

Dr. MGR Government Arts and Science College for Women

Villupuram

BSW Department

Third Year Fifth Semester

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

I UNIT

- **Introduction**
- **Definition of the word 'Development'**
- **History of women status in Before independence**
- **Women's status in Post independence**
- **Participation in Decision making**
- **Concept of women in development**
- **Importance of women's development**
- **Status of women at present scenario**
- **Value reference for women's development in India**

Introduction

In early times, the status of women in India was inferior to man in the practical life. They are considered as the perfect home maker in the world. The scenario of women is slowly changing in recent years. Now a days, women are educated about social benefits, awareness about social problems, society and community, plan and promote better education to the society etc. Government and NGOs are encouraging them from social welfare activities.

Definition of the word ‘Development’

Development is the process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and democratic process. The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment.

Women in India before Independence:

In the pre-independence period, the status of women is male dominance. Due to this, the position of women was undermined. The major responsibility of the women were dedicated towards the implementation of households activities and they were not allowed to participated in the social activities and also not allowed to express their views and ideas. In addition, they were overwhelmed by the practice of polygamy, sati, child marriage and female infanticide.

Polygamy

The meaning of polygamy is having multiple spouses (i.e) having more than one husband or wife at the same time. Polygamous marriage was common in Pre – independence India.

Sati

One of the serious challenges that are experienced by all the activities and reformers was the prevalence of the system of widow immolation or sati. In this system, The Hindu widowers climbed upon the funeral pyres of their husbands and get burned along with them. This system was also prevalent in ancient India. Raja Ram Mohan Ray was a great reformer who abolished the sati along with the assistance of Lord William Bentick.

Child Marriage

Child Marriage was regarded as a serious concern that imposed negative effects upon the overall quality of life of the individual. Girls who suffered a much greater as compared to boys. Girls were usually discouraged from the acquisition of education or get engaged in any forms of

childhood activities. They were trained in terms of implementation of household responsibilities and taking care of the need and requirement of the family members. Due to the efforts made by Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar to abolish the practice of child marriage.

Widow remarriage

The condition of widow was detrimental. They were required to experience number of problems, which made their lives despondent. The major challenges and problems that they not allowed to participate in any social, religious, cultural and political activities. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahadev Ranadey and Dayanandha Saraswathi are the one who rendered a significant contributed in the reform movements of widow remarriage.

Female infanticide

Female Infanticide is referred to the killing of the girl child after she had been born. The practice of female infanticide was common among certain castes in India.

Women's status in Independence India

Women in India now participated fully in areas such as education, sports, politics, media, arts and culture service sector and technology.

Role of women in family

The role of women in the management of household responsibilities is regarded as an integral part of their lives within the country. This aspect is regarded important since ancient times. In the modern period, transformation came about their lives and women participated in acquisition of education and employment opportunities. In spite of their participation in these areas, they rendered a significant contribution in the management of the household responsibilities, it is vital for women to acquire information in terms of various aspects. These include child development, health care and wellbeing, diet and nutrition, cleanliness, maintenance and so forth.

Since the ancient times, women need to be trained in terms of the implementation of household responsibilities. They are believed that women are not meant to get enrolled in schools to acquire education and not to get engaged in any types of employment opportunities.

In modern period, they began to recognize the significance of education, employment opportunities and brought about improvement within their overall quality of lives.

Participation in decision making

In the implementation of domestic affairs, the decision making is taken on the basis of numbers of factors. These are purchase of different items; prefer eating healthy food, maintenance of

home and taking care of child development. The participation of women in the making of decisions regarding finances, they are dependent upon the male members.

Role of Women in Family

- **As a Wife**
Women is a man's helpmate, partner and comrade she creates necessary environment for her male partner to think more about the economics upliftment of family.
- **As an Administrator and leader of the household**
A well ordered disciplined household is essential to normal family life. She is the chief executive of an enterprise. She assigns duties among family members according to their interest and abilities and provides resources in terms of equipment and material to accomplish the job. As an administrator, she organize various social function in the family for social development. She also acts as a director of recreation.
- **As the manager of family income**
Women acts as the humble manager of the family income. It is her responsibility to secure maximum return from every spent. The women in the family also contributes to the family income through her own earning within or outside home.
- **As a mother**
The whole burden of child bearing and greater part of child rearing task are carried out by the women in the family. She is primarily responsible for the child's habit of self control, orderliness. Her contacts with the child during the most formative period of his development set up his behavior pattern. She is the responsible for maintenance of utmost discipline in the family.
- She is the first teacher of the child. She transmits social heritage to the child. It is from mother that the child learns manner of men, moral code and ideals.
- As a mother, she is the family health officer. She is very much concerned about physical wellbeing of every family members of the family, the sickly child, parents.
- The women performs the role of women, partner, organizer, administrator, director, recreator, disburser, economist, mother, disciplinarian, teacher, health officer, at the same time. Apart from it, women plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the society.

Concept of women in development

Women in development (WID) is an approach of development projects that emerged in the 1960s, calling for treatment of women's integration of women into the global economics by improving their status and assisting in total development.

Importance of women development

- Empowering more women to work, results in better growth of third world economics.

- Women's equality is vital to sustainable development.
- They should have proportional right to contribute to society, economics, education and politics.

Role of Women in Society

Women are considered as a goddess in the society especially in India. For many years even after all the struggle and fight, they are still being ill-treated by this male dominating society. Now women are considered a very important part of everybody's life. Apart from doing household responsibility, women has also started taking part in many activities related to finance, investments, etc.

Various changes have been seen and impacted the role of women in society. Now women have gained a lot of ground in politics, the workforce, social welfare, etc. The modern society and workforce are filled with powerful women who play their leadership roles in offices is a very impactful and efficient manners. Women are in powerful position in various large scale companies.

According to Statistics, women hold up to 22% seats in the state legislation. Women acts as a volunteers for social service too.

Status of women at present scenario

The women have completely transformal in the modern day, the urban women especially has changed from being a mere home maker to the modern day multitasking women, handling responsibility without fear. She had taken on the world with confident. Women of today handled their duties and chores at homes, nurture their children and balance their family lives with their professions. Modern day women are independent, takes right decisions boldly, stand up their rights and walks the path of success.

Women are well educated today, and their presence can be felt in male dominated area. Women have been sent on many space missions. Women rise as journalists, politicians, doctors, engineers, lawyers, actor and in many other professional spere.

During the modern period, there is a steady development in the women's status. There were many women reformer in India, who worked for uplift and betterment of their female counter parts. Women in India were given freedom and rights such as freedom of expression and equality as well as right to be educated.

There are various scholarships that benefits women in India to achieve their carries by going back to school on various to among institution. Many NGOs in India also offers support to women in order to benefits them in education.

The status of women in India has greatly improved and there are many women are in prestigious position in government and private agency.

Population:

- As per Census 2011, India's population was 121.06cr and the female constituted 48.5% of it.
- In 2011, the sex ratio (number of female per 1000 males) at all India was 943 and the same for rural and urban area are 946 and 929 respectively.

Literacy and Education

As per 2011, the literacy rate at all India level was 72.98% and the literacy rate for females and males are 64.63% and 80.9% respectively. During this decade the highest improvement in literacy rate was observed for rural females(24%). The highest numbers of female judges is a each in Madras, Bombay, Punjab and Haryana High court.

Value reference for Womens development in India.

Mother Teresa:

Mother Teresa is honored in the roman catholic church as Saint Teresa . She is known for being one of the most selfless human beings in the world because of her work in uplift the poor. She even received a Noble Prize for peace in 1979.

Indira Gandhi:

Indira Gandhi is the only female Prime Minister in the history of India.

Kalpana Chawla:

Kalpana Chawla was a true example of bravery as she was the first Indian women go into space.

Mary Kom:

One of the strongest women is the world. The title "Magnificent Mary" has been given to her for reason. She went on to become the world Amateur Boxing Champion for a record six times. She was the first female boxer from India to win a gold in the Asian Games.

Laxmi Agarwal, Acid Victim:

Laxmi Agarwal is an acid attack survivor, Against this, in the year 2006. She failed a PIL and asked the supreme court to ban the acid. Laxmi speaks for the rights of a acid victim. She is now

the founder of stop cell Acid. Laxmi also received the 'International Women Empowerment Award 2019' from the ministry of women and child development.

Conclusion:

Women represents half the world's population and gender inequality exists in every nation of the planet. Until women are given the same opportunities than men are, entire societies will be destined to perform below their true potentials. The greatest need of the hour is change of social attitude to women.

Model Questions

2 Marks

1. Explain the role of women in family.
2. Definition of Development
3. Explain about women in development
4. Status of women in Society
5. Role of women in community.
6. State some values of women reference.
7. Explain about women and development

5 Marks

1. Role of women in family, community and society.

10 Marks

1. Status of women in india.

II Unit

- **Introduction**
- **Definition and concept of the family**
- **Functions of the family**
- **Structure of the family**
- **Gender roles in India**
- **Decision making in family, community and society**

Introduction:

Given the importance of family relationship in most women's lives it is not surprising that the family has occupied a central part in feminist theory and research.

Definition and concept of family

Structural definition of the family characteristically defines the characteristics of family members such as those who share a place of residence, or who are related through blood ties or legal contracts.

According to Census Bureau, “A householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage and adoption”.

Functions of the family

- Sharing resource and economic property.
- A caring and supportive relationship.
- Commitment to or identification with others family members.
- Preparation of children born or raised by the member to become adult members of the society.

Structure of the family

Family structure should be a husband, a wife and children.

Types of Family

There are two kinds of family. One is Nuclear family and another one is Extended family.

Nuclear family:

The term Nuclear family refers to the unit consisting of a married couple and their dependent children.

Extended family

Extended family refers to a family system wherein several generations live in one household.

Gender Roles in India:

Husbands are breadwinners, the women generally take care of the household activities, besides bearing and rearing children. Our wide spread educational programs and improvement of educational facilities for girls, women nowadays are accepting jobs outside the home and contributing financially to the family budget. Women also aware of their rights and the importance of their involvement in day-to-day family matter, the status of women has increased significantly. Due to all these measures, women now a days actively participated not only in their family affair, but also in social and political activities in the communities.

Approaches to the decision making

Three primary decision making approaches: Avoiding, Problem solving and Problem seeking. Every decision-making process reaches a conclusion, which can be a choice to act or not to act, a decision on what course of action to take and how, or even an opinion or recommendation. Sometimes decision making leads to redefining the issue or challenge. Accordingly, three decision-making processes are known as avoiding, problem solving, and problem seeking. a) Avoiding One decision-making option is to make no choice at all. There are several reasons why the decision maker might do this: There is insufficient information to make a reasoned choice between alternatives. The potential negative consequences of selecting any alternative outweigh the benefits of selecting one. No pressing need for a choice exists and the status quo can continue without harm. The person considering the alternatives does not have the authority to make a decision. b) Problem Solving Most decisions consist of problem-solving activities that end when a satisfactory solution is reached. In psychology, problem solving refers to the desire to reach a definite goal from a present condition. Problem solving requires problem definition, information analysis and evaluation, and alternative selection. c) Problem Seeking On occasion, the process of problem solving brings the focus or scope of the problem itself into question. It may be found

to be poorly defined, of too large or small a scope, or missing a key dimension. Decision makers must then step back and reconsider the information and analysis they have brought to bear so far.

Decision Making- Women

Decision making about personal and social affairs affects the whole family members and decision making by men/women enhances the status of the individual in the family. Women lives with multiple role and duties; and sometimes they provide support to their family as a mother, a wife, a daughter and a sister.

Women's decision making power on family relies on several factors such as socio-cultural factors, religion and their education, employment, marital status and type of family. Women's participation in decision making in working life, in the family, in the organization and in public life and also started as a remover of the barrier of gain the decision making power within the women in Indian society.

Higher education status of women had full freedom to give their choice or consent for getting married. On the other hand, less educated and illiterate. Women had no consent for a choice of getting married.

In political issues likes votes for election highly educated women had a choice for decision making in casting their votes to anyone, but the scenario was totally changed in case of illiterate and primary level educated women their decision of votes influenced by their husbands.

Most of this issue are resolved by the household head, generally male members, where the role of women in decision making is neglected.

Decision making in family

Making decisions in life can be a difficult task. Throughout your life you will make decisions that will affect your life. In fact, the decisions you make today will not only impact your future, but also other people at the world in which you live. Decision making involves thinking talking and searching for information related to a problem. You gather that help you with the decisions you need to make. When families and individuals know their values, they use them as a guide for all aspects of life. Whether choosing a career, using money, or deciding what to wear, values are the basics for all decisions. Most decisions are not made all at once. Decisions take time to complete.

a) Four Factors Influencing Family Decision Making

- Sex-role stereotypes - separation of decision-making for sex-typed products.
- Spousal Resources - spouse contributing the greater resources (usually, but not always, money) has the greater influence.

- Experience - individual decisions are made more frequently when the couple has gained experience as a decision-making unit.
- Socio-Economic Status - middle class families make more joint decisions than either upper or lower class families.

Factors affecting decision making by women

Poverty, lack of access to basic resources, lack of access to political party list, low salaries, and discrimination in the workplace are considered as a root causes of women's under representation in economic and political decision making.

If women have to be concerned with survival, there is a little time to left for assuming position of leadership and economic power.

Recognition of women's unpaid work and the need for sharing of family and households responsibilities, along with training in non-traditional skills, are key factor to help explain why so few women worldwide have decision – making power in the households, community and economy.

Model Questions

2 Marks

1. Meaning and definition of family.
2. Functions of family.
3. Types of family.
4. What do you mean by gender roles?
5. Importance of decision making in family.
6. Status of women in decision making in family.
7. What are the factors influencing women in decision making.

5 Marks

1. Role of women in decision making in family.

2. Barriers of women in decision making in family.

10 Marks

1. Role of women in decision making in family, society and Political level.

III unit

- **Introduction**
- **Causes of the problems against women**
- **Effects of the problems against women**
- **Problems faced by women**
- **Child Marriage**
- **Dowry**
- **Female Infanticide**
- **Female Foeticide**
- **Educational backwardness**
- **Deserted and Divorced women**
- **Prostitute**
- **Trafficking**
- **Rape**
- **Women and Media**
- **Women empowerment**

Introduction:

In the early days, there were several issues like the Sati system, no widow remarriage, devadasi system and more. While most of them are not prevalent now, there are new issues that women face a lot. They may not be the same but they are still as severe as the early ones.

Causes of problems against women:

Gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world.

Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social norms that prescribe men and women's role in society and condone abuse. Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private sphere of life, and across social, economic and cultural and political rights, and are manifested in restriction and limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities. These inequalities can increase women's and girl's risk of abuse, for example due to economic dependency and limited survival and income-earning options, or discrimination under the law as it relates to marriage, divorce and child custody rights.

Effects of problems against women

Violence against women can cause long term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affects not just the women involved but also their children families and communities. These effects includes harm to an individual's health, possibly long term harm to children and harm to community such as lost work or homelessness.

Child Marriage:

“Child” means a person who, if a male has not completed twenty one years of age and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age;

“Child Marriage”, means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child.

“Minor” means a person of either sex who is under eighteen years of age>

Various reasons for child marriage:

Child marriage often occurred throughout history and are still prevailing due to variety of reasons including:

- Poverty
- Insecurity
- Political and financial reasons
- Lack of education
- Patriarchy and gender inequalities
- Inadequate implementation of laws

Effects of Child Marriage

- Early Pregnancy- Health complications
- Inabilities to plan or manage families
- Effect on sexual health of young girls
- Desire for male child
- High difference in age between bride and bridegroom

Child marriage is considered as one of the burning and hot issues of Indian society. It refers to a social phenomenon practiced in some societies in India, where a young girl is married to an adult man. Child marriage constitutes a gross violation of human rights, leaving physical , psychological and emotional scars for life. Usually sexual activities starts soon after marriage and pregnancy and child birth at an early age can lead to maternal as well as infant mortality. Moreover, girls and women who marry at a younger age are more likely to experience domestic violence within their matrimonial home.

Facts about child marriage in India:

- In India, it is estimated that there are over 24 million child brides.
- According to the International Centre for Research on Women, India has the 14 highest rates of child marriage in the world.
- Child marriage rates are lower in South- East India. Higher is the North-West India of the country.
- Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andra Pradesh and Karnataka are the state with the highest rate of child marriage.

Laws against the child marriage in India

The Child marriage Restraint Act of 1929

The Child Marriage Restraint Act which is also known as Sarda Act was a law enacted to restrain the practices of Child Marriage. Its main goals was to eliminate the stress of married life and to avoid early death and early widow among the young girl. This act defined a male child as 21 years or younger and a female child as 18 years or younger. The punishment prescribed for a male to members between the age gaps of 18 to 21 was imprisonment of 15 days or fine of Rs. 1000/- or both. The punishment prescribed for a parent or guardian of the child taking place in the child marriage was imprisonment of up to three months or a possible fine.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006

Child Marriage is prohibited in India as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

This Law:

- Provides for maintenance for the girl in a child marriage
- Allows anyone who was a child at the time of getting married to legally do it.
- Treats children born out of child marriages to be legitimate and makes provision for their custody and maintenance.
- Consider certain kinds of child marriage where there was a force or trafficking as marriages which never happened legally.

It is a Crime:

- To attend or take part in a child marriage (as a parent or guardian)
- To allow, encourage or fail to stop a child marriage
- To perform or help with a child marriage in any way.
- For an adult male to marry a child wife.

Hindu Marriage Act 1956

As a part of the legislature under section 11 and 12 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and express provisions in the same, the status of child marriage in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 appears to be uncertain.

1. That the child marriage in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 is not valid in view of Section 5, or
2. That the child marriage in Hindu Marriage Act is neither void nor voidable but renders valid.

Dowry

Dowry is a social evil in society that has caused unimaginable torture and crimes towards women and polluted the Indian Marital system. Dowry is payment made in cash or kind to a bride's in-laws at time of her marriage.

Today the government has come up with many laws (The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961) and reform not only to eradicate the dowry system, but also to uplift the status of the girl child by bringing in many schemes.

However, During to the social nature of this problem, the legislation has failed to produce the desired results in our society.

In order to get rid of this problems, appealing to the social and moral consciousness of the people, providing education and economic independence of women, and effective enforcement of legislation against the dowry system.

Impact of dowry system

❖ Gender discrimination

Due to the dowry system, many times women are seen as a liability and are often subjected to subjugation and are given second hand treatment may it be in education or other amenities.

❖ Affecting career of women

The larger context for the practice of dowry is the poor presence of women in the workforce, and their consequent lack of financial independence. The poorer section of society who send their daughter out to work and earn some money, to help them save up for her dowry.

- ❖ Many women end up being unmarried
An uncountable number of girls in the country, despite being educated and professionally competent, remain endless unmarried because their parents cannot fulfill the demand for pre-marriage dowry.
- ❖ Objectification of women
Contemporary dowry is more like an investment by the bride's family for plugging into powerful connection and money making opportunities.
- ❖ Crime against women
In some cases, the dowry system leads to crime against women, ranging from emotional abuse and injury to even deaths.

To eradicate Dowry System

- Educating girls
- Creating social stigma around dowry
- Multi stakeholder approaches
- Recognizing limitations of political solution to social problems.

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

According to Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 "Dowry Means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly".

Dowry Prohibition Act enacted on May 1961 intended to prevent the giving or receiving of the dowry. Under the Dowry Prohibition Act, Dowry includes property, goods or money given by either party to the marriage, by the parents of either party or by anyone else in connection with the marriage.

Penalty for giving or taking dowry. If any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.

Female Infanticide

Infanticide is the act of deliberately causing the death of a very young child under 1 year old.

Types of female infanticide

There are two type of female infanticide. They are

1. Direct or Active Infanticide

Direct or active infanticide killing the baby deliberately, by means of dehydration or starvation, suffocation or head injuries.

2. Indirect or Passive Infanticide

Indirect or passive infanticide by with adequate nutrition, neglected or careless parenting, especially who the baby get sick.

Causes of female infanticide

Poverty, dowry system, births to unmarried women, deformed infants, famine, lack of support services and maternal illness such as postpartum depression are among the causes that have been proposed to explain the phenomenon of female infanticide in India.

Female Foeticide

Abortion of female foetus is called foeticide. This is major social problems in India. Social discrimination against women and a preference for sons have promoted. It is estimated that more than million female fetuses have been illegally aborted in India. Pre- natal sex determination was banned in India in 1994 under the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act . The act aim to prevent sex-selective abortion. Certain castes regularly practiced female infanticide and female foeticide.

Causes of female foeticide

1. the root causes of female foeticide is the dowry system in our society. A large number of girls are killed outside the womb due to fear of dowry by many poor class families.
2. Girls are considered as financial obligation by many parents. They conceived that money spent on a girl will be total waste as she will go to her in- laws home after the marriage.
3. The other root causes of female foeticide is rise in the inflammation. Due to rise in inflation parents think hundred times before giving birth to a girl child. They worry about the educating and marrying their daughter.
4. The advancement in technology is the major cause of female foeticide. Nowadays parents determine the sex of a child before birth and kill if not according to their choice.
5. Corruption is another major factor is the rise of female foeticide.

Consequences of female foeticide:

Due to female foeticide there is steep decrease is the female population. Due to which it is becoming difficult to find girls for marriage. This in turn leads to girls traffickling.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act , 1971

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 was conceived as a tool to let the pregnant women decide on the number and frequent of children. It further gave them the right to decide on having or not having the child.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994

The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994. The act was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection and to arrest the decline in the child sex ratio as revealed by the census of 2001 and with effect from 2003.

The main purpose of enacting the PC&PNDT (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994 has been to

1. Ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception.
2. Prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions.
3. Regulate such techniques stringent punishment have been prescribed under the Act for using Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques to illegally determines the sex of the fetus.

Educational Backwardness:

Education is one of the most significant means for empowering an individual or community especially women and girls. Level of education attainment and literacy rate are indicators of general development of any society. Gender equality and empowerment of women are indispensable for achieving prosperity and sustainable development.

Factors inhibiting female literacy

A variety of factors have been found to be responsible for poor female literate rate, via.,

- Gender based inequality
 - Social discrimination and economic exploitation
 - Occupation of girl child in domestic chores
 - Low enrolment of girls in schools
 - Low retention rate and high dropout rate
- Importance of girl's education in India

Girl's education is one of the most effective ways for ending poverty in developing nations. The benefits of their education are seen by individuals, their families and

throughout society. These benefits includes: Reducing the number of babies women have, lowering infant and child mortality rates, lower maternal or mortality rates, protecting against HIV/AIDS infection, Increased numbers of women with jobs and higher earnings. Girl's education helps to eliminate illiteracy, develop self-esteem and self- confidence.

Education for girls can have the benefits of delaying marriage and pregnancy for young girls instead of a girl getting married before age 20 and often suffering abuse by her husband.

Major initiatives for improvements of girl's education in India

Government of India has taken different initiatives for improvement in girl's education.

Article 15: Prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religions, race, caste, sex and place of birth.

Article 45: The state shall endeavour to provide early childcare and education for all children until they completed the age of six years.

Mahila Samakhya Programme: Mahila Samakhya is an ongoing scheme for women's empowerment that was initiated in 1989 to translate the goals of the National Policy on Education into a concrete programme for the education and empowerment of women in rural areas particularly those from socially and economically marginalized group.

Kasthurba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme: This scheme was launched in July 2004, to provide education to girls at primary level. It is to girls at primary level. It is primarily for the underprivileged and rural areas where literacy level for girls is low.

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level: This programme was launched in July 2003. It was an incentive to reach out to the girls who the SSA was not able to reach through other schemes. The SSA called out to the "hardest to reach girls".

National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education: This was launched in May 2008 with the objectives to establish an enabling environment to reduce the dropouts and to promote the enrolling of girl children belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools. Indira Gandhi National Scholarship Scheme is provided for single girl child for pursue both higher and technical education.

Education status of women in India:

As per the 2011 Census, the total literacy rate in India stands at 74.00 percent and the rate of literacy among women is 65.46 percent. The percentage of female literacy in the

country was 54.16 percent in 2001. The literacy rate in the country has increased from 18.33 percent in 1951 to 74.00 percent as per 2011.

Deserted and Divorced Women

Deserted women, cast away women thrown away women, are different terms used interchangeably for women who are thrown out of their marital homes or in some cases who have chosen to step themselves.

Deserted means to abandon leave or run away. Deserted women are a group of women who have been abandoned or left out by their husbands after marriage without any time limitation. The reason for desertation are many. The most important reason for desertation of women irrespective of their socio-economic, religious and cultural status are the extra marital relationship or bigamy of husband. Moreover, demand of excess dowry after marriage and ill treatment of wives without any reason also leads to desertation.

Problems faced by women

Economic Problem: In urban area, deserted women have to pay house rent and other bills such as electricity and gas on their own which are very expensive considering their income level. Females are economically dependent upon male breadwinners for their **support along with their children.**

Physical insecurity and harassment: Apart from their economic , physical insecurity is also a serious challenges for them, especially those who are all young. Absence of the male guardian places them at risk of sexual harassment and many of them are abused both at home and workplace.

Low social status: Women without male guardian is considered to be lower social status.

Problems of rearing children: Rearing children is considered a burden to deserted women. Due to lack of financial support, they are usually forced to engage is more than one job or have longer working hours.

Lack of assets: Deserted women own very few assets. It is found the most of them are deprived of a husband's property. Along with poverty, their unregistered marriage and lack of contact with their in-laws family makes them asset less.

Women Trafficking

Women are one of the major groups considered most vulnerable to human traffickling. For purpose of sexual or commercial exploitation, women and girls are kidnapped, sold and coerced by slavery in the world.

Traffickling means illegal trade. The term traffic was first used to refer the so called 'white slave trade' in women around 900. Trade of white women from Europe to Arab and Eastern states as concubines/prostitutes was a concern for men, women, and government of European countries. Trafficking is simply exploitation of vulnerability. Structural causes of trafficking are a complex process of linkages between poverty and gender discrimination globalization, culture, migration and feminization of poverty that increase vulnerability of women and girls, stimulating push factors and demand in specific sectors.

Cause of women trafficking in India

- Poverty
- Inadequate educational, gender disparities in access to opportunities and lack of social safety-nets.
- Status of violence against women
- Women who are unaware of their legal rights and remedies
- Caste based discrimination
- Child labour
- Child marriage

Impact of Women traffickling

Health consequences

- The psychological effects of traffickling are more neglected than the social and physical consequences.
- Victims suffered from physical and emotional trauma such as post traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and drug addiction.
- Victims are also at a high risk for sexually transmitted infections

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Children Act 1956 was given assent on 30th December 1956 and was made applicable to the whole of India. Laterly it wwas changed to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956. The PITA aims to stop Immoral Traffickling and Prostitution in India.

Rape or Sexual

The unlawful sexual activity, most often involving sexual intercourse, against the will of the victim through force or the threat of force or with an individual who is capable of giving legal consent because of minor status, mental illness, mental deficiency, introduction, unconsciousness or deception.

Effects of sexual assault/ Rape

Physical

- Bruising
- Bleeding
- Broken or dislocated bones
- Sexually Transmitted Infection
- Pregnancy

Mental

- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Night Mares
- Severe anxiety
- Uncontrolled thoughts
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Dissociation

Emotional

- Changes in trusting others
- Anger and blame
- Shock
- Numbness
- Loss of Control
- Disorientation
- Helplessness

Women and Media

Communication is extremely important for women's development and mass media plays a significant role. It is noted that growth of women's education and their entry into employment

has contributed to the growth of media. Media does not address serious issue about exploitation and unequal treatment.

Media has an important role to play – to create awakening in women to achieve their potential as the prime movers of change in society. In today's world, print and electronic media play a vital role in effectively conveying message that needs to be conveyed. Portrayal of women by the Media does not address serious issues about exploitation and unequal treatment to women in different spheres but in reporting sex related incidents by way of sensationalizing news of atrocities on women. Thus instead of highlighting the exploitation of woman they end up becoming one of the reasons in increase of violence as their coverage more often than not tend to glorify the crime against women. Generally, women's problems never figure on the front page of a newspaper unless it is a gruesome murder or a case of rape. Newspapers even on women's page does not usually address relevant issues for women empowerment but reporting is concerned with beauty tips recipes, fashion syndrome etc. It is unfortunate that there is lack of sensitivity among the newspapers in general to women and their problems.

The Media Advocacy Group made the following recommendations on reporting violence against the women.

(i) Media needs to take an extended, broader view of crimes against women. It has to be instrumental in conducting a social audit on factors responsible for increasing crimes, particularly against women and children, including indifferent investigative procedures, miscarriage of justice, and growing social impunity of the perpetrators of crime.

(ii) It also has to be instrumental in creating an awareness among civil society of the causes and nature of the crime itself, and of the preventive measures.

(iii) When treating these issues, media has to be extremely factual and empirical.

Women Empowerment

The term empowerment of women refers to the process of providing power to women to become free from the control of others, that is, to assume power to control her own life and to determine her own conditions.

“Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of women. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities”.

According to K. Sayulu, G. Sardar & B. Sridevi, (2005)¹¹ “Women empowerment is any process that provides greater autonomy to women through the sharing of relevant information and provision of control over factors affecting their performance”.

Characteristics of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment possesses certain characteristics. They are the following:

1. Women empowerment is giving power to women; it is making women better off.

2. Women empowerment enables a greater degree of self-confidence and a sense of independence among women.
3. Women empowerment is a process of acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights and to perform her responsibilities towards oneself and others in a most effective way.
4. Women empowerment gives the capacity or power to resist discrimination imposed by the male dominated society.
5. Women empowerment enables women to organise themselves to increase their self- reliance.
6. Women empowerment provides greater autonomy to women.
7. Women empowerment means women's control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology.
8. Women empowerment challenges traditional power equations and relations.
9. Women empowerment abolishes all gender-based discriminations in all institutions and structures of society.
10. Women empowerment means participation of women in policy and decision making process at domestic and public levels.
11. Women empowerment means exposing the oppressive power of existing gender and social relations.
12. Empowerment of women makes them more powerful to face the challenges of life, to overcome the disabilities, handicaps and inequalities.
13. Empowerment of women enables women to realise their full identity and powers in all spheres of life.
14. Empowerment also means equal status to women.
15. Empowerment also means providing greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan their lives and freedom from the shackles imposed on them by custom belief and practice.
16. Women empowerment occurs within sociological, psychological, political, cultural, familial and economic spheres and at various levels such as individual, group and community.
17. Empowerment of women is an on going dynamic process which enhances women's abilities to change the structures and ideologies that keep them subordinate.
18. Women empowerment is a process of creating awareness and capacity building.

Need and Importance of Women

As a Women

Women constitute 70 per cent of the world's poor population or almost 900 million of the 1.3 billion people who live in absolute poverty. Two-thirds of the world's illiterate populations of 876 million people are women. They produce 50 per cent of the food worldwide but receive only 10 per cent of the incomes. Women access to and ownership of resources is less than that enjoyed by men. And even among those who own property, the control of its use and dispensation vests more often with some male member of the family. In many communities women cannot, or do not, inherit land. This means not only that they cannot earn through cultivation, but also that they do not have collateral with which they could seek credit for income generating activities like the men can.

Feminisation of poverty (rise in the proportion of women among the poorer strata) has been noticed as a phenomenon in most developing countries. The men move up faster during such development grabbing greater opportunities that women are unable to access because of gender handicaps. Even the official Country Report for India presented at 4th World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995 observed that 'the percentage of women among the extremely poor is disproportionately large' adding that intra household inequalities can be significant necessitating special attention for poor women.

Earnings

Women's average earnings are consistently lower than those of men but in the unorganized sector, which account for 94 per cent of economically active women, earnings are even lower.

Health

Several studies have recorded a gender asymmetry in the utilisation of health services during illness fewer women than men seek and receive treatment. Attendance and admission figures at hospitals are significantly lower for women than for men; for every three men who avail hospital facilities there is only one woman who does so. In terms of food intake, women suffer greater deprivation intra family (women eat last as part of the culture of self- effacement and services to

other- and if there is insufficient food the men and children get fed first and the women do without.). A very systematic sex bias is also reflected in higher nutritional or caloric deficiency among girls vis-a-vis boys. And because of gender bias in the allocation of food, malnutrition is a significant factor in many of the female death under 24 years of age that take place due to complications of pregnancy and child birth. The U.N.Development Fund for Women estimates that 50 per cent of the women in Asia and Africa are malnourished.

Equal rights for men and women are enshrined under Articles 14 to 16 in the Indian constitution, which came into effect on 26 January 1950. Discrimination based on gender is strictly prohibited. Indian women received universal suffrage during India's independence in 1947, long before several Western countries granted women the right to vote. India was the second country in modern history to have a female leader, Indira Gandhi, in 1966 after another South Asian state, Sri Lanka, elected Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960.

Model Questions

2 Marks

1. What are the problems faced by women?
2. List out the causes and effects of the problems faced by women.
3. What do you mean by child marriage?
4. Define the term 'female infanticide' and 'female foeticide'.
5. Define Dowry.
6. What do you mean by Deserted and destitute women.
7. Trafficking is a problem. Define.
8. What are the problems faced by rape victim?
9. What do you mean by Women empowerment?
10. Brief on Women and media.

5 Marks

1. Write about Dowry and Dowry prohibition Act.
2. Explain about Child Marriage Restraint Act.

10 Marks

1. What are the problems faced by women? Cause and effects of the problems.

IV Unit

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Working women**
- 3. Role of women in employment**
- 4. Various setting (Rural and Urban)**
- 5. Problem faced by women in workplace**
- 6. Women in Industry**
- 7. Women in Agriculture**
- 8. Women inn Self-employment**
- 9. Role model women entrepreneur in history**

Introduction

Women are the backbone of the society. She plays a vital role in the economic development of the country and her contribution is as equal as their male counterparts. Without active participation of women in various national, social, economic and political activities, the progress of the country will be stagnant. Indian women had been home makers, but in 21st century, due to higher education, better awareness and increasing financial demands of family, women also go out and choose careers. Although Indian women have started working outside their homes, but still there are several issues and challenging the working women face today. Sometimes they are not treated equally in their workplace.

Advantage of working women

Advantages of working women include more income for their families, the opportunities to explore their talents and the promotion of economic growth. They may money that adds to their family's financial well being. This helps to pay bills, buy foods and educate children. Women have goals and objectives to achieve in their lives. Working allows them pursue their dreams and talents as well as work on their goals by pursuing career of their choice. Finally women who work contribute towards economic growth through their job.

Disadvantage of working women

Disadvantage of working women include the absence of enough time for their families, pressures from work related stress, and conflicts of interest. Working women have little time to take care of their families because their jobs are very demanding and time consuming. Many jobs are and many women cannot handle high level of work-related stress. Their nature predisposes them to anxiety and depression more than when compared to men. Finally, there is a conflict of interest. Their roles as mother compromise their performance at work. They use working hours to take care of their children at the expense of their jobs.

Women Employment

Globally in 2020

- Less than half (46.9%) of all women participated in the labour force, a decrease from 51.0% in 1990.
- Women represented 38.8% of all participants in the labour force.
- As of the August 2020 Fortune Global list, only 13 women (2.6%) were CEOs of Fortune Global 500 companies and all of them are white.
- In many countries, a higher proportion of women are working in the informal economic (e.g. domestic workers, street vendors) than men which contributes to the global gender wage gap.
- The Northern Eastern state of Mizoram, which follows a matrilineal social system, has the highest share of women in the workforce in India. (59%)
- Jammu and Kashmir has the lowest worker population, women constitutes only 7.9%.

Challenges for working women in India

Problem at Work place

1. Gender Bias
2. Insufficient maternity leave

3. Mental and physical harassment
4. Unequal pay
5. Leadership

Problems at families

1. Family Duties
2. Time Balance
3. Mother responsibility
4. Business tours/Training
5. Health fitness

Gender Bias

Gender bias being to take place at a very early stage for Indian women. It is very difficult to accept the fact that women are also capable of working shoulder to shoulder with men. Indian society supports male dominance in all the important, major and challenging task. The potential and capabilities of Indian Women have always been underestimated in regard of their recruitments, salary issues and promotions.

Balancing Personnel and Professional life

It is very big challenge for Indian Working women to maintain a balance between their work and their family. She has the responsibility to fulfill all the expectations of family members and particularly from kids. In India, the career and professional aspiration are still considered as secondary for women and at the same time, there are many officials expectation and deadlines that women have to fulfill to continue their job. In this type of dual roles to become perfect in all tasks, the working women fill very much stressed in her day-to-day life.

Mental and Physical harassment

Indian women also feel insecure at their workplace. There are many cases where women subordinates are asked for sexual favors from their male superiors in return of the promotion and growth granted to them.

Negligible personnel space

Indian working women have to maintain a balance between their families and career if they want to achieve independence and success in their lives. In this hassle, women get restless. They try to increase their working power for their work which makes them lacking in sleep.

They gradually feel frustrated and helpless because no one is there to help and support them. They sometimes feel isolated and they have to face many emotional and psychological problem. Insomnia and depression are two major mental problems that Indian women usually suffer from. They feel an immense lack of personal space. They have no time for themselves. They feel unable to share their feelings with anyone because they know that no one will understand them. Under this psychological pressure, they are left their jobs or to accept the depression as part of their working life.

Women in industry

Women in industry are considered disadvantaged in many countries. Although they comprise 30 percent of the industrial labour force. Globally, they tend to be concentrated in low level jobs, where they are poorly paid, lack of social service and face exposure to health hazard. On the other hand, when women are given access to training, technology and credit, they can play a full role in economic and social development. Changes in industrial structure and production for poverty alleviation, self sufficiency through income generation and productive business that create local employment.

India ranks 120 among 131 countries in female labour force participation rates and rates of gender based violence remain unacceptable high.

Rights of women employees

- Right to equal remuneration for equal work
- Right to equal employment for women
- Right to medical attention and primary health care
- Right to safe drinking water
- Right to good working environment
- Right against torture and sexual harassment
- Right to association
- Right to participate the culture life.

Problems faced in Industries

- Exploitation of women in technical sector is on the increase, irrespective of salary.
- No job security for women employees in these sector.
- Women are being forced to work even in late nights in some sectors.
- Young women are being subjected to sexual exploitation in workshops.

Women in agriculture sector

In rural India, the percentage of women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood is as high as 84%. Women's participation rate in the agricultural sector is about 47% in tea plantation,

46.84% in cotton cultivation, 45.43% growing oil seeds and 39.13% in vegetable production. According to Food and Agricultural organization, Indian women represented a share of 21% and 24% of all fisheries and fish farmers etc.

Rural women performs numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fiber, keeping of livestock and its other associated activities like milking, milk processing, preparation of ghee, etc.

Poultry farming is one of the major sources of rural economy. The rate of women participation in poultry farming at household level is central in poultry farming.

Economic survey 2017-2018 says that with growing rural to urban migration of men, there is 'feminisation' of agricultural sector, with increase number of women roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs and labourers. There is empirical evidence that women have a decisive role in ensuring food security and preserving local agro-biodiversity. Rural women are responsible for the integrated management and use of diverse natural resources to meet the daily household needs. The women farmer should have enhanced access to resources like land, water, credit, technology and training.

With women predominant at all levels-production, pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packaging, marketing of the agricultural value chain, to increase productivity in agriculture.

Women in Self-employment

Since the past two decades there has been a gradual change in the status of women in most of the developing countries. Women are discovering themselves and trying to create a rich life for themselves in all fields. In order to improve their living conditions and increase their income there is an increase in the number of women seeking employment. Women are often the main economic agent to ensure the survival of a poor family; hence increase in the number of women workers assumes critical importance. There is a growing awareness among women to start their own business and to be self-employed. Self-employment happens to be one of the best ways towards self-sufficiency and poverty alleviation for women in a country where employment is not guaranteed. The self-employed women worker need not to be highly educated. It is enough if they possess basic knowledge of the system. And also self-employment is a more suitable profession than regular employment in public and private sector, since they have to fulfill dual roles. In emergence of nuclear families and diversification of labour activities has resulted in the non-availability of servants, limited baby care facilities at home and work is pushing women towards self-employment. There are successful self-employed women workers today heading enterprises like electronics, multimedia, garments, industry and so on.

Model Questions

2 Marks

1. Role of women in employment.
2. What are the problems faced by women in employment.
3. List out the problems faced by working women in family.
4. List out the advantages of women in employment.
5. Write down the disadvantages of women in employment.

5 Marks

1. What are the problems faced by working women in family and working environment?
2. Write about Self employed women.
3. Give detailed notes on Women in various occupation.

10 Marks

1. Write the detail about the working women, role of working women in developing countries, give some examples of women entrepreneur?
2. Working women in Various setting.

V unit

- Introduction
- Women and Health
- Factors affecting Women's health
- Current status of women's health in India
- Role of women in Nutrition
- Education
- Political representation
- Family welfare
- Laws enacted for women in India
- Schemes implemented for women

Introduction

A women's health reflects both her individual biology and her socio cultural economic, and physical environments. These factors affects both the duration and the quality of her life. Women who live in poverty or have less than a high school education have shorter life spans; higher rates of illness, injury, disability and death and more limited access to high quality health care services.

Women and health

Women experience unique health care challenges and are more likely to be diagnosed with certain disease than men. Chronic disease such as heart disease, cancer and diabetics are leading causes of death for women.

Two of the most common cancer affecting women are breast and cervical cancer. Detecting both these cancer early is key to keeping women alive and healthy. Sexual and reproductive health problems are responsible for one third of health issues for women between the age of 15 and years. Unsafe sex is a major risk factor-particularly among women and girls in developing countries. Women are more prone than men to experience anxiety, depression and somatic complaints. Depression is the most common mental health problems for women and suicide a leading cause of death for women.

Gynecology is the primary branch of medical science concerned with women's health issue. The word 'gynecology' is a word consisting of 'gyneco' meaning 'women' and 'logic' meaning 'knowledge'. It is women knowledge.

Factors for affecting women's Health

Women's health is linked to the status of women in society and the culture that brews within the structure. There are lot of health issues that women face which include breast cancer, ovarian cancer, PCOS, Menopause and other but there are a few health condition that women tend to ignore or overlook that are killing our women.

These include death during child birth, illiteracy and ignorance, violent attacks on women, etc. Overall, these factors adversely impact women's health; mental and physical well being. Further, a women's ill health affects not only her as an individual, but her family too.

❖ Multiple and frequent pregnancy

The Indian society is obsessed with a male child, and hence, women are often forced to get pregnant often for want of a son. Even though everyone is aware of a women's nutrition need during pregnancy, and numerous pregnancies, abortions even in case of female child and closely spaced births, add to deteriorating health and nutritional status. A mother-to-be should be provided with sufficient recovery time to regain the nutritional strength that she lost during pregnancy and post child birth. After multiple pregnancy, the uterus muscles become weak and may fail to contract post-delivery. This condition can result in postpartum hemorrhage (i.e) excessive loss of blood after delivery. Unfortunately, over 100000 women die each year from pregnancy related causes in India.

❖ Ignorance and illiteracy

Poverty, illiteracy and superstitions plays an essential role in determining the health of a women. It is estimated that 16% of the population in rural areas stay more than 10kms away from any medical facilities. Poor hygienic conditions can lead to many disease like Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection which leads to cervical cancer. It could also lead to genital warts, Urinary Track Infection (UTI) and other serious health issues.

❖ Lack of Nutrition

Lack of knowledge about dietary patterns during pregnancy and breastfeeding stages is crucial, but in most cases, the women are not aware or ignorant towards maternal and reproductive health. Women and girls are typically the last to eat in a family; if there is not enough food, they are the ones to suffer most resulting in medical conditions like anaemic, malnourishment, etc. These women receive no prenatal care, and these factor result in higher maternal mortality rate in India.

❖ Violent crime against women

Violence against women is also a health problem. Every five minutes a violent crime is reported against women in India.

Current status of women's health in India

According to the World Health Organisation, due to biological differences women live longer than men in all regions of the world. The difference is wider in high income nations. India listed as a low middle income country, records a difference of 3 years between life expectancy at birth for women and men. India ranks 141, on the health index in World Economic Forum's The Global Gender Gap report 2014, which benchmarks gender gaps in 142 countries on economic, political, education and health based criteria.

India's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), the number of women who die from pregnancy related causes per 100000 lives birth, stands at 190. As a result, India accounts for the maximum number of maternal deaths in the world.

In India, Female infant mortality is slightly higher than male infant mortality, but the survival disadvantage of girls is particularly acute in the age group of 1-6 years. Declining child sex ratio reflects the imbalance between the number of girls and boys and point towards both, pre-birth discrimination manifests through gender biased sex selection, and post birth discrimination against girls.

Food and Nutrition

A woman needs more nutrition than men. The different nutritional needs is due to the male and female hormones.

Many working women faces iron deficiency because of the blood lose during menstruation and also it is difficult to take meal during the working time. So it is important to include meat, fish and poultry in a regular diet.

Role of women in Nutrition

The role of the women in healthy nutrition includes feeding the newborn, preparing meals for members of the family and her extensive professionals involvement in food manufacturing, trade, public catering, health care and education.

Women's health status as well as their social status have a great impact on the health of their children and therefore of the future generation.

There is a correlation between women's level of education and baby's birth weight the higher level of education, the greater baby weight. It is well known that low weight babies suffer from anemia and experience retardation of their growth and development.

Education:

Women's education is very important for the country to fully develop. It is like an effective medicine to cure a patient completely and provide health back. An educated women can handle her home and professional life. An educated women has the skills, information and self-confidence that she needs to be better parent, worker and citizen. An educated women will also be more productive at work and better paid.

The importance of women's education

Basic right – Education is the basic right of everyone and when we say everyone we should not forget that women are also a part of this lot. Society has a large population of women. Education is not a privileged but a fundamental rights.

Increased Literacy- of the 16 million illiterate youth across the globe, nearly 63 percent are female. Offering all the children education will prop-up literacy rates, pushing forward development struggling regions.

Human Trafficking-Women are most vulnerable to trafficking when they are undereducated and poor.

Political Representation

Women are underrepresented as voter and restricted from political involvement. The United Nations Women's programme on leadership and participation suggest that civic education, training and all around empowerment will ease this gap.

Equality in Society

Inequality and discrimination always start from the root level. When women participated in education by going to schools and colleges with boys, the boys realize the basic rights of education and don't develop a superiority complex. So educating women along with men promotes the idea of equality and democracy.

Makes independent and builds confidence

It is absolutely true that education makes a person independent. Education provides us with the skills to make ourselves capable of offering services to others and earning livelihood. If women become educated and earn for themselves then they don't have to depend on their family for anything. This build their confidence and makes them take their decision on their own. They realize their worth and their uniqueness. Therefore education for women is really important in making women independent and confidence.

Family Welfare

Family welfare service of the social agencies has the purpose of preserving healthy family life. The aim of family case worker is to assist the individual in the family to develop their capacities to lead personally satisfying and socially useful lives in the family unit.

The department of family welfare undertook many pilot activities for implementation of the family welfare programme to meet needs of women who are at risk of unwanted births and has assists the country to accelerate fertility decline.

Family welfare programmes mainly includes:

1. Family planning information counseling and services to women for healthy reproduction.
2. Education about safe delivery and post delivery of the mother and the baby and the treatment of women before pregnancy.
3. Health care for infants immunization against preventable disease.
4. Prevention and treatment of sexually and reproductive track infection.

Women and laws:

The principles of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The consitution 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 polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different sphere.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy

MTP was passed by the Lok Sabha on 2020. MTP act was introduced in 1970. It was enacted with the objective to provide for the lawful termination of pregnancies by registered medical practitioners in certain cases only as have been laid down in the act. The Act provides the circumstances in which a pregnancy may be terminated. In affords protection to the women, and not the unborn child. Any protection which an unborn child may receive would only be the result of protection to the mother.

Equal Remuneration Act

The Equal Remuneration Act in India was enacted to prevent discrimination between workers on grounds of gender. An Act to provide for the payments of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination, on the ground of sex against women in the matter of employment and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The purpose of the act is to make sure that employers do not discriminate on the basis of gender, in matter of wage fixing, transfers, training and promotion. It provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers, for same work or work of similar nature and for the prevention of discrimination against women in the matter of employment.

Central and State govt. programmes for women

The Department of women and child development was set up in the year 1985 as a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to give much needed impetus to the holistic development of women and children.

Schemes under the Ministry

Swadhar scheme was launched in the year 2001-2002 as a central sector scheme for the benefits of women in difficult circumstances. The objectives of the scheme is

- To provide primary need of shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women – girls living in difficult circumstances who are without any social and economic support.
- To provide emotional support and counseling to such women.
- To provide for help line or other facilities to such women in distress.

Working hostel women

The scheme introduced in 1972-1973 as a central sector scheme envisages provision of safe and affordable hotel accommodation to working, single working women, women working at places away from their hometown and for women being trained for employment. Under the scheme , government provides financial assistances for construction of Hostel/building on public land for

rent of hostels run in rented premises. Provision of day care centre for children of the inmates of the hostel is an important aspect of the scheme.

STEP (Support to training and employment programme for women)

The step was launched as central sector scheme in 1986-1987 to make significant impact on women by upgrading skills of employment on sustainable basis and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban women especially those in SC/ST households and families below poverty line.

Comprehensive scheme for combating trafficking – UJJAWALA

Ujjawala is a comprehensive central sector scheme to combat trafficking launched on 2007. The scheme has five components such as prevention, rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking and commercial sex exploitation.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana

IGMSY is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women introduced on October 2010 as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme for contributing to a better enabling environment by providing cash incentives to pregnant and nursing mothers. The scheme is being implemented using the platforms of ICDS on pilot basis in 53 selected districts across the country.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls

A centrally sponsored scheme was introduced in 2010 for holistic development of adolescent girls making them self-reliant by improving their health and nutritional status and facilitating access to learning and public service through various intervention such as health, education, vocational training, counseling and guidance.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as number of girls per 1000 of boys between 0-6 years of age, has been unabated since 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 is alarming. The decline in the CSR is a major indicator of women disempowerment. CSR reflects both, pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection, and post birth discrimination against girls. Social construct discriminating against girls on the one hand, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been critical in increasing Sex Selective Elimination of girls leading to low Child Sex Ratio. Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure

survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child, Government has announced Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. This is being implemented through a national campaign and focussed multi sectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs. This is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The objectives of this initiative are:

- Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

Women Empowerment Schemes

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme
4. UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Working Women Hostel
6. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
7. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
8. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
9. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
10. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
11. NIRBHAYA
12. Mahila police Volunteers
13. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

MCQ questions in Women and Development

1. Which feminist thought suggest that gender equality can be realized by eliminating the cultural notion of gender?

- (A) Post-modern Feminism
- (B) Radical Feminism
- (C) Neo-classical Feminism
- (D) Socialist Feminism

Answer: (B)

2. Among the following women whose name is closely associated with Central Social Welfare Board?

- (A) Dr. Annie Besant
- (B) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (C) Vijayalakshmi Pandit
- (D) Durgabai Deshmukh

Answer: (D)

3. Germaine Greer coined the term Female Eunuch to describe

- (A) The biological inferiority of women
- (B) The idealization of women in society
- (C) Castration of women by aspects of patriarchy
- (D) The motherhood of women

Answer: (C)

4. Equal Remuneration Act provides that

- (i) Women and men will be paid equally for doing the same work.
- (ii) There will be no discrimination against women at the time of recruitment.
- (iii) The employer is bound to maintain a register of the workers.
- (iv) There will be no discrimination against women workers in any condition of service like promotion, training or transfer.

Codes:

- (A) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- (B) (i) and (ii) only
- (C) (ii) and (iii) only
- (D) (i) and (iv) only

Answer: (A)

5. Mark out the factor contributing to high maternal mortality rate

- (A) Antenatal care
- (B) Education
- (C) Increase in the number of working women
- (D) Early marriage

Answer: (D)

6. Institutional initiatives for women's issues in the post-independence period are

- (i) Constitutional provisions and social legislations
- (ii) The Brahmo Samaj
- (iii) Indian Association for Women's Studies

(iv) The Women's India Association

Codes:

(A) (i) and (iii) only

(B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

(C) (ii) and (iii) only

(D) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Answer: (A)

7. Gender disaggregated data are the basis for

(A) Analysis of women's work

(B) Gender sensitive policy formulation and programme planning

(C) Gender mainstreaming

(D) Gender sensitization

Answer: (B)

8. The first Research Centre for women was established in 1974 by:

(A) SNDT Women's University

(B) ICSSR

(C) Centre for Women's Development Studies__

(D) UGC

Answer: (A)

9. Match the following from List – I and List – II:

List – I

- (a) Department of Women and Child Development
- (b) Integrated Child Development Scheme
- (c) Juvenile Justice Act
- (d) Indian Association for Women's Studies

List – II

- (i) 1975
- (ii) 1985
- (iii) 2000
- (iv) 1982

Codes:

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (A) (iv) (iii) (i) (ii)
- (B) (iii) (iv) (i) (ii)
- (C) (ii) (i) (iii) (iv)
- (D) (ii) (iv) (iii) (i)

Answer: (C)

10. 'ASHA' denotes:

- (A) Association of Scientific Health Activists
- (B) Association of Social Health Activists
- (C) Accredited Social Health Activists
- (D) Accredited Social Health Association

Answer: (C)

11. Which one of the following pair is not correctly matched?

- (A) Kishori Shakti Yojana – National Programme for Adolescent Girls
- (B) AYUSH – Programme to revitalise local Health Traditions
- (C) SWADHAR – Programme for women in difficult circumstances

(D) Janani Suraksha Yojana – Programme for disabled mothers

Answer: (D)

12. Women's studies researchers viewed women as

(A) Objects and consumers

(B) Subjects and producers

(C) Objects and producers

(D) Subjects and consumers

Answer: (B)

13. Assertion (A): The percentages of women in the higher levels of political bodies are negligible.

Reason (R): The money and muscle power associated with the electoral bodies inhibits women's political participation.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, (R) is the correct explanation for (A)

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true.

(C) Both (A) and (R) are false.

(D) (A) is true, (R) is false

Answer: (A)

14. Assertion (A): Education of girls and women in India have reinforced gender role specially motherhood.

Reason (R): In India, women's education was neglected for many years.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, (R) is not the correct explanation for (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, (R) is the correct explanation for (A).

(C) (R) is true and (A) is false.

(D) Both (A) and (R) are true.

Answer: (A)

15. Who among the following is not an Entrepreneur?

(A) Indira Nooyi

(B) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

(C) Ekta Kapoor

(D) Kalpana Shah

Answer: (D)

16. Masculinities and femininities are

(i) Gendered rather than non gendered

(ii) Socially constructed rather than naturally

(iii) Changing across time and space

(iv) Based on biological determinism

Codes:

(A) (i) only correct

(B) (iv) only correct

(C) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct

(D) (i) and (ii) are correct

Answer: (C)

17. 'Consciousness rising' is the major agenda discussed by

- (A) Liberals
- (B) Post-modernist
- (C) Marxist
- (D) Radicals

Answer: (B)

18. Match the List – I (Thinkers) with List – II:

List – I

List – II

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) John Stuart Mill | (i) Marxist feminism |
| (b) Jane Flax | (ii) Radical feminism |
| (c) Clara Zetkin | (iii) Liberal feminism |
| (d) Shulamith Firestone | (iv) Socialist feminism |

Codes:

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (A) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)
- (B) (iii) (i) (iv) (ii)
- (C) (ii) (i) (iv) (iii)
- (D) (i) (iv) (iii) (ii)

Answer: (B)

19. Assertion (A): Violence against women is a universal problem that must be condemned.

Reason (R): Violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, (R) is the correct explanation for (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are false.

(C) (A) is true, (R) is false.

(D) Both (A) and (R) are true.

Answer: (A)

20. Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats Programme was launched in 1996 by

(A) The Commission for SC/ST

(B) The Human Rights Commission

(C) The National Commission for Women

(D) The National Law Commission

Answer: (C)

21. Women's studies find its relevance in the ways:

(i) To uncover the gender discrimination prevailing in the society.

(ii) To mobilize women's attitude for betterment of their living.

(iii) To provide better jobs for women.

(iv) To activate the women on social and economic issues.

Codes:

(A) (i) and (ii) only

(B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

(C) (ii) and (iv) only

(D) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Answer: (D)

22. Arrange the chronological sequence of the laws with the year of their enactment.

(i) The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act

(ii) Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

(iii) The Equal Remuneration Act

(iv) Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

Codes:

(A) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)

(B) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)

(C) (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)

(D) (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)

Answer: (C)

23. Assertion (A): Empowerment of women is closely associated with women's participation in unorganized sector.

Reason (R): Empowerment of women is related to enhancement of women's capabilities and decision.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true.

(B) (A) is false, (R) is true.

(C) Both (A) and (R) are false.

(D) (A) is true, (R) is false.

Answer: (B)

24. Which group of thinkers belongs to Radical feminism?

(A) Kate Millet, Mary Daly, Shulamith Firestone

(B) Kate Millet, Mary Daly, Juliet Mitchell

(C) Mary Daly, Juliet Mitchell, Cixous

(D) Shulamith Firestone, Mary Daly, Cixous

Answer: (A)

25. Name the last Muslim women rulers of Delhi

(A) Begum Hara

(B) Begum Mumtaz

(C) Razia Sultan

(D) Sultana Begum

Answer: (C)

26. Women are highly concentrated in low paying jobs ____ this exemplifies

(A) Matriarchy

(B) Sexual Harassment

(C) Feminisation of Poverty

(D) Institutional Sexism

Answer: (D)

27. Which of the following pair is not correctly matched?

(A) Mrs. Indira Gandhi – First woman winner of Bharat Ratna

(B) Mrs. Sarojini Naidu – First woman Governor of India

(C) Mrs. Leila Seth – First woman Chief Justice of a High Court

(D) Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit – First woman President of Indian National Congress

Answer: (D)

28. Mark out the incorrect statement about seeking divorce in India

(A) The personal laws do not discriminate between the husband's and wife's rights.

(B) The personal laws discriminate between the husband's and wife's rights.

(C) The Muslim law grants absolute power to the husband to dissolve the marriage.

(D) In the Muslim law, the wife can seek dissolution only by mutual consent.

Answer: (A)

29. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in the IXth Five Year Plan to

(A) Bridge all the gender and social gaps in education.

(B) Universalisation of Elementary Education.

(C) Education for all.

(D) Education for the weaker sections.

Answer: (B)

30. Which of the following is not an indicator for calculating Human Development Index?

(A) Long and Healthy Life

(B) Dimension of Knowledge

(C) Participation in Decision Making

(D) Decent Standard of Living

Answer: (C)

31. Match the following from List – I and List – II

List – I

List – II

(Name of Leaders)

(Name of the Country)

(a) Sirimavo Bandaranaike

(i) Pakistan

(b) Margaret Thatcher

(ii) Sri Lanka

(c) Benazir Bhutto

(iii) Ireland

(d) Mary Robinson

(iv) Britain

Codes:

(a) (b) (c) (d)

(A) (iv) (iii) (i) (ii)

(B) (ii) (iii) (iv) (i)

(C) (iv) (i) (ii) (iii)

(D) (ii) (iv) (i) (iii)

Answer: (D)

32. Which of the following is not correctly matched?

(A) Second Stage – Betty Friedan

(B) Pure Lust – Mary Daly

(C) Feminist Politics and Human Nature – Alison Jaggar

(D) The Dialectic of Sex – Kate Millet

Answer: (D)

33. Arrange the chronological sequence of the establishment according to the year of their initiation.

(i) UGC Centres for Women's Studies

(ii) Department of Women and Child Welfare

(iii) Central Social Welfare Board

(iv) National Rural Health Mission

Codes:

(A) (iii) (ii) (i) (iv)

(B) (i) (iii) (ii) (iv)

(C) (ii) (iii) (iv) (i)

(D) (iv) (iii) (ii) (i)

Answer: (A)

34. CSWI (1974) denotes as

(A) Council on the Status of Women in India

(B) Committee on the Status of Women in India

(C) Centre on the Status of Women in India

(D) Commission on the Status of Women in India

Answer: (B)

35. Who was the chairperson of the National Commission for Self Employed Women in 1987?

(A) Vina Mazumdar

(B) Ela Bhat

(C) Madhuri Sha

(D) Armati Desai

Answer: (B)

36. Who has edited the book on “Narratives from the women’s studies family”?

(A) Devaki Jain and Pam Rajput

(B) Neera Desai and Maithreyi Krishnaraj

(C) Divya Pandey and Meera Sharma

(D) Devaki Jain and Neera Desai

Answer: (B)

37. Assertion (A): One of the constraints faced by women entrepreneurs is the lack of confidence among women.

Reason (R): Members of the family and society are not supportive to the entrepreneurial growth of women.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true.

(B) Both (A) and (R) are false.

(C) Both (A) and (R) are true, (R) is the correct explanation for (A).

(D) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the explanation for (A).

Answer: (A)

38. National Commission for Child Rights was established in the year

(A) 1993

(B) 2003

(C) 2001

(D) 2007

Answer: (C)

39. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 seeks to ban the depiction of women in any form which is:

(i) Indecent for women

(ii) Denigrating to women

(iii) Corrupting or injure the public morality of women

(iv) To deprive the women from certain set roles.

Codes:

(A) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

(B) (i) and (ii) only

(C) (ii) and (iii) only

(D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer: (A)

40. Which of the Five Year Plans stressed the need for National Policy for the empowerment of women?

(A) Seventh

(B) Ninth

(C) Fifth

(D) Sixth

Answer: (B)

41. Which of the following pair is correctly matched?

- (A) Krishna Teerath – Minister for Education
- (B) Arundati Roy – Nobel Laureate
- (C) Prema Cariyappa – Chairperson Central Social Welfare Board
- (D) Purandeswari – Minister for Women and Child Welfare

Answer: (C)

42. Assertion (A): Sexism refers to the belief or attitude that one sex is inferior and less valuable than the other.

Reason (R): Sexism widely prevails in Indian society.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation for (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are false.
- (C) (A) is true, (R) is false.
- (D) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is not the correct explanation for (A).

Answer: (D)

43. Child Sex Ratio according to 2011 census is

- (A) 900
- (B) 914
- (C) 924
- (D) 940

Answer: (B)

44. Feminist Research aims to

- (A) Research on women, by men and for women.
- (B) Research for women, by women and on women.
- (C) Research on women, about women, and of women.
- (D) Research of women by women and for women.

Answer: (C)

45. Among the following which is not an objective of National Commission for Women?

- (A) Recommends the punishment for offenders of crime.
- (B) Recommends remedial legislative measures.
- (C) Review of constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- (D) Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

Answer: (A)

Read the following paragraph and answer questions numbers 46 to 50:

Feminists with varying intellectual frames of reference have put forth diverse positions about privileging the category of gender over women. The shift from women to gender has been viewed by some as a replacement of the study of sexual inequality with the study of the differences between the sexes (Evans 1990). They make a case for the continuing usefulness of the term 'woman' for analysis as against the category of gender. The category 'gender' is seen as diverting the focus from specific issues concerning women both in the political and academic sphere. However, feminists, especially third world, black and Dalit feminists, have underlined the dangers of presuming a set of common meanings for the category women. They have argued that the category women universalizes and homogenises the experiences of white, middle-class and upper-caste women. On the other hand, the use of the category gender allows for the analyses of differences of race, class, caste, nation and sexual orientation between women. The use of the category woman assumes commonality between all women and can at best allow the analysis of the differences among women in an additive or add-on manner. In the analysis of a caste based society, for instance, such an assumption of commonality amounts to a reiteration of the normative status of the upper-caste women. Often the commonality between women is assumed on the basis of their experiences of victimhood as 'women' in a patriarchal society.

Such an assumption not only universalizes the concept of patriarchy but also argues as if the oppression of caste and class is located in some 'non-woman' part of Dalit women. The use of the category gender allows for an analysis of the interlocking structures of oppression and, in fact, goes beyond the analysis of the differences among women by underlining the gendered nature of caste and class oppression.

46. Mark out the correct answer

- (A) The category gender universalizes and homogenizes the experiences of race, class and upper caste women.
- (B) The category women allows for the analysis of differences of race, class and sexual orientation between women.
- (C) The category women assume commonality between all women.
- (D) All are correct.

Answer: (C)

47. The category gender is useful for

- (A) An analysis of the interlocking structures of oppression.
- (B) The analysis of the differences among women.
- (C) The analysis of nature of oppression of low caste women.
- (D) The analysis of nature of oppression of both caste and class women.

Answer: (A)

48. What is the danger perceived by the feminists in using category gender over women?

- (A) It will break the commonality between women.
- (B) It diverts the focus from specific issues concerning women in the political and academic sphere.
- (C) It will analyze the experiences of victimhood as women.

(D) It will not help in universalizing the concept of patriarchy.

Answer: (B)

49. The shift from women to gender for some feminist implies

(A) The study of differences between the sexes.

(B) The study of sexual inequality.

(C) Both the study of sexual inequality and the differences between the sexes.

(D) The study with the focus of women issues.

Answer: (A)

50. Assertion (A): The shift from women to gender for some feminists is a replacement of the study of the differences between the sexes.

Reason (R): There is the continuing usefulness of the term “woman” for analysis as against the category of gender.

Codes:

(A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is not the explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true and (R) is false.

(D) Both (A) and (R) are false.

Answer: (B)

