47 million (i.e. about 48%) females. India has taken several measures to secure gender parity in all walks of social economic and political life towards empowering the women of India.

The National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 (NPEW) was formulated for the overall growth with the express goal of addressing women's felt needs and bringing about women's development and empowerment.

Highlights of National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001

- The advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres of life.
- Introduction of more responsive judicial legal systems 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 organizations
- Implementation of international obligations, commitments and cooperation at the international regional and sub-regional level( Ref ;Annual report ministry of women and child development Government of India 2014-15)

For implementing the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women a structural allocation of funds for overall development of women is required so as the rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that budgets impact men and women differently through the design of pattern of resource allocation and priority given to competing sectors. As women constitute 48% of India's population, but they lag behind men on basic needs like: health, education, economic opportunities, etc. Hence, they warrant special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to minimum resources. In Recent years the Government trying to allocate budgets, allocate resources has the potential to minimize the gap to transform gender inequalities. Anticipating the huge potential of Government budgets to make positive changes in gender dimensions of society, in recent years, Gender Budgeting has been propagated at national and international level as a tool of minimizing Gender inequalities. It a felt need to allocate resources for women, to cover tracking the utilization of allocated resources, impact analysis and beneficiary incidence analysis of public expenditure and policy from a gender.

#### Objectives of the Study

- To study on different measures taken in India to secure gender parity in all walks of social economic and political life towards empowering the women.
- To study the modern approach of empowerment.

#### Methodology

Proposed study is based on Agency approach of the women empowerment. A Conceptual analysis has been undertaken through the data collected from secondary sources. Different Governmental publications are used to collect secondary data like publication of Planning Commission of India, Annual report of Ministry of Women And Child Development.

#### An overview on Gender Budgeting

Gender Budgeting is not an accounting exercise rather an ongoing process to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. Gender Budgeting pertain to maintaining a gender

perspective at various stages like programme, policy formulation, assessment of needs of target groups, review of existing policies and guidelines, allocation of resources, implementation of programs, impact assessment, reprioritization of resources, etc. A gender responsive budget is the culmination of this process perspective towards sustainability. It involves planning of the Government budget to establish its gender-differential impacts and to translate gender commitments into budgetary commitments. It does not require to create a separate budget for this but to provide positive action to address the specific needs of women.

Different activities of the gender budgeting exercise are include a) Minimizing gap between policy commitment programme formulation and implementation. b) Putting gender concerns in public expenditure and policy. c) Gender audit of public expenditures, programme implementation and policies at national level.

### **Gender Budgeting in India from 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development adopted this concept in 2004 “Budgeting for Gender Equity” as a Mission Statement for women empowerment. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) as the nodal agency for gender budgeting has been undertaking several initiatives for National and State levels. To pursue the process of Gender Budgeting the Ministry has formulated three strategies in the country. firstly Placing emphasis and advocating for setting up of gender budgeting structures mechanisms secondly Strengthening internal and external capacities and building expertise to undertake gender mainstreaming of policies/schemes programmes; and lastly Initiating the exercise of gender auditing of existing programmes, In second phase during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007) onwards emphasized on the commitment to Gender Budgeting and clearly stated that, 'gender equity requires adequate provisions to be made in policies and schemes across all Departments It also force strict adherence to Gender Budgeting across the board.

The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012- 2017) also emphasized to continue with the process of Gender Budgeting will be further strengthened during the Twelfth Plan and its reach extended to all and Ministries, Departments and State Governments.

### **Setting up of gender budgeting structures mechanisms for gender budgeting,**

Gender Budgeting Cells (GBC) should be set up in all Ministries/Departments Ministry of Finance in consultation with Ministry of Women and Child Development and had issued a Gender Budget Charter on 8th March, 2007 which laid down guidelines for composition and functions of Budgeting Cells. 57 Ministries/Department level Departments have set up Gender Budgeting (GBCs). So far, Cells and are expected to serve as focal points for coordinating Gender Budgeting initiatives, GBCs working towards building their skills and competence to enable them to play a more pro-Ministry of Women and Child Development active role in gender mainstreaming of policies, programmes and budgets for Urban and rural Development and Power to identify

possible areas of gender intervention

II. Capacity building initiatives :To empower women in India different initiatives has been taken by the ministry of women and child development such as:

### **Workshops and Trainings**

The MWCD as the nodal agency for women, has been supporting the process the Ministry of Finance in institutionalizing the GB process. In recent years focus areas of the MWCD has been advocating for setting up of GBCs in all Ministries Departments; strengthening internal and external capacities in building expertise of GBC. For this MWCD has been engaged in conducting maximum number of training workshops, one to one interactions development of materials. Under this process the ministry also provides financial support to different beneficiaries. In year 2014-15 amount of ` 1.07 core have been incurred till Jan 2015. More over the training programmes are focused on increasing awareness about the need and importance of Gender Responsive Budgeting along with a structure to undertake Gender Budgeting. A participatory approach usually taken into consideration for training. Case study method like successful stories of different stake holders are discussed during the training session.

Table-1 Allocation for women as reflected in Gender Budget Statement

Year	No of Ministries /Department No of Demands	Total magnitude of gender Budgeting In rupees in crore percentage in Total budget
2005-06	9(10)	14 378,68 (2.79%)
2006-07	18(24)	28,736,53(5.09%)
2007-08	27(33)	31 177, 96(4.5%)
2008-09	27(33)	27, 661 ,67(3.68%)
2009-10	28(33)	56 ,857,61(5.57%)
2010-2011	28(33)	67,749 ,80(6.11%)
2011-12	29(34)	78 ,251,02(6.22%)
2012-13	29(34)	88,142 ,809(5.91%)
2013-14	30(35)	97,133, 70(5.83%)
2014-15	36(39)	98029 84(5.45%)

Source Annual report 2014-15 Ministry of Women And Child Development

### **Interaction with Ministries**

Different ministries undertakes different activities on gender budgeting The Gender Budgeting Cell of Department of Telecommunications has come up with an innovative project for empowerment of women using ICT as a tool, :Sanchar Shakti". The Ministry of Home Affairs is a key mainstream Department and taken specific efforts to improve facilities for women employed in various forces through day care centers, crèches. The Gender Budgeting Cell of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken steps for nominating five elected women panchayat representatives

from among the best performing panchayats in the Central committee to oversee Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA). The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has taken steps to address the issue of distressed/deserted women by their NRI husbands and have prepared a scheme to address the issue presently merged with ministry external affairs. The Gender Budgeting Cell of the Ministry of Rural Development has set up an advisory group on Gender Budgeting for minimizing gender discrimination in rural development programmes.

#### 111. Initiatives for Gender Audit

This is most important aspect of gender budgeting is to Undertaking a gender analysis/ audit of specific schemes. In view of this Ministry has developed a draft Gender Audit Guidelines and has pilot tested the same on the Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF) Ministry of Agriculture to identify critical gaps and challenges in mainstreaming gender within the DEDS. The ministry is also planning to extend this for several other departments and schemes.

#### Analysis

If through a glance on Table it is found that in the year 2005-06 total budget estimated Rs 14 378,68 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 2.79%) of the total budget. In the year 2006-07 total budget estimated Rs 28,736,53 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 5.09%) of the total budget. In the year 2007-08 total budget estimated Rs 31 177, 96 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 4.5%) of the total budget. In the year 2008-09 total budget estimated Rs 27, 661 ,67 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 3.68%) of the total budget. In the year 2009-10 total budget estimated Rs 56 ,857,61 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 5.57% of the total budget. In the year 2010-11 total budget estimated Rs 67,749 ,80cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only 6.11% of the total budget.. In the year 2013-14total budget estimated Rs97,133, 70 cores and during the year magnitude of gender budgeting was only5.83%)% of the total budget and in the year 2014-15 total Rs 98,029 ,84 cores estimated out of which 5.45% has been estimated for Gender budgeting . Although the amount of Budget estimated increased year to year but at the time the percentage of estimated budget towards Gender budgeting for women empowerment not in a upward direction.

#### Conclusions and Suggestions

The Agency approach of empowering women in India is a good initiative by the Government of India. The effort to provide opportunities to the vulnerable women in every spheres of the society can never be denied. At the time of addressing Gender budget allocation efforts to be given on the number of female population increased in particular year and at the same time proportional increase in allocation will increase the growth rate of gender budget which leads to overall growth of the women and contribute positively for the women empowerment agenda of the country. To spread the concept of Gender Budgeting awareness concept should be linked up with the curriculum of the higher educational Institutions.

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