



Schemes For Women's Empowerment In India: Ushering Gender Equality

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Abstract- Women empowerment has been the highlighted part of discussion in present context especially in the field of social sciences. Women empowerment is also seen as a parameter for development of a country. The equal empowerment and gender quality holds to be vital for developing a country in all spheres. The government of India however being aware of it has come up with certain schemes that supports gender equality and empowerment. The paper discusses the need of women empowerment and gender equality and the brought up by Indian government that ensures gender equality and how far has progressed.

Keywords- Women, gender, equality, schemes, empowerment.

Introduction

Gender refers to the social, cultural, and psychological attributes, roles, behaviours, and identities that a society considers appropriate for individuals based on their perceived or assigned sex. Unlike biological sex, which is determined by physical characteristics such as chromosomes, hormones, and anatomy, gender encompasses the ways people experience and express themselves in relation to societal expectations and norms. It includes identities such as man, woman, non-binary, genderqueer, and others, reflecting the diverse ways individuals understand and live their gendered experience.

Empowerment refers to the process of enabling individuals or groups to gain confidence, control, and the ability to make decisions that affect their lives. It involves providing the necessary resources, opportunities, and support to help people realize their potential, improve their circumstances, and take active roles in their communities or workplaces. Empowerment can occur in various contexts, including personal development, workplace environments, social movements, and community initiatives, ultimately fostering a sense of agency, self-efficacy, and participation.

Women's empowerment is a complex idea that includes empowering women to make their own choices and removing political, social, and economic constraints that have traditionally limited their positions. It is acknowledged as a basic human right and is necessary to attain gender equality, which forms the basis of a productive and peaceful society. Establishing leadership for gender equality, treating everyone equally at work, and protecting women's health and safety are all important tenets of women's empowerment. In the end, empowering women is not only the right thing to do, but it is also strategically necessary to promote creativity and growth in society.

Women empowerment in India refers to the process of enabling women to participate fully in economic, social, political, and cultural life, ensuring their rights, opportunities, and dignity are upheld. Over the years, India has witnessed significant strides toward gender equality, driven by government initiatives, social reforms, and changing societal attitudes. Empowering women is essential for the overall development of the nation, as it leads to improved health, education, and economic outcomes. Despite progress, challenges such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and unequal access to resources persist. Therefore, fostering women's empowerment remains a vital goal for building a more just, equitable, and prosperous India. Women's empowerment is a crucial aspect of societal progress and development, playing a significant role in achieving gender equality. In the context of India, where gender disparities and social norms often limit women's opportunities and rights, schemes and policies have been implemented to promote women's empowerment and uplift their status in society.

The status of women in India has subtle changes. In the ancient time during Vedic period women were being treated as equal to man even they were more respected as birth givers. The status of women deteriorated in the later Vedic period where women were seen as materials and child bearing machine. This deteriorated status remained making the life of women more deprived of right to live, right to property through social evil practices like sati, purdah, child-marriage. In the modern period there came a social reform movement to root out these evil practices from society. Many men participated in social reform movement or in bringing emancipation for women notable ones were Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Dayanada Saraswati, which supported strengthen the movement gradually leading to legal protection of women from such horrifying social evil practices. However, after independence women's empowerment and personal development is noticed by the government hence schemes and policies that would enhance women's empowerment is focused.

A number of articles in the Indian Constitution are designed to safeguard women's rights, interests, and equal protections and opportunities. The Indian Constitution is a dynamic and constantly changing document that firmly protects the fundamental liberties and rights of all Indian citizens, including women. As time went on, the Constitution was modified to reflect the changing socioeconomic terrain and to enable women in every aspect of life. In order to empower women, the Constitution's guarantees of equality, non-discrimination, and freedom from gender-based violence are crucial. In India, the idea of protective discrimination is founded on the affirmative action principle, which aims to give underprivileged groups—including women—preferential treatment in order to prevent them from falling behind in the race for advancement. The Indian Constitution aims to provide justice, liberty, and equality regardless of gender, as evidenced by the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of state policy, Fundamental duties, and other provisions to ensure that women are granted equal rights and opportunities. The Constitution acknowledges the importance of gender equality and empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women in order to neutralize the cumulative socioeconomic, educational, and political disadvantages faced by them. It also empowers the state to make special laws, policies, plans, and programs within a democratic polity for the advancement of women in all spheres. India has made significant strides in addressing gender inequalities through policy interventions and initiatives targeted towards women's empowerment. These schemes aim to enhance women's economic, social, and political participation, enabling them to lead more fulfilling and empowered lives. By understanding the effectiveness and impact of these schemes, we can assess the progress made towards achieving gender equality in India.

Through this study, we seek to critically examine the implementation and outcomes of key schemes and policies for women's empowerment in India. We will explore the challenges faced in their execution, assess their impact on improving women's lives, and identify areas for enhancement to further promote gender equality. By delving into these aspects, we aim to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on women's empowerment and gender equality in India. As we delve deeper into the realm of schemes and policies for women's empowerment in India, it is essential to recognize the complex socio-cultural factors

that shape women's experiences and opportunities. By acknowledging these nuances and understanding the multifaceted nature of gender equality, we can develop more effective and inclusive strategies to empower women and create a more equitable society for all. In the following sections of this study, we will explore the key schemes and policies implemented for women's empowerment in India, analyse their impact on gender equality, and provide recommendations for advancing women's rights and opportunities in the country. By shedding light on these important issues, we hope to catalyse positive change and contribute to the ongoing efforts towards achieving gender equality in India.

Statement of the problem

Women in India continue to face significant social, economic, and political disadvantages. Persistent issues such as gender-based violence, limited access to quality education and healthcare, underrepresentation in decision-making positions, and economic disparities still exist. So, the government of India introduced numerous schemes and policies to empower women. There is less known if those schemes and policies are ushering gender equality. Therefore, there is a need to analyze the effectiveness of these schemes and policies in achieving gender equality, identify barriers to their successful implementation, and propose strategies for strengthening women's empowerment in India. This study aims to assess how current initiatives contribute to transforming societal attitudes and improving the status of women, ultimately fostering an environment conducive to genuine gender equality.

Literature review

Samir Kumar Sen, Prodip Karmakar, Samirranjan Adhikari in their research paper 'Empowerment and Women's Empowerment-A Theoretical Basis' defines women empowerment. They highlight how empowerment has positive impact on individual and on group. The article also states how women empowerment can be achieved and how it can help in reducing poverty. The article has also added an important note on how women empowerment can strengthen the country.

Nipan Haloi in his research paper 'Women Empowerment: A brief overview in the context of Assam' describes the plight of women's status in the patriarchal society on how women are subjugated and entails that if women are to set equal foot with men women must be conscious of their rights. He hold that at first there needs to change in mindset of men and women , secondly children should be socialized in a right manner , Thirdly the NGO's must work effectively to make people in rural areas aware of their rights and in successfully implementing government schemes for women's empowerment.

Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh 'Women Empowerment in India: A Critical Analysis' The study critically examines India's standing in relation to other nations and looks for evidence of readiness to meet UN Sustainable Development Goal 5. The study bases its case on secondary sources, such as reviews of previous research that has been published in books, journals, reports from NGOs, the government, and international organizations, as well as websites. The study critically looks at several models and aspects of women's empowerment in India. The article addresses constitutional protections, government goals and initiatives, their execution, and measures of women's empowerment. But when compared to other nations, the nation comes in low. Programs must be reevaluated and adjusted in order to meet SDG-5 by 2030.

Dr. Rashmi Rani Agnihotri H.R and Dr. Malipatil, K.S. 'A Study on Women Empowerment Schemes in India' describes how women empowerment has been important part of discussions in this contemporary world. He also defines what empowerment means and empowerment is necessary for economic development. The article holds that India has 50% of female population and are still restricted by social taboos so to develop a country it is not possible that half of its population without being empowered. So, the GOI has initiated some schemes and programmes for empowerment of Women in India.

Mr. Manoj Shrikrishna Magar in his article 'Women Empowerment In The Indian Scenario: Opportunities, Challenges, And The Role Of Government Policies' defines women empowerment and status of women empowerment in India. It also discusses the role of government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and analyse its working. Although there has been progress, enduring problems including gender inequity, health problems, and economic reliance highlight the necessity of ongoing initiatives to foster an environment that supports women. In the article's conclusion, the significance of addressing sociocultural norms and to truly empower women in India, policy execution must be strengthened.

Dr Shashank Shekar Thakur, Aasif Ali Naikoo, in their research paper 'Women Empowerment and their Empowering Schemes in India' examines the necessity for women's empowerment in India along with the strategies and initiatives for it. The primary social development mechanism that allows women to take part in the sustainable social, political, and economic growth of rural areas is empowerment. The empowerment of women has emerged as one of the most significant issues of the twenty-first century, but in practice, this is still a pipe dream. In essence, women's empowerment is the process of improving the economic, social, and political standing of women, who have historically been marginalized in society. In our daily lives, we witness the ways in which women are subjected to a variety of social ills. The key to increasing women's access to resources and their capacity to make wise decisions in life is women's empowerment. It is the procedure for protecting kids from all types of aggression. The study's sole source of information is secondary. Despite numerous government initiatives, women in India still have a relatively low level of empowerment and a somewhat lower status than men. Women's acceptance of unequal gender standards is still prevalent in society, according to research. The study ends with the finding that establishing diverse programs and offering basic amenities are variables that facilitate women's empowerment.

Lalit Mohan Choudhary in his research article "Women Empowerment in India: Issues and Challenges" highlights the status of women in India and the challenges faced in bringing empowerment among women. It also discusses the inferior status of women in society; women being judged on every step they take. It also depicts how women without being mindful accepted the lower position than men. It is because of unequal sex standard its taking time for women empowerment however, there has been bringing women in the field of education and employment bringing empowerment in the life of women through this sphere.

Dr.Rashmi. M 'Women Empowerment and Role of Government in Promotion of Women Welfare in India' discusses how progressive it has been after the coming up of schemes and policies or initiatives taken by Government of India for women empowerment.

Dr. Neelam Patel and Dr. Tanu Sethi in their paper 'Rural Women: Key to New India's Agrarian Revolution' highlights that the social, economic, and environmental revolution of the "New India" is led by rural women. In India, nearly 80% of rural women work in agriculture. A paradigm change toward economic prosperity can be achieved by empowering and mainstreaming rural women in the agricultural workforce. It will reduce hunger and poverty and improve food and nutrition security. Reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is a win-win situation.

Dr. Lekhika U. Meshram Welfare Schemes in India For Women Empowerment discusses that in essence, empowering women entails raising their economic, social, and political standing, particularly for those who have historically been marginalized. It entails establishing a setting free from all forms of emotional and physical abuse, exploitation, and discrimination against women. They are the most susceptible group in the community. The Indian government and state governments have been working to improve the lot of women in general because they understand how important they are to the country's economic development. To encourage women to engage in economic activities, the government is gradually refocusing its attention on encouraging women entrepreneurs. This essay examines the necessity of women's empowerment in India and focuses on its strategies and tactics.

Objective of the study

- To study the importance of women's empowerment
- To identify the key schemes and policies aimed at women's empowerment in India.
- To identify challenges and barriers in the effective implementation of women-centric policies.

Research methodology

The proposed research will be qualitative in nature. Evaluative research design will be adopted for the study. Trend studies will be taken to see the changes in women's empowerment in India. The data will be based on secondary sources that includes government reports, articles, journals, books, government websites etc.

Scope of the study

The research 'Schemes and Policies for Women's Empowerment in India: Ushering Gender Equality' this study encompasses an in-depth analysis of the various schemes and policies undertaken by the Indian government to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. It will also provide insight on how such schemes and policies uplift the socio-economic status of women. It will also pinpoint the barriers in implementation of women centric schemes and policies. It also aims to contribute to academic discourse on gender policies, assist policymakers in refining women's empowerment initiatives, and promote informed advocacy for gender justice in India.

Theoretical Framework

Feminist Theory- Feminism is a social, political, and cultural movement and ideology that seeks to establish equality between women and men. It advocates for women's rights and interests, aiming to address and challenge gender-based inequalities, discrimination, and injustices. Feminism encompasses a range of perspectives and approaches, but its core goal is to promote gender equality in areas such as education, employment, legal rights, and societal participation. Throughout history, feminism has evolved through various waves, each focusing on different issues—from suffrage and legal rights to broader social and cultural changes.

Empowerment Theory- The empowerment of both individuals and communities is central to this theory. The theory thus concentrates on strategies to improve economic, political, and social power. At its heart, empowerment theory recognizes the impact of social structures and structural constraints on individuals, emphasizing the need to redress power imbalances through collaborative and participatory activities. The key tenants of empowerment theory are-

- **Self-Determination-**The significance of autonomy in decision-making and self-determination is emphasized by empowerment theory. It aims to empower people to take charge of their lives, make wise decisions, and actively engage in determining their own destinies. This idea encourages people to participate in decisions that impact their lives by recognizing the inherent value of their viewpoints and experiences.
- **Collaborative Efforts and Collective Action-**The idea of group action and cooperation is essential to empowerment theory. It highlights the power that comes from people banding together as a community to solve shared problems and bring about constructive change. Empowerment theory aims to increase the influence of community involvement and solidarity by promoting a sense of collective efficacy.
- **Addressing Systematic Barriers-**Empowerment theory acknowledges the existence of systemic barriers that impede individuals and communities from realizing their full potential. Accordingly, it aims to identify and confront these barriers, advocating for social, political, and economic reforms that promote equity and inclusivity. Consequently, by

addressing underlying structural inequalities, empowerment theory strives to create a conducive environment for individuals to thrive.

Human Capital Theory- Human Capital Theory is an economic concept that views individuals' skills, knowledge, experience, and abilities as valuable assets—collectively called "human capital"—that can be developed through education, training, and work experience. This theory suggests that investments in human capital enhance an individual's productivity and earning potential, much like investments in physical capital (such as machinery or infrastructure) improve economic output.

Key points of Human Capital Theory include:

1. **Investment in Education and Training:** Individuals and societies can increase their economic value by investing in education, skills development, and health.
2. **Returns on Investment:** Higher levels of human capital lead to increased productivity, higher wages, and economic growth.
3. **Individual and Societal Benefits:** Not only do individuals benefit from improved earnings and job opportunities, but society benefits from a more skilled workforce, innovation, and economic development.

Prominent economists associated with this theory include Gary Becker and Theodore Schultz, who emphasized the importance of human capital in economic analysis and development. In summary, Human Capital Theory underscores the importance of investing in people as a means to promote economic growth and individual well-being.

Importance of women empowerment

Women's empowerment is an essential component of the drive for gender equality, social justice, and economic prosperity. Empowering women is more than just giving them rights and opportunity; it also entails providing them with the tools to exercise those rights and capitalize on these possibilities. Women's empowerment is important in many aspects of society, including economic progress, social cohesion, and general human development.

Empowered women make society more cohesive and stable. They are more likely to join in community events, volunteer, and perform civic obligations, all of which help to reinforce the social fabric. Educated and empowered women have fewer, healthier children and invest more in their education. This starts a virtuous cycle in which following generations are healthier and more educated, which helps to promote long-term societal growth. Empowering women can contribute to a reduction in gender-based violence. When women have the information and means to advocate for their rights and defend themselves, incidents of violence and discrimination tend to diminish.

Economic empowerment of women is an effective method for poverty alleviation. When women earn money, they are more inclined to invest in their families and communities, resulting in better health, education, and overall well-being. Empowering women boosts productivity and economic prosperity. Women's participation in the workforce benefits economies by providing a broader and more diverse talent pool. According to studies, eliminating the gender gap in labour markets can dramatically increase GDP.

Women's participation in politics promotes more inclusive and representative governance. Diverse decision-making bodies are better able to address a wide range of issues and develop policies that benefit all members of society. Women have an important role in peace making and conflict resolution. Their participation in these processes frequently results in more sustainable and long-lasting peace agreements.

Women's empowerment in India is a key phrase for societal development. It is not wrong to participate in societal growth. In the corporate sector, women play a variety of roles, including medical, engineering, and so on. Aside from technology, they actively participate in security services such as the police, navy, and military. All of the services stated above are taking the community to the next level.

In recent times, everyone has focused on women's empowerment. It is true that women's empowerment has become a necessity of the moment. Women should have the freedom, faith, and self-esteem to pursue their own wants and desires. Discrimination based on gender is pointless and has no value when considering the advancement of women in recent decades. Women are underpaid and regarded as cooks and slaves in families, and their true ability is underutilized. Women's empowerment in India is essential to overcome difficulties like these and provide them an independent position in Indian society. Women must be empowered in order to exercise their rights.

Schemes and policies for women's empowerment in India

The Central Government has introduced a number of programs aimed at empowering women throughout India in partnership with State Governments. Women will have equal access to resources, opportunities, decision-making authority, and capacity building thanks to these measures. A number of strategies, including education, skill development, and expanding work options, can help empower women.

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**-This scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2015. It seeks to prohibit discrimination based on gender, address the diminishing child-to-sex ratio, and support girls' education and self-determination nationwide. The program's main objectives include raising awareness, providing funding and educational assistance, and ending destructive customs like female foeticide. In order to bring about long-lasting, sustainable change, BBBP was created with an initial budget of ₹100 crore and implemented using a tri-ministerial method comprising the ministries of Women and Child Development, Health, and Education.
- **Sukanaya Samridhi Yojana**- This scheme is a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign launched by PM Narendra Modi with an objective to meet their financial needs of girls in their higher education marriage and other purpose. This program allows a parent or legal guardian to open an account in a female child's name before she turns ten, and it will remain open for 21 years. The plan provides favourable tax treatment and competitive returns. This plan will invest in females' higher education, which will help close the gender gap. Additionally, it assists a girl child's parent or legal guardian in budgeting for the girl's future education and marriage.
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya**-This program was started in 2004 with the goal of educating females from underprivileged backgrounds. In regions with low rates of female literacy, residential schools are established for girls as part of the program. In addition to offering instruction up to the eighth grade, the institutions also provide dorms. The program's goal is to give girls from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities, and low-income families in challenging locations access to education. The State Governments/UTs carry out the scheme, and they are also in charge of operating and overseeing the KGBVs. A one-time grant of Rs. 5 lakhs is provided under the scheme to establish the school, and a recurring grant of Rs. 1.5 lakhs is provided annually to operate the
- **National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education**- This scheme was launched in 2008 by Ministry of Education, Government of India in order to provide incentives to girls in class. The National Scholarship Portal (NSP) now hosts the program. The program's goal is to create a supportive atmosphere that will encourage girls from SC/ST communities to enroll in secondary schools, lower their dropout rates, and guarantee their retention until they turn 18 years old. All girls from SC/ST communities who pass class VIII are covered by the program, as are all girls who pass the class VIII exam from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and enroll in class IX at State/UT Government, Government-aided, and Local Body schools, regardless of whether they are SC/ST.
- **CBSE Udaan**- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the CBSE, and several prestigious educational institutions and organizations worked together to develop the CBSE UDAAN Scheme in 2014. It aims to give deserving female students from low-income families

educational support, mentorship, and advice so they can succeed in school and go on to pursue further education and STEM-related careers. The innovative Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) UDAAN Scheme was created to offer comprehensive assistance to female students who wish to work in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines. The UDAAN Scheme was created to close the gender gap in STEM education and provides young girls with a full range of support services, such as financial aid, tutorials, and mentorship, to enable them to achieve their academic and professional goals.

- **Lakpati Didi Initiative**-One of the main initiatives of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is the Lakhpatri Didi Initiative. It seeks to enable rural women to attain a household income of at least ₹1 lakh per year, thereby empowering them economically. Declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2023, during his Independence Day address. By 2025, the project aims to build 3 crore Lakhpatri Didis with an emphasis on sustainable revenue generating. Self-Help Group (SHG) members who are female are eligible. A woman must make ₹10,000 or more per month, or ₹1 lakh or more annually, to be eligible to be a Lakhpatri Didi.
- **Stand Up India Mission**- The Ministry of Finance introduced this program on April 5, 2016, with the goal of encouraging entrepreneurship among Indian women who are SC and ST. By facilitating bank loans between 10 lakhs and 1 crore for the establishment of greenfield businesses, the program promotes job development and economic empowerment. The program, which was recently extended until 2025, is still focused on helping these underprivileged sectors.
- **Mahila E Haat**- Mahila E-Haat aims to address the needs and goals of female entrepreneurs. It is a platform for women's online marketing where users can showcase their goods. As a component of the "Digital India" and "Stand Up India" efforts, it is an initiative for women nationwide. Under Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India established the platform. Its mission is to serve as a catalyst by giving female business owners a web-based marketing platform so they can sell directly to consumers. The product is shown on the E-Haat portal together with pictures, a description, the price, and the producer's mobile number and address for the convenience of both the customer and the seller. The buyer will be able to contact the vendor in person, over the phone, by email, or by any other method that works best for them. Therefore, E-Haat serves as a direct conduit between buyers and sellers to promote the goods of women business owners and Self-Help Groups.
- **STEP**- In 1986, the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, launched the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for Women as one of the measures to ensure the well-being of women in the traditional informal sector. It promotes the goal of extending training for women to upgrade their skills and find sustainable employment through a variety of action-oriented projects that employ a large number of women.
- **Working Women Hostel**- The government's Working Women Hostel Scheme aims to give working women safe, easily accessible housing with daycare for their kids, wherever feasible, in urban, semi-urban, or even rural areas where women can find work. Working women whose spouse or close relatives do not live in the same city or region, regardless of whether they are widowed, divorced, separated, or married. Women from underprivileged social groups may be given special consideration.

Challenges on implementation

In the quickly changing world of today, welfare programs are essential for helping underprivileged and marginalized groups. These initiatives seek to alleviate suffering, improve communities, and advance equality. But there are obstacles in the way of an effective deployment. Even with the best of intentions, a number of barriers prevent assistance programs from being implemented effectively. Welfare programs are intended to provide people in need with healthcare, education, social security, and financial assistance. These programs are frequently implemented by governments and non-governmental groups in an effort to provide basic human rights, improve social justice, and lessen poverty. However, as many may already be aware, conceiving such strategies and really implementing them are two very different things.

Implementing women-related schemes in India faces several multifaceted challenges. These obstacles can hinder the effective delivery and impact of such programs aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality. Key challenges include:

1. **Deep-rooted Socio-Cultural Norms and Patriarchy:** Traditional beliefs, gender stereotypes, and patriarchal attitudes often restrict women's participation and acceptance of schemes. Certain practices and beliefs may discourage women from availing benefits or participating in schemes, especially those related to employment or education. Resistance from families and communities can impede women's access to benefits.
2. **Lack of Awareness and Education:** Many women are unaware of the schemes available or lack understanding of their rights. Limited literacy and information dissemination barriers prevent effective outreach.
3. **Corruption and Misallocation of Funds:** In many areas, funds intended for welfare programs can be diverted due to corruption in the government or affiliated organizations. So, this Corruption at various levels can lead to misappropriation of resources intended for women, reducing the schemes' effectiveness and eroding trust.
4. **Inadequate Infrastructure and Accessibility:** Remote and rural areas often lack proper infrastructure such as banking facilities, transportation, and communication networks, making scheme implementation difficult.
5. **Limited Capacity of Implementation Agencies:** Insufficient training, resources, and capacity-building among government officials and local agencies hamper smooth execution and monitoring.
6. **Economic Constraints and Poverty:** Poverty constrains women's ability to participate actively or utilize scheme benefits effectively, especially where schemes require initial investments or collateral.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation Challenges:** Lack of robust mechanisms for tracking progress and impact assessment can result in inefficiencies and failure to address emerging issues.
8. **Political and Administrative Challenges:** Political will, policy consistency, and administrative efficiency influence scheme implementation. Political interference and frequent policy changes can disrupt continuity.
9. **Political Influence-** Political motivations can occasionally influence welfare programs, manipulating their objectives to benefit particular populations or win elections. the effect of political meddling on social programs' effectiveness and fairness. Schemes lose their effectiveness when they stop addressing the actual needs of the populace and instead focus on winning votes.

In summary overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach involving community engagement, capacity building, transparent governance, targeted awareness campaigns, and context-specific policy design to ensure women-centered schemes reach their intended beneficiaries effectively.

Results and discussion

The Scheme 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has been warmly embraced and has been successful in making the reduction of the child sex ratio a national priority. As a result, there is now more public knowledge, sensitization, and conscientious building around the subject of falling CSR. It has improved Sex Ratio Birth at national level from 918(2014-15) to 930(2023-24) and state has saw an increase of SRB from 13/22 states while Maharashtra remained the same and seen an improvement by 2 points annually in critical districts. In regard to Sukanya Samridhi Yojana the achievements can be seen as increase in Girls Enrollment Ration(GER) from 75.51% in 2014-15 to 78% in 2023-24 and working together with the Ministry of Skill Development improved women's and girls' economic involvement and skill development. The scheme National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education has played a significant role in reducing gender disparities in school enrollment and retention. It has also contributed to increased awareness among families about the importance of girls' education. The program CBSE Udaan has received positive feedback for its role in promoting gender equality in education and has been recognized as a significant step towards inclusive development in education. Many girl students have gone on to excel in competitive exams, higher education, and professional fields, serving as role models in their communities. Overall, CBSE Udaan has made substantial strides in transforming the educational landscape for girl students in India, fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment for learning and growth. Significant coverage of the Lakhpati Didi project has been attained across India's several administrative divisions. Under the intense strategy, the Mission has covered 7132 blocks in 742 districts across all States and Union Territories (with the exception of Delhi and Chandigarh). This broad reach illustrates how widely the campaign is being implemented throughout the nation. Through the mobilization of a vast network of skilled personnel and potential beneficiaries, the Lakhpati Didi program has had a huge influence on rural areas. In order to help rural women achieve financial independence, the program has produced 3, lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and 6,611 Master Trainers. Additionally, 2.47 crore Potential Lakhpati Didis (PLDs) have been found and fostered nationwide under the program. To further improve the program's digital outreach and support systems, 44 lakh people have also registered in the Digital Aajeevika Register. This group effort demonstrates the scheme's revolutionary potential in empowering women and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The Stand Up India Mission has its progress with loan amounts increasing from Rs. 1,826.21 crore to Rs. 9,747.11 crore, the number of SC accounts increased from 9,399 to 46,248. With sanctioned loans rising from Rs. 574.65 crore to Rs. 3,244.07 crore, the number of ST accounts climbed from 2,841 to 15,228. With approved sums increasing from Rs. 12,452.37 crore to Rs. 43,984.10 crore, the number of women entrepreneurs' accounts increased from 55,644 to 1,90,844. The Stand-Up India Scheme has been a game-changing program that has enabled women, SC, and ST entrepreneurs to realize their entrepreneurial dreams. It continues to promote inclusive growth with notable successes in loan sanctioning and disbursements. Through STEP initiative thousands of youth across various states have received skill training since inception. The program has expanded its reach to include urban and rural areas, with a focus on tribal and marginalized communities. Numerous training centers have been established nation-wide. Collaborations with industry partners and vocational institutes to ensure quality training. Emphasis on both traditional trades and emerging sectors like IT, hospitality, and healthcare. Many beneficiaries have secured employment in organized sectors or started self-employment ventures. The program emphasizes post-training placement support to improve employment rates. The initiative working women hostel in India has seen significant progress over recent years, reflecting the government's and private sector's emphasis on improving safety, education, and employment opportunities for women. The scheme was started in 1972-73 and has expanded significantly over the years. As of 2021, there are over 800 working women's hostels across India. Increased Capacity to accommodate over 80,000 working women across the country. Expansion to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, not just metropolitan areas. High occupancy rates, indicating strong demand for such facilities. However, there are still gaps in availability of such hostels, especially in smaller cities and rural areas. Expanding the reach and capacity remains an ongoing focus.

Conclusion

The various schemes and initiatives undertaken by the Government of India over the decades have been instrumental in driving women's empowerment and ushering in greater gender equality in the country. From providing education and skills, to ensuring their safety and economic independence, these programs have sought to create an enabling environment for women to thrive and realize their full potential. While significant progress has been made, there is still a long way to go before we can achieve true gender parity in India. Persistent challenges like gender-based violence, low female labour force participation, and unequal access to resources continue to hamper the realization of women's rights and freedoms. Sustained and concerted efforts will be required on multiple fronts - legal, social, economic and political - to address these deep-rooted inequities. Greater awareness, robust implementation, and convergence of various schemes are critical to amplifying their impact and reach. As India marches towards becoming a more equitable and inclusive society, empowering its women will be central to this transformative journey. Only by unleashing the full potential of half its population can the country truly unlock its demographic dividend and emerge as a global leader. The schemes discussed in this paper represent important milestones in this ongoing quest for gender justice and equality

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