Digitalization of Policies and Programmes: An Envitilization for Empowerment

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Abstract

Fempowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens the innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives. Fempowerment includes control over resources (physical, human, intellectual and financial) and over ideology (beliefs, values and attitudes). It is not merely a feel of greater extrinsic control, but also grows intrinsic capacity, greater self-confidence and an internal transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers to accessing resources or changing traditional ideology. Women's empowerment is very essential for the development of society. Empowerment means individuals acquiring the power to think and act freely, exercises choice and fulfil their potential as full and equal members of society. As per the United National Development Fund for women (UNIFEM), the term women's empowerment. The policies and programmes should be digitalised to have a transparency in the it's effective functioning and to reach the public without any hassles. Thus the paper makes an attempt to understand the present policies and programmes meant for the women empowerment and importance of digitalisation of all these programmes.

Keywords: Empowerment, Economic Transformation and Digitalisation

Introduction

In the process of poverty eradication and reducing gender discrimination, the governments have been implementing various schemes and programmes providing ways and means towards women development and empowerment. Women and men do not play identical roles in any society; nor do they have equal access to education, work, career opportunities and economic resources. This means that political and economic leadership is also unequally shared, which leads to gender disparities in the enjoyment of benefits from economic and social development. In recent decades, advocates of women's rights have drawn attention to these facts and the need to consider them in policy and programme formulation. A gender issue is an issue or concern determined by gender based and or sex based differences between women and men. Gender issues are all aspects and concerns with how women and men inter relate, their differences in access to and use of resources, their activities and how they react to changes, interventions and policies. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic policy, our laws, development policies, Plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women.

Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining sex ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and social levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country. Social development indices viz., nutrition, health and education

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are being recognized as important prerequisites for development of human resources of the country. The nutritional status of vulnerable section of the community i.e., children, pregnant women, lactating mother and adolescent girls is considered as an important indicator for national development The status of women is a key factor for determining the development of any society. In the area of gender and development, the Commonwealth has given a blue print for action to all theirMember Countries. States to transform the Commonwealth vision for women into reality. Efforts will surely bring about a day when women and men will take equal position in all walks of life.

Objectives of the Study
1. To study the Government programmes For Women Empowerment.
2. To identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
3. To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
4. To analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
5. To strengthen the process of economic development of rural women and create a conducive environment for social change.

Review of literature
'Digital India' initiative has been an area of interest of numerous researches from various disciplines because of its great significance and influence on the economy as a whole and particularly the empowerment sector.

Rani (2016) concluded that the digital India project provides a huge opportunity to use the latest technology empowerment to redefine India the paradigms of service industry. It also pointed out that many projects may require some transformational process, reengineering, refinements to achieve the desired service level objectives

Midha (2016) concluded that digital India is a great plan to develop India for knowledge future but its improper implementation due to inaccessibility and inflexibility to requisite can lead to its failure. Though digital India programme is facing number of challenges yet if properly implemented it can make the best future of every citizen. So we Indians should work together to shape the knowledge economy

Gupta and Arora (2015) studied the impact of digital India project on India's rural sector. The study found that many schemes have been launched in digital India to boost agriculture sector and entrepreneurship development in rural areas. Digital India programme has also set the stage for empowerment of rural Indian wome

Digital India programme is focused on
Three key ideas:
1. Creation of Digital Infrastructure and Electronic Manufacturing in Native India
2. Delivery of all Government Services electronically (E-Governance).
3. Digital Empowerment of Native Indian People

Methodology
The study is based on the secondary data sources. The necessary information about the digital empowerment through policies and programmes a study and its various components are collected from various books, journals, and internet source of related topics.

Internet Empowering Communities
The nature of local communities in the information society has changed from their traditional concept of community to becoming more individualistic. Communities have not disappeared, as Robert Putnam argues, and become replaced by individuals bowling alone. These new communities could be characterized as a People still want to belong to communities, but they can now choose the community quite freely according to their individual interests. Belonging to a community is not as much inherited and stable, and people join the communities they find closer to their interests and values. If a community is not satisfying any more, it can be rejected and changed easily. On the other hand, if a community meets the demands of a person, he/she is also more likely to work for the common goals. Claude Fischer adds being voluntarily operated to the characteristics of new communities. Since people do not commit to these communities, they can also break up at any time. Even though the nature of communities has changed from the traditional ones in many information societies, this transformation is different and not so clear in developing countries or rural areas where commitment to a community can be very strong.

Local communities can utilize new information technology and the Internet by using it to improve their cooperative activities and strengthen their capabilities in the information society. This empowerment can happen when community members improve their skills and knowledge, learn to share information, create new and diverse information flows, and increase their interaction and ways of participation. The most significant changes have happened in poor and remote neighbourhood projects, where technology has supported community development efforts. In welfare regions, the changes are connected more to improvements in communication and resident participation. Internet technology can empower a community.

The potential power of the Internet is above all in its social interaction. By increasing access to information and by improving interaction, the social capital of a community increases at both individual and community level. Since online net works connect people and their resources quite easily, the Internet works well as technology, which assists in creating social capital. A collective benefit follows usually from individual interests, even though a communal benefit can also be seen as an aim .

The Internet supports traditional forms of social capital, such as social networks, access to information, communal activities and political participation. The power of the Internet environment is in its ability to gather collective informative capital, which everyone may use without reducing access to it for anyone. Empowerment and increase of social capital

correlates with commitment to a community. A community can encourage an individual in an empowerment process, in which case an individual wants to commit himself/herself to a community and work towards its aims. Thus a community role is essential within a process of digital empowerment.

Constitutional provisions of women in India:

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the existing socio-economic, education and political disparities faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensures equality before the law, equal protection of law, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantees equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the constitution are of specific importance in this regard.

Constitutional privileges

1. Equality before law for women (Article 14)
2. The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them(Article 15(i))
3. The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children (Article 15 (3))
4. Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16)
5. The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39 (a):and equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39 (d))
6. To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities (Article 39 A)
7. The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42)
8. The State to promote with special care for the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46)
9. The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health (Article 47)
10. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Articles 51 (A) (e))

Legislative provisions

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measure intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services especially to working women

Important social legislations relating to women are

1. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961;
2. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971;
3. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961;
4. The Karnataka Marriage Act, 1976
5. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956;
6. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition)Act, 1986;
7. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987;
8. Equal right for women in parental property (Amendment) Bill 2004;
9. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005
10. Prevention, Prohibition and redrressal Act, 2013;
11. The sexual harassment of women at workplace 2017

Policies and programmes for empowerment of women

Development of women has been a policy objective of the government since independence. Until the 70s the concept of women's development was mainly welfare oriented. In 1970s, there was a shift from welfare approach to development approach that recognized the mutually reinforcing nature of the process of development. In the 80s a multi-disciplinary approach was adopted with an emphasis on three core areas of health, education and employment. The government has come up with many schemes from time to time to educate females. To name a few: Mahila Samakhya Programme, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, and National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level. Also a Nirbhaya scheme was started in the union budget in 2013 to support initiatives by the government and NGOs working towards protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women in India.

Though the government has come up with many schemes for social welfare of the weaker sex, the end result has been depressing because the implementation process is either very slow or graft and nepotism is very prevalent in the economy. Government should take special care to implement the policies with honesty and on time so that the growth process of the nation speeds up. Along with it the private sector should also take the initiative in assisting women skill formation. And finally well educated, financially sound and resource full women should take necessary steps to help uneducated and poor women in attaining education as well as vocational trainings for required skill formation which open up employment opportunities for the needful.

Women are empowered through women emancipation movement, education, communication, media, political parties and general awakening. The Panchayati Raj effort of empowerment is one of the several efforts made simultaneously in the society. And, above all, the empowerment action whether to women or poor and weaker sections of society, has a multiplying efforts. For instance, when a women in the village gets a berth in the Panchayat Samiti, she becomes automatically powerful in the family, kin and village. She is listened to by the people, for she is a

decision maker; she can do and undo certain things in the village. She can get her school raised to higher standard, she can get a water pump installed at a particular place in a village and so on and so forth. Surely, she is not everything by becoming member of the smite but definitely she can influence the decisions of the smite.

We give below some of the reasons which explain the need for the empowerment of women

Rights of the Girl Child

All forms of discrimination against the girl child and violation of her rights shall be eliminated by undertaking strong measures both preventive and punitive within and outside the family. In a decade, there has been only a marginal increase in Child Sex Ratio which is a matter of concern. This calls for strict enforcement of laws against prenatal sex selection and the practices of female foeticide and female infanticide. Similarly there should be strict action from the preventive side as well as stringent enforcement of laws to curb child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution etc. Removal of discrimination in the treatment of the girl child within the family and outside and projection of a positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered. There will be special emphasis on the needs of the girl child and earmarking of substantial investments in the areas relating to food and nutrition, health and education, and in vocational education. In implementing programmes for eliminating child labour, there will be a special focus on girl children. Special protective measures will be taken up for girl children and adolescent girls in view of the increasing occurrence of crimes.

Training in self-defence should be provided.

Child development

As per the 2011 census Karnataka has a total population of61.09 millions of which children in the age group 0-6constitute 11.72 The programmes, policies and schemes of the department are aimed at a holistic development of children in terms of tackling by declining sex ratio, infant mortality, health and nutrition issues, early childhood education, protection of rights of children, prevention of child abuse and exploitation, provision of care and protection etc.

Day Care Centres (Creches) Creches

Directly benefit children in the pre-school age by providing pre- school education, supplementary nutrition and opportunities for psychosocial development and recreation. They also indirectly benefit mothers by giving them an opportunity to join the workforce, as creche workers look after the children, while mothers are at work. The numbers of day care centres in Karnataka for the year 2014-15are36and district wise information is given.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) is a centrally sponsored flagship programme, which provides package of services viz., supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, health and nutrition education for mothers and non-formal pre-school education for 3-6 years children. Eligible beneficiaries covered under the scheme are children below six years of age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent

girls. The package of services is provided to the beneficiaries through the Anganwadi Centres managed by an Anganwadi Worker and Helper at the Village Level and 13also in Urban Slums. At present 61187 Anganwadi Centres and 3331 mini anganwadis are functioning in 2014ICDS projects covering all 176 Taluks. During 2014-15, under this scheme, 5767 lakhsbeneficiaries have been benefited

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls –'SABALA'

Government of India formulated a new scheme called 'Rajiv Gandhi' scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls –'SABALA' merging 'kishori shakti yojana' (ksy) and nutrition programme for adolescent girls (NPAG). The new scheme 'SABALA' is implemented on pilot basis in 9 districts namely Gulbarga, Kolar, Dharwad, Chickmagalur, Bengaluru Rural, Bellary, Bijapur, Kodagu and Uttara Kannada. In the remaining 21 District Kishori Shakti Yojana operational component (iii) Vocational Training is being provided under the scheme. The scheme aims at covering Adolescent Girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years. Rs. 108.3014lakhs forNon-nutrition component has been released in the year 201-15and an expenditure Rs.108.23 lakh has been incurred.

Beti padao beti bacho yojana

Women and children constitute around 70 % of India's people and are the critical foundation for national development - at present and in the future. More inclusive growth must begin with children and women- breaking an intergenerational cycle of inequity and multiple deprivations faced by women and girls, as related to poverty, social exclusion, gender discrimination and under nutrition. This intergenerational cycle of multiple deprivation and violence faced by girls and women is reflected in the adverse and steeply declining child sex ratio in children under 6years of age which reached an all time low of 918 girls for every 1000 boys in 2011. These commitments are embodied in the Constitution and in several enabling legislations, policies (such as the National Policy For the Empowerment of Women 2001, National Policy For Children 2013 and the National Nutrition Policy 1993), Five Year and Annual Plans and programmes. Despite this there are several challenges that remain and key issues which need to be addressed urgently. These include ensuring Women's Safety, Protection and Empowerment, improving the Child Sex Ratio, ensuring Child Protection and preventing and reducing Maternal and Child Under nutrition and controlling anaemia across the life cycle.

Bhagyalakshmi

As per 2011 census, the sex ratio in Karnataka is 973females to 1000 males. Though this is better than the national average. There are several socio economic reasons for the' high preference for a male pregnancy That is seen to be present in society at large which adversely affects the girl child's access to nutrition, health care, education and overall development. The State Government has great concern for the girl child and to change society's attitudes towards her, and promote birth of girl

children in the below poverty line families, a new welfare scheme called "Bhagyalakshmi' was launched during the year 2006-07 and the scheme was partially modified on 06.03.2015. This scheme is restricted to two girls in BPL families. This benefit will not be available unless the father or mother of the beneficiary girl has undergone terminal family planning methods so that the total number of children of the BPL family does not exceed two. The girl child is enrolled after due verification by the department assume of Rs.10,000.00, is deposited in her name of the beneficiary in fixed deposit and for children's born on or after 01-08-2008, an amount of Rs.19,30.00 will be deposited with the financial institution in the name of the first girl beneficiary and Rs.18,350.00in name of the second girl beneficiary of the same family. The amount deposited in the financial institution will be maximized and paid along with interest to the beneficiary on her attainment of 18 years of age.

Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)

This programme seeks to provide skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in the traditional sectors. Under this project, women beneficiaries are organized into viable and cohesive groups or cooperatives. A comprehensive package of services such as health care, elementary education, crèche facility, market linkages, etc. are provided besides access to credit. Skill development is provided in ten traditional skills amongst women. This is a Central Scheme launched in 1987. The Ministry is at present getting the programme evaluated. Based on the results of the evaluation, the scheme is proposed to be revamped. Further, the possibilities of providing training and skills to women both in traditional and non-traditional sectors and integrating with Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for credit linkages are being considered.

Swa-Shakti

The project jointly founded by IFAD, World Bank and the Government of India was launched in October, 1999 and culminated on 30th June, 2005. The objective of the program was to bring out socio-economic development and empowerment of women through promotion of women SHGs, micro credit and income generating activities.

National Credit Fund Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for Women

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was set up in 1993 with a corpus of Rs. 31 crore, against the backdrop of socio-economic constraints faced by poor women to access micro – credit from the formal financial system in the country, especially those in the rural and in unorganized sectors. The main objective behind the setting up of the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) under the Department of Women and Child Development (now Ministry) was to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.

Economic Empowerment of Women

Economically too, women all over the country are weak. They are dependent on males, the latter being their bread-earner. Only a small proportion of women is gainfully employed. They are also culturally so much dominated by the males that they cannot take any decision against the wishes of the males. A females is boss in the office but she is subordinate mistress while in the house. The ministry of labour and employment has published few facts regarding growth trends in women employment. Women form an integral part of the Indian workforce. According to the information provided by the office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, As per Census 2011, the total number of female workers in India is 149.8 million and female workers in rural and urban areas are 121.8 and 28.0 million respectively. Out of total 149.8 million female workers, 35.9 million females are working as cultivators and another 61.5 million are agricultural labourers. Of the remaining females' workers, 8.5 million are in household Industry and 43.7 million are classified as other workers.

1. Marriage and kinship systems preserves the structures of patriarchy. Most societies are "Patriarchal" with women moving from their parents to their husband's homes after marriage. Marriage can therefore be thought of as framework that serves to exchange women between households and marriage decisions are made with a view forward ensuring that this exchange of women promises the maximum gain to both households. The man's household is the point of reference while the woman is simply an input into the process for households controlled by men to generate economic and social returns.
2. Women's work is undervalued and unrecognized. Women work longer hours than men, and carry the major share of household and community work that unpaid and invisible. There are far fewer women in the paid workforce than there are men. There are more unemployed women than unemployed men.
3. Women generally earn lower wage than men doing the same work. It has been estimated that women's wage rate are, on the average only 75% of men's wage rates and constitute only one fourth of the family income. In State do women and men earn equal wages in agriculture. Also, women generally work in the informal sector where wages are lower and they are not covered by labour laws. Within organizations, women workers are also engaged in piecework and subcontracting at exploitative rates.
4. To increase employment among women, several initiatives have been taken by Government of India, and programmes have been launched for the economic empowerment of women. Some of these are STEP and Hostels for Working Women, with day care centres for their children.

National Mission for Empowerment of Women

The extent of empowerment of women from a holistic and macro-point of view is largely determined by 3 factors viz. economic, social and

political identity. These factors are deeply intertwined and linked with many cross cutting linkages. It implies that if efforts in any one dimension remains absent or week, the outcome and momentum generated by the other components cannot be sustained. It is only when all these three factors are addressed simultaneously and made compatible with each other can women be truly empowered. Therefore, for the holistic empowerment of women, an inter-sect oral approach has to be adopted. The vision for socio-economic empowerment of women is to empower women economically and socially to end exploitation and discrimination enabling them to develop their full potential to be active participants in nation building, sharing the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. To achieve this vision, the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) was launched on 8th March

Digital transformation and importance

Modern technologies create the opportunity to multi different ways how to preserve the cultural heritage and legacy for the future generations. The policies ensuiring that digitalisation becomes a routine, daily activity in memory institutions, improving the nation wide coordination of digitalisation and preservation of digital cultural heritage

Conclusion

The most critical component of women's empowerment is found to be education. It leads to improved economic growth, low fertility rate, health and sanitation and an awareness of factors that disempowered women. Work participation rate and political participation also grows in women's education. Women empowerment is a one of the important prospectus of empowering of women in Women groups by providing training, organization the community, facilities to the networking of Departments and some of important promoting Govt. programmes for promoting women empowering by building up social work capacity through all their procedures and methods implementing of women empowerment by social work and social aspects .The Govt. of India as well as Karnataka State Government has initiated a number of projects and programmes for socio – economic empowerment of women. Despite significant problems in a male dominated society, Indian women have found their way out for growth and empowerment either through NGOs, banks, government assistance, and micro finance institutions or through private sectors. In the coming years the role of women will be of immense importance for competing with the developed world as they are man power source as well as diverse consumer group. The civilization of the country will undergo a noteworthy positive change with educated and financially sound women folk. Given that one -third of the estimated 480 million jobs in the country are being performed by women, more than half of the advertising is targeted towards the homemaker.

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