

An Analytical Study of Government Schemes Operated by the Uttar Pradesh Government from the Perspective of Women Empowerment

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Abstract-- Women empowerment is an integral part of India's comprehensive development. In a vast and diverse state like Uttar Pradesh, strengthening the social, economic, and political status of women has been a key priority of the state government.

This research paper analyzes various schemes implemented by the Uttar Pradesh Government—such as Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Mission Shakti, Mahila Shakti Kendra Yojana, Women's Participation in the ODOP Scheme, and Rani Laxmibai Mahila Evam Bal Samman Kosh Yojana.

The study aims to assess the real impact of these schemes in improving women's education, health, employment, safety, and self-reliance. The analysis is based on secondary data sources such as government reports, policy documents, and previously published research.

The findings reveal that these schemes have significantly contributed to women's empowerment in the state, though challenges such as slow implementation in rural areas, resource distribution gaps, and persistent patriarchal attitudes remain.

Keywords-- Women Empowerment, Uttar Pradesh, Government Schemes, Mission Shakti, Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Social Change

I. INTRODUCTION

Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian Constitution guarantee equality, freedom from discrimination, and equal opportunities for women.

Yet, gender inequality persists in many forms. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state of India, has nearly 48.5% female population; however, women still lag behind in education, health, employment, and political representation.

To address these disparities, the state government has launched several schemes in the last decade focusing on women's economic self-reliance, safety, and equal participation in decision-making processes.

II. CONCEPT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment refers to providing individuals or groups with the ability and opportunity to make decisions that affect their lives.

Women empowerment encompasses creating social, economic, political, and cultural conditions that enable women to take independent decisions.

Major Dimensions of Women Empowerment:

Educational Empowerment: Access to quality education and awareness.

Economic Empowerment: Employment, entrepreneurship, and financial independence.

Political Empowerment: Participation in decision-making and political institutions.

Social Empowerment: Elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence.

Digital Empowerment: Bridging the technological divide through digital literacy initiatives.

III. BACKGROUND: STATUS OF WOMEN IN UTTAR PRADESH

According to the 2011 Census, the female literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh is 59.3%, below the national average of 65.5%.

Child Sex Ratio: 912 (NFHS-5, 2021)

Female Labor Force Participation Rate: Around 18%

Political Representation: 33% reservation in local bodies, but limited actual participation

These indicators show that effective government schemes play a vital role in improving women's socio-economic condition in the state.

IV. MAJOR GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH

(a) Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana (2019)

Objective: Financial assistance for girls from birth to graduation. *Benefit:* ₹15,000 provided in six phases for education and health support.

Impact: Positive social attitude toward the girl child; improved enrollment and reduced dropout rates.

(b) Mission Shakti Abhiyan (2020)

Objective: Ensuring women's safety, dignity, and self-reliance. Components: "Shakti Week," Pink Booths, Women Help Desks, and Female Beat Police.

Impact: Increased reporting of crimes and improved grievance redressal mechanisms.

Analysis: The mission successfully changed public perception regarding women's security and rights.

(c) Mahila Shakti Kendra Yojana (Central-State Partnership)

Objective: Providing rural women with information, training, and employment opportunities.

Partners: National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Analysis: The program has improved digital literacy and skill development in rural regions.

(d) Rani Laxmibai Mahila Evam Bal Samman Kosh Yojana

Objective: Providing economic and psychological support to victims of crimes against women and girls.

Impact: Quick relief and assistance to affected women and increased trust in justice mechanisms.

(e) Women's Participation in the ODOP (One District One Product) Scheme

Objective: Promoting female entrepreneurship in traditional industries.

Examples: Women involved in zari embroidery (Ambedkar Nagar), perfume industry (Kannauj), brass work (Moradabad).

Analysis: The scheme has enhanced women's self-reliance and boosted local economic development.

(f) Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (State Implementation)

Objective: Improving the sex ratio and promoting girls' education. **Impact:** Enrolment of girls at the primary level increased to 93%.

Analysis: The campaign has significantly influenced social awareness and attitudes.

V. IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF SCHEMES

Sector

Positive Impact Challenges Education

Increased female enrolment through Kanya Sumangala Yojana Limited continuity in rural education

Employment

Rise in self-employment via ODOP and NRLM Limited capital and marketing access

Safety

Better reporting and police support via Mission Shakti Lack of awareness in remote areas

Health

Improved maternal and child nutrition Limited primary health facilities

Social Status

Growing gender equality awareness Slow attitudinal change in rural society

VI. CHALLENGES

Lack of awareness about schemes at the grassroots level. Weak monitoring and evaluation systems.

Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes.

Limited political participation of women in decision-making roles. Digital divide—low access to technology among rural women.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Uttar Pradesh Government has taken commendable steps toward women empowerment through multifaceted schemes. Programs like Mission Shakti and Kanya Sumangala Yojana have created visible positive changes in education, safety, and employment.

However, the success of these schemes depends largely on effective implementation, community participation, and consistent monitoring. True empowerment will be achieved only when women become educated, self-reliant, and secure — participating equally in all spheres of life.



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VIII. SUGGESTIONS

Establish local-level monitoring committees for each scheme. Provide special banking facilities and subsidies for women entrepreneurs.

Introduce gender-sensitization courses in schools and colleges. Recognize and reward successful women entrepreneurs at the state level.

Organize digital literacy and entrepreneurship camps in rural areas.

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