

GIST OF Kurukshetra MAGAZINE

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Important Articles
Simplified!

Financial Empowerment of Women

Schemes for Women Farmers

Women's Role in Jal Jeevan Mission

Health Linked Empowerment of Women

Technology Enabled Rural Development



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1. "Financial Empowerment Of Women"

Relevance

"GS 1: Role of Women, Salient Features of Indian Society, Social Empowerment, Women's Issues"

Introduction

- Investing in **women's economic empowerment** sets a direct path toward **gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth**.
- Women make enormous contributions to **economies**, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home.

<https://www.adda247.com/upsc-exam/analysis-of-kurukshetra-magazine-financial-empowerment-of-women-hindi/>

What is women's economic empowerment?

- Women's economic empowerment is the process by which women increase their right to economic resources and power to make decisions that benefit themselves, their families and their communities.
- Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a path for poverty reduction and for equality between men and women.

Impact of Covid-19 on imparting gender gap?

- According to the **World Economic Forum's "Global Gender Gap Report, 2021"** another generation of women will have to wait for gender parity due to Covid-19.
- As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt, closing the global gender gap has increased by a generation from **99.5 years to 135.6 years**.

Key Benefits of financial empowerment of Women

- Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing **women's rights and gender equality**.
- **Key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** - particularly **Goal 5**, to achieve gender equality, and **Goal 8**, to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **When more women work, economies grow** - it is estimated that gender gaps cost the economy some **15 per cent of GDP**.
- **Increasing women's and girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth** - Increased educational attainment accounts for about 50 per cent of the economic growth in **OECD countries** over the past 50 years.
- **Women's economic equality is good for business** - It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of organizational performance.

About UN Women

- UN Women is the **UN organization** dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.
- Several **international agreements** guide the work of UN Women.

Global Gender Gap Report 2021

- As per the **Global Gender Gap Report 2021** published by the **World Economic Forum**, India is ranked at **140 out of 156** countries with a score of **0.625 (out of 1)**.
- The Global Gender Gap Report provides scores on **Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)** which examines the gap between men and women in **four dimensions, namely, Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment**.

Why did India perform so poorly in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021?

- Compared to last year, Indian score has come down largely due to the '**Political Empowerment**' dimension.
- India's score in this dimension should be one of the highest in the world as India has provided **30% reservation** to women at **local self-government** level and representation of women in the local self-government bodies is **more than 30% at present**.
- However, the publishing agency, World Economic Forum, takes into account the representation of women in Parliament only.

Major initiatives by the Government of India for improving the Economic Participation of Women

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- It ensures the protection, survival and education of the girl child.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- It aims to empower girls in the age group 11-18 and to improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training.

Working Women Hostel

- It ensures the safety and security of working women.

The National Crèche Scheme

- It ensures that women take up gainful employment by providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment for the children.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana

- It aims to provide housing under the name of the woman also.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- It aims to enable a large number of Indian youths including women to take up industry-relevant skill training in securing a better livelihood.

DDU National Urban Livelihoods Mission

- It focuses on creating opportunities for women in skill development, leading to market-based employment.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna

- Under this scheme, girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts.

Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojna

- It is an exclusive training programme of MSME aimed at the skill development of women artisans engaged in the coir Industry.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

- It is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- It provides access to institutional finance to micro/small businesses.

2. "Schemes for Women Farmers"

Relevance

"GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions"

"GS 3: Welfare Schemes, Issues Related to Women"

Context

- The Central Government has been pushing the agenda of '**Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture**' by way of earmarking funds for women under various schemes/programmes and development interventions.
- The agricultural sector employs **80%** of all economically active women; they comprise **33%** of the agricultural labour force and **48%** of self-employed farmers.

What GOI is doing for Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture?

- It guided States and other implementing agencies to incur at least **30% expenditure on women farmers**.
- These schemes include Support to **State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

- '**Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)**', is a scheme as a sub-component of **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana — National Rural Livelihoods Mission)**.
- This scheme is being implemented since **2011** with the objective to empower women by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, and also create sustainable livelihoods for rural women.
- The program is implemented in project mode through **State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM)** as Project Implementing Agencies.

What is DAY-NRLM?

- Launched in the year **2011**, the **DAY-NRLM** aims to reach out to **9-10 crore** rural poor households by **2023-24**.
- Under **DAY-NRLM**, women-owned Producers Enterprises are promoted to provide better market access to their farm produce through aggregation and value addition.
- These Producers Enterprises are formal entities registered under the Producers Company, Cooperative and Trust Act.
- The Producers Enterprises are being supported for setting for value addition infrastructure, commodity procurement, and capacity building of members.

Training Mechanism for Women Farmers

- In order to familiarize women with the latest techniques in agriculture and allied sectors, trainings are being imparted to women farmers under schemes of **DA&FW and DAY-NRLM**.
- These include Support to **State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA) under Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)**.

- Skill training courses in agriculture and allied areas (of a minimum 200 hours duration) are also being conducted for farmers including women farmers through **National Training Institutes, State Agricultural Management & Extension Training (SAMETIs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)**, across the country.
- Under **DAY-NRLM**, the trainings on the agroecological practices are being provided through the community resource persons.
- KVKs established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) impart training to farmers including women farmers on various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors.

Measures to Increase the Participation Of Women Farmers

- Provision of 30% of funds for women under various beneficiary oriented schemes/programmes.
- Taking **pro-women initiatives** such as supporting **farm women's food security groups, undertaking macro/micro-level studies in critical thrust areas related to women in agriculture, delivery of Gender Sensitization Module on Gender Learning through training programmes at the National/Region/State Level, compilation and documentation of gender-friendly tools/technologies.**
- Farm Women Friendly Handbook and compilation of best practices/success stories of the women farmers, etc.

Conclusion

With women predominant at all levels of production- pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packaging, marketing- of the agricultural value chain, to increase productivity in agriculture, it is imperative to adopt gender-specific interventions.



3. "Women's Role in Jal Jeevan Mission"

Relevance

"GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions"

"GS 3: Skill Development, Employment"

Context

Since **August 2019**, the Government of India in partnership with the States is implementing **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal**, to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household in the country by **2024**.

What is Jal Jeevan Mission?

- Announced in **2019**, **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** is a huge step in improving the quality of life in villages and improving public health.
- **JJM** is under implementation in partnership with all the States to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household of the country.
- It is envisaged that **by 2024**, each household will have a potable tap-water supply in adequate quantity (**55 lpcd**) of prescribed quality (**BIS: 10,500**) on a regular and long-term basis.
- To implement this mission, institutional arrangements at various levels have been made.

How does JJM ensure Women Participation?

- A key benefit of the **JJM** is that the rural women, who suffer the drudgery of having to travel long distances to bring water home will be saved from the ordeal.
- Following this vision, it has been mandated that a minimum of **50% of the VWSC** members would be women.
- This accords them a significant role in village water governance suiting their traditional role as water managers.
- Alleviating rural women of their drudgery in fetching water and Village Water and Sanitation bringing them ease of living.
- While ease of living is envisaged to give rural women an opportunity in self-reliance or atmanirbharta, and leverage their experience as village water managers in **VWSCs**, women are also given the role of custodian of water quality in their villages.
- Under the Mission, each village will have a **cadre of 5 trained women** formed to monitor the tap water quality provided in homes.
- With the active participation of people especially women, and rural communities working together, **Jal Jeevan Mission has become a Jan Andolan.**

Bottom-Up Approach

- Jal Jeevan Mission is a '**bottom up**' approach where community plays a vital role from planning to implementation, management, operation and maintenance.
- To achieve this, **Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti** are being constituted and strengthened; Village Action Plan are developed through community engagement; Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) are engaged to support village communities in programme implementation and create awareness among people.

4. "Health Linked Empowerment Of Women"

Introduction

- Empowerment and protection of women and children who constitute **67.7%** of India's population and ensuring their wholesome development in a safe and secure environment are crucial for the sustainable and equitable development of the country.
- The prime objective is to address gaps in State action for women and children and to promote inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child-centred legislation, policies and programmes.
- 3 important Umbrella Schemes: **Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya.**
- All 3 Missions will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period from **2021-22 to 2025-26.**

Mission POSHAN 2.0

- It is an **Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.**
- It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in **children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers** through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a **convergent eco-system** to develop and promote practices that **nurture health, wellness and immunity.**
- **Poshan 2.0** will seek to optimize the quality and delivery of food under the **Supplementary Nutrition Program.**
- Under the programme, nutritional norms and standards and quality and testing of **THR** will be improved and greater stakeholder and beneficiary participation will be promoted besides traditional community food habits.
- Poshan 2.0 brought 3 important programmes/schemes under its ambit, viz., **Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Poshan Abhiyaan.**
- Poshan 2.0 focuses on **Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through AYUSH.** It rests on the pillars of **Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building.**

About Mission Shakti

- Mission Shakti envisages unified citizen-centric lifecycle support for women through **integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment** to unshackle women as they progress through various stages of their life.
- Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes '**Sambal**' and '**Samarthya**'.
- While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for the safety and security of women, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for the empowerment of women.

The Sambal sub-scheme

- It consists of the existing scheme of **One Stop Centres (OSC), Women Helplines (181-WHL) and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).**
- Besides, a new component of **Nari Adalats** has been added as women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.

The “Samarthya” sub-scheme

- It is for the empowerment of women, consisting of existing schemes of **Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel**.
- In addition, the **National Creche Scheme** for children of working mothers and the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, which have been under the Umbrella **ICDS Scheme** till now, are also subsumed in ‘Samarthya’.

Mission Vatsalya

- Children have been recognized by policymakers as one of the supreme national assets.
- The objective of **Mission Vatsalya** is to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India; foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for the development of children; assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the **Juvenile Justice Act 2015**; achieve the SDG goals.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme, for implementation across the country with effect from 01.01.2017.
- The maternity benefit under PMMVY is available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).



5. "Technology Enabled Rural Development"

Relevance

GS 2: Welfare Schemes

GS 3: Government Policies & Interventions

Introduction

- While development of our rural regions has always been a priority, the onset of **digitisation** has accelerated the pace of **rural development**.
- The GOI has launched many programs for the well-being of the common man across the country, particularly those living in rural areas and the underprivileged sections of society.

Key Government Schemes for Strengthening the PRIs

SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)

- Launched on National Panchayati Raj Day, **24th April 2020** with a resolve to enable economic progress of Rural India by providing a **"Record of Rights"** to every rural household owner.
- The scheme aims to demarcate **inhabited (Abadi)** land in rural areas through the latest surveying drone technology, which is a collaborative effort of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Departments, State Panchayati Raj Departments and Survey of India**.
- The scheme covers multifarious aspects viz. facilitating monetisation of properties and enabling bank loan; reducing property-related disputes; comprehensive village level planning, would be the stepping-stone towards achieving **Gram Swaraj** in true sense and making rural India **Atmanirbhar**.

e-Gram Swaraj

- In order to strengthen **e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**, eGramSwaraj, a Simplified Work Based **Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj**, was launched on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2020**.
- It has been developed amalgamating the functionalities of all the applications under **e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP)**.
- e-GramSwaraj assists in enhancing the credibility of Panchayat through inducing greater devolution of funds to PRIs.

Geo-tagging of assets

- Geo-tagging of the assets is done in all three stages viz. **(i) before start of the work, (ii) during the work and (iii) on completion of work**.
- This would provide a repository of information on all works and assets related to **natural resource management, water harvesting, drought proofing, sanitation, agriculture, check dams and irrigation channels etc.**

Audit Online

- As a part of the critical institutional reform, **XV FC** has stipulated that the audited reports of Panchayat accounts need to be made available in the public domain, as an eligibility criteria.
- In this regard, MoPR had conceptualized the application **"AuditOnline"** for carrying out an online audit of Panchayat accounts pertaining to **Central Finance Commission Grants**.
- It not only facilitates the auditing of accounts but also provisions for maintaining digital audit records pertaining to audits that have been carried out.

Rural Technology Advancements – Smart Vending Cart

- In its efforts towards leveraging technology for **Rural Development**.
- **The Smart Vending E-Cart**, designed by IIT Bombay, has been demonstrated and found to be quite appropriate for use the vendors / small businesses in rural, peri-urban and farm sectors.

Making Gram Sabhas Vibrant

- MoPR has also developed an online portal with dashboard to assimilate and display key performance parameters related to the operationalization of Vibrant Gram Sabhas in the States /UTs.
- The dashboard displays in real time the details of schedules of **Gram Sabha** and **the Panchayat subcommittees, mobilization efforts and IEC activities for awareness generation.**

Long Term Core Support through Technological Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA) scheme

- It includes **Technological Intervention for Addressing Societal Needs (TIASN), Technology Application for Livelihood Improvement of Scheduled Caste Population (TALIM-SC), Technology Intervention Programme for Disabled & Elderly Population, People & Protected Programme for Tribal Communities** living around Protected Areas to address livelihoods and conservation issues.

Women Technology Parks

- Women Technology Parks are created, wherein academia and field-based S&T agencies/organizations identify local challenges and address these through appropriate S&T interventions.

Schemes which directly impact the common man

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the implementing agency for **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**
- It aims to create a seamless online platform that will enable interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem.
- The mission has been conceptualized as a set of 'digital building blocks'. Each building block is seen as a '**digital public good**' that can be used by any entity in the digital health ecosystem and provides key capabilities that enable the ABDM vision.

ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)

- Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.
- This will enable creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers.
- Under the ABDM, a user can generate their unique ABHA number.

e-Shram

- e-Shram is a **portal created by the Ministry of Labor and Employment for the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector who are not members of the EPFO or ESIC.**
- Registered members will be eligible for a variety of benefits after signing up for the **Shramik Yojana** and receiving an **e-Shram card.**

National Optical Fibre Network(NOFN)

- The ambitious **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** promises to bring broadband connectivity to each Gram Panchayat in the country, providing rural citizens the opportunity to reap the benefits of accessing ICT enabled services- **public, private and social-** ensuring **inclusive economic and social growth.**

Common Services Centres or CSCs

- Common Services Centres or CSCs, set up under the CSC Scheme of MeitY, are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme and key access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.
- **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance)** is the common unified platform for the delivery of services of various Government Departments through the mobile platform.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

- The **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**, a Central Sector scheme which attempts to build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States to develop an appropriate **Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS)** across the country, on which different States can also add State-specific needs as they may deem relevant and appropriate.

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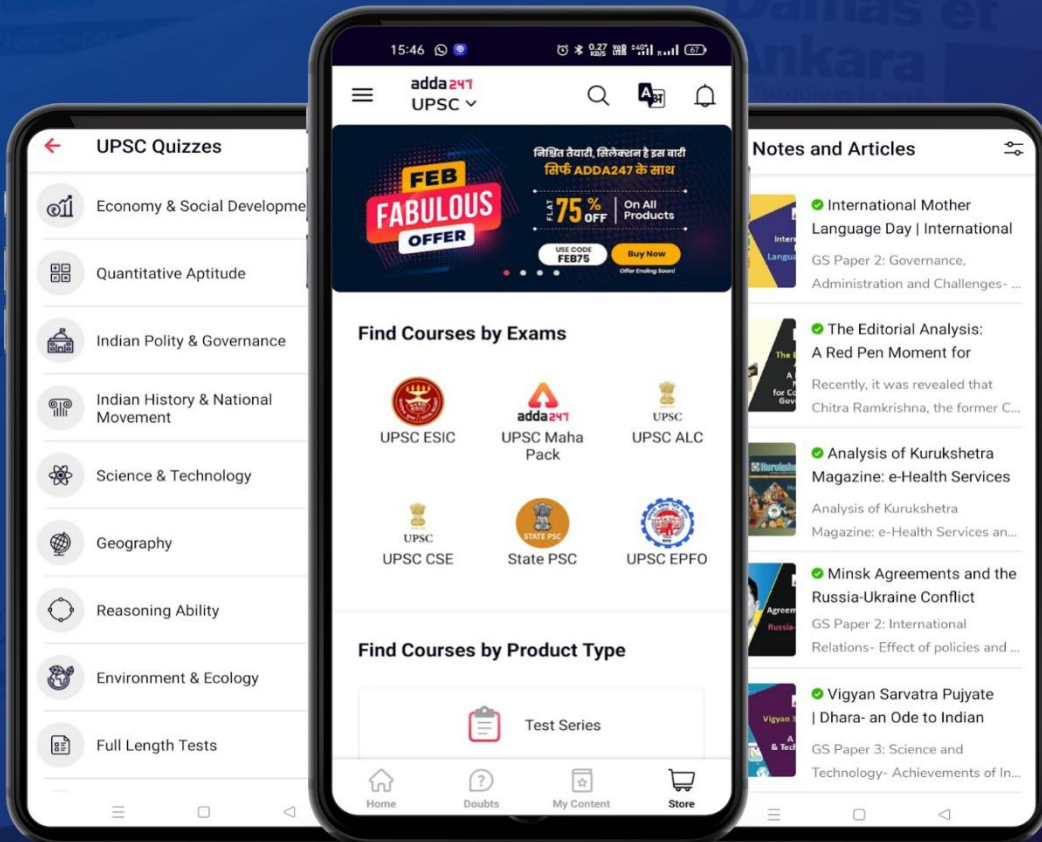
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