

Study of Selected Schemes of the Maharashtra Government for Women Empowerment

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Summary:

"Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Tatra Ramante Devataah" — This quote implies that where women are respected, divinity resides. Hence, prosperity prevails. "The one who rocks the cradle, uplifts the world" — no one can nurture a child better than a mother. If the mother, sister, or daughter is empowered, the next generations will undoubtedly be empowered too — this is an undeniable truth.

In Maharashtra, there are many opportunities for the development of women. Along with school education, many reputed institutions offer vocational training to interested women. The state government has implemented several schemes to make women self-reliant. These include:

- The Women's Economic Development Corporation
- Promoting economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural and urban areas
- Supporting women entrepreneurs through collaborations with public and private sector institutions

The Maharashtra Government has successfully implemented numerous schemes that have helped women gain access to education, employment, political and economic development, and social equality. Some notable schemes include:

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**
- **Mahila e-Haat**
- **Mahila Shakti Kendra**
- **Manodhairya Yojana**
- The **2014 Women's Policy**, which emphasizes budgeting for women's development
- **Awareness regarding women's property rights**
- **Sumatibai Suklikar Yojana**, which promotes participation of women entrepreneurs
- **Ujjwala Yojana**, which provides LPG connections to rural women to avoid health hazards from smoke

These schemes aim not only to make women economically self-reliant, but also to empower them in terms of education, health, safety, decision-making, and leading a dignified life.

Introduction:

Women are a fundamental component of societal development. A nation can truly progress only when its women are comprehensively empowered. Recognizing this, the Maharashtra Government has implemented many welfare schemes for women. The aim of these schemes is holistic development of women.

True gender equality can be achieved through women empowerment, and these government schemes play a crucial role in this effort. Schemes like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana**, **Women's Economic Development Corporation**, and **Tejaswini Yojana** demonstrate the government's commitment. As a result, a spirit of self-reliance is growing among women, and they are actively participating in various fields of society.

Objectives:

1. Economic development of women
2. Providing health facilities to women
3. Educational empowerment of women
4. Encouraging women to save money

To achieve these objectives, the following schemes can be considered:

A) Schemes for Economic Development

1. Women Entrepreneurs Scheme

Provides financial assistance to women to start their own businesses.

2. New Tejaswini Project

Empowers rural women to develop entrepreneurship and access markets. Also includes skill development and guidance.

3. Mahila Samriddhi Yojana

Specially for women from the leather-working (Charmakar) community, offering loans at low-interest rates.

4. Women's Economic Development Corporation (MAVIM)

A government initiative dedicated to economic empowerment and development of women, implementing various related schemes.

5. MahaSamriddhi Women Empowerment Scheme

Encourages rural women to have their names registered on land documents (7/12 extract).

6. Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

Provides ₹15,000 monthly financial aid to women aged 21–65 years.

B) Schemes for Women's Health Development

1. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MSPJAY)

Offers cashless secondary and tertiary medical services through selected hospitals.

2. **Pradhan Mantri Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

Provides facilities for girls, pregnant women, and nursing mothers including vaccination, health checkups, and nutrition.

3. **Saksham Anganwadi and Nutrition 2.0**

Runs various programs to reduce malnutrition under Anganwadi services, including programs for adolescent girls and the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

4. **Savitribai Phule Kanya Kalyan Yojana**

Encourages family planning by providing incentives to couples who undergo sterilization after having one or two daughters.

C) Schemes for Educational Empowerment of Women

- Under **MahaSamriddhi Women Empowerment Scheme**, women are encouraged to get their names on land ownership records.
- The state government promotes women's education through scholarships, fee waivers, and educational loans.
- Special schemes for tribal women and child development include nutrition, health, and education services.

D) Schemes Promoting Women's Savings

1. **Women SHG Loan Scheme**

Provides loans to SHGs for business or financial needs and waives stamp duty for bank loans.

2. **Women Grant Scheme**

Through the Gram Self-Employment Scheme, Panchayat Samitis offer training in management, accounting, entrepreneurship, and other skills.

3. **Agricultural Support for SC/ST Women SHGs**

Provides mini-tractors and agricultural tools.

Conclusion:

These various schemes are leading to positive changes in the empowerment of women. Women's participation in social, economic, political, and educational fields is commendably increasing.

Reference Books:

- 1) Maharashtra .gov .in

- 2) विकिपीडिया
- 3) women in government: A study of Maharashtra (Hazel D' Lima)
- 4) शोधगंगोत्री
- 5) योजना मासिक