



Gender responsive budgeting in India: an overview

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Abstract

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) means planning budgets and analyzing them from a gender prospective. Gender budgeting allows government to encourage equality through fiscal policies by analyzing budget for enhancing a target for gender equality and allocating funds to nurture those goals. The gender responsive budget is divided into two parts: First part exhibit women specific schemes with 100% allocation for women and second part constituted by pro-women schemes where at least 30% of allocation is for women. Women continue to linger behind men in terms of key parameters such as education, economic opportunities, health, and a large proportion faces violence, discrimination and harassment. The union budget is an opportunity to illustrate commitment towards gender equality and ensure adequate financial classification to help decipher in term into action and eventually impact. India formally incorporated gender responsive budgeting (GRB) in 2004-05. GRB does not merely involves earmarking of funds for women, it is a practice that investigate the budget through a gender lens. In this paper analysis highlighted the economic growth –encouraging strategies and precise the role of fiscal policy in gender sensitive human development. The objective of this paper is to study Indian budgetary with distinctive reference to its gender angle and to assess the distributional impression of public expenditure across gender. Data for this paper has been collected through internet and other published sources. Major findings from present work is gender responsive budget has not transformed effectively into policies. Targeted schemes for women from budget is less than one percent of total budget. Sectoral initiatives on gender budgeting need to give emphasis and transform them into better gender development.

Key words: Gender Responsive budgeting, Gender equality, Gender inequality, Women empowerment.

Introduction

Gender Budgeting is an effective tool for attaining gender mainstreaming so as to assure that utility of development reach women as much as men. It is not an accounting practise but an continual process of keeping a gender viewpoint in strategy/schemes/programme formulation, its implementation and analysis.

Gender Budgeting induce segregation of the government budgets to demonstrates gender differential impression and to effectuate that gender commitments into budgetary commitments. The reasoning for gender budgeting commences from acknowledgement of the reality that national budgets affect men and women differently through the cycle of resource

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allocation. Women comprises 48% of India's crowd, but they linger behind men on many social parameters like health, education, economic ground, employment opportunities etc.

The way government budgets dispenses resources has the spirit to alter these gender inequations. In view of this gender budgeting as a tool for attaining gender mainstreaming has been propounded. Gender Responsive Budgeting is crucial for extracting gender inequalities with indicative amendments in social, health, education, political and economic parameters of a country. A Gender responsive budgeting propounded the gender patterns in community and dispenses money to make plans/policy and schemes gender-equitable. It refers to a uniform gender-differentiated affect of fiscal arrangements, programmes and policies.

India incorporated gender budgeting in 2004-05 established on the recommendations of an adept group, committee framed by the Ministry of Finance. Gender Budgeting refers to mainstreaming gender in the design, application and assessment of financial classification, transverse all government disbursement. Significantly, this does not limit the budgets and development programmes to be comprehensive of financial classification for the general prosperity of disadvantaged sexes. In a country like India where the participation of women in social discourse and government bureaucracies has traditionally been inefficient, there is urgent need for change towards elevation of equal opportunities between men and women.

Gender Budget commencement dissect how government enhance and indulge public money, with the intention of promoting gender equality in ordinance making about public resource grouping, and gender equality in the dispersion of the affect of government budgets both in their utility and their oppression. The effect of government budgets on the most disadvantaged section of women are centre of distinctive consideration. It straightway facilitate women development through classification of budgetary funds.

In India, focus on women was constantly part of five year plans. India is counterargument with immense disadvantage for women in all aspects of life. While the aperture between men and women voters have restricted over time, women exhibition in key political forums comprising parliament and state legislature is much depress. While Indian women have a hypothetical higher life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate transverse rural and urban areas are higher for the girl child.

Literature review

Several studies have covered one or another aspect of gender budgeting, such as affect of gender budgeting in different sectors such as health, education, political and economic development. In the present study an attempt is made to review a few works on gender budgeting.

Ingrid Palmer (1995) in her paper, Public finance from a gender perspective, focused on to include gender issues macroeconomics policies. The author focused on starting a new path which can help in the gender equity, growth and development.

The book gender budget make cents: understanding gender responsive budgets written by Debbie Budlender, Diane Elson and Guy Hewitt (2002), considered on the significance of gender budgeting, it selected the several forces of revenue and expenditure on the men and women.

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Swapana gopalan(2008) book ,Gender budgeting in india:Towards achieving gender equity, emphasized how India is empowering women with the help of gender budgeting. Gender budgeting is an important tool to counter gender related issues in our country and important for the gender equity.

Objective

1. To find out how powerful the gender budgeting as a instrument for circumscribing inequality between men and women.
2. To recognize inequalities faced by the women in the different sectors.
3. To know the different policies, schemes and the programmes for the women empowerment.

Methodology

The essential information and proposition has been collected from the secondary sources of data , five year plans, ministry of women and child development (MWCD) and national commission for women (NCW) to analyse the gender budget trends in India.

Gender equality

The gender equality means that both men and women have equal rights and choices independent of gender.It also refers that all people have equivalent right to enucleate their personal efficiency and free to make their personal preferences. Gender equality refers to the capability to which men and women opportunities and consequences are deceptive or unadulterated merely on the account of their gender.Gender equality means that the divergent proceedings, ambition and wants of men and women are inferred,valued and favoured identical.It does not mean that men and women have to befit the same, but that their rights, liability and opportunities will not hinge on whether they are male or female.Gender equity means straightforwardness of administration for men and women , coincident to their respective wants. Gender equality is the aspiration while the gender arbitration and gender equality are exercise and course of thinking that help in accomplishing the goals.

Gender inequality

Gender inequality recognizes that men and women are not alike and that gender influences an individuals lurid observation. These dissimilarity initiate from peculiarities in biology, psychology and cultural progressions. Some of these peculiarities are experimentally grounded while others look like secularly represented. Studies demonstrate the distinct lurid experience of genders athwart many estate involving education,personality,life expectancy, concern,parentage life, advancement and political blight. Gender inequality is observed differently transverse civilization. Gender inequality and distinctness are contended to cause and enforce poverty and exposure in community as a whole. Gender inequality is a outcome of the perpetual discrimination of one section of people established upon gender and it exhibit itself unequally contrary to race, civilization, politics and economic tendency. While gender differentiation accrue to both men and women, differentiation verses women is an entrenched world wide pandemic.



Inequalities faced by the women in different sectors

1. In india the society is male dominated,so women in many places are not treated equally to men ,though our constitution expresses of equality between the men and the women.
2. The women in india lack behind men in the field of the education and due to lack of education they are not aware of their rights and other government schemes and programmes which will encourage them to flourish.
3. There are so many social barriers on women in India which are due to culture, traditions,caste, religion which act as obstacle before them in their growth.In rural areas there are more barriers as compared to urban areas.
4. The wage gap is still there between men and women in many sectors due to which women lag behind men in these sectors.
5. The women representation in government is less as compared to men, which is also a reason of gender inequality.

Gender responsive budgeting

Gender budgeting refers to a process of discerning the budget formulation procedure, budgetary tactics and budget disbursement from the gender lens. Gender budget, with respect to government at any level , does not refer to a dissipate budget for women,liefer it is an analytical instrument which examines the government budget to revel its gender- distinguished affect and propagate for greater anteriority for policies and schemes to address the gender based drawbacks faced by women. Gender précised budgets are not dissipate budgets for women or for men. Gender budget initiatives dissection how government enhance and spend public money, with the goal of securing gender equality in the dispersion of the affect of government budget both in their utility and their oppression. Thus Gender budgeting:

1. Looks at government budgets from a gender outlook to evaluate how it address the wants of women in all divisions.
2. It does not search to generate or disintegrate budget but to arrange affirmative attempt to address the particular needs of the women.
3. Gender responsive budgeting arrange a way for imposing the affect of government revenue and expenditure on women.

Gender Responsive Budgeting came to light as a relevant instrument in the on –going agony to construct budget and schemes more gender responsive.

Framework for gender budgeting

1. A discussion of the condition for women and men and girls and boys in a given zone.
2. An evaluation of the capability to which the zone policy addresses the gender and cleft portrayed in the first step.
3. An evaluation of the sufficiency of the budget classification to apply the gender sensitive schemes and programmes.
4. Instructing whether the money was spent as intended, what was transmitted and to whom.
5. An evaluation of the affect of the policy/programme and the extent to which the condition illustrated in step 1 has changed.



Initiatives by the government for gender budgeting

1. The finance ministry in 2004-05 had ruled the elucidation up of gender budgeting sections in all departments and emphasis the distinguished need for budget to be exhibited in a mode that brought out gender sensitiveness of the budgeting classification.
2. Gender budgeting classification were exhibited in a two way division gender budgeting proposition in the union budget-The first proposition described those departments which recognized allocation of 100% for the programmes/schemes streaming to women and second proposition reflecting allocation of 30% and above but below 100% for programme/schemes for women.
3. The ministry of women and child development (MWCD) as the medium agency for gender budgeting has been projecting different initiatives for the empowerment of women. In this matter the ministry has précised gender budgeting as a tool for attaining the aims and objectives enshrined for women. Gender budgeting decipher gender obligations into budgetary obligations.
4. The national commission for women (NCW) is to secure and encourage the concern of women, has taken many initiative to bring gender budgeting to the exposure in India. The NCW standpoint on the areas such as education, health, infrastructure and women economic empowerment.

Schemes for women empowerment in india

1. **The rashtriya mahila kosh (National credit fund for women)** was set up in 1993 to make credit available to lower income women in India, with access to loans to begin small businesses.
2. **Priyadarshini**, initiated in april 2011, is a programme that offers women in seven districts access to self help groups.
3. **Rajiv Gandhi schemes for empowerment of adolescent girls-Sabla**, it is an initiative launched in 2012, the programme offers a variety of service to help young women to become self-reliant, including nutritional supplementation, education, life skills and vocational training.
4. **Beti bachao and beti padhao scheme**, to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services meant for girls and to ensure the education of the girl child.
5. **Support to training and employment program (STEP)**, to enable groups of women to take up the employment-cum-income generation programs and to provide support for further improving training and employment conditions of women.
6. **Mahila e-haat**, to strengthen financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs in the economy by providing continous sustenance and support to their creativity and to support to 'Make in India' through online marketing.
7. **National mission for empowerment of the women (NMEW)**, an initiative of the government of India for empowering women holistically and to strengthen the conceptual and programmatic basis of women centric schemes implemented.
8. **Working women hostel**, this scheme aims at providing safe and affordable accommodation to working women. The ministry provides financial support for establishing such hostels by NGO's or state governments.



9. **National policy for women ,2017** the ministry of women and child development has prepared the draft for women,2017 draft policy envisages that existing legislations relating to women will be harmonized in accordance with constitutional and international commitments , in order to enhance their effectiveness.
10. **Women of India Exhibitions/Festivals(celebrating women entrepreneurs) ,** women of India Festivals are being held to provide a platform to women entrepreneurs and farmers ,especially from rural areas giving them opportunity to exhibit and sell their products.Such festivals empower women through knowledge sharing and creating entrepreneurial opportunities to make societal balance through financial inclusion.

Gender budget 2019

1. Gender budget allocation increases by ₹ 9,739 crore in budget 2019.
2. Finance Minister proposed to increase the gender budget allocation to increase the gender budget allocation to ₹ 131,700 crore for 2019-20 from ₹ 121,961 crore a year ago.
3. Finance Minister pitched for women –led development to be government’s mantra from being about women development, the schemes on nutrition , anganwadi and women employment seem to top priority list.
4. The budget for working women’s hostel schemes has been increased more than three times from ₹ 52 crore to ₹ 165 crore.
5. Initiatives like PM Mudra yojna with 75% women beneficiaries, introduction of 26 weeks of maternity leave and Pradhan mantra vandana yojna(a maternity benefit programme) are all empowering women.

Findings

1. India has been ranked 108th in world economic forum(WEF) gender gap index, same as 2017,while recording improvement in wage equality for similar work and fully closing it’s tertiary education gender gap for the first time.
2. As per the WEF’s global gender gap report 2018, while India has many challenges as it ranks 142nd out of 149 countries in the economic opportunity.
3. India needs to make improvement across the board from women’s participation to getting women into senior and professional roles. India actually widens the gender gap on this subindex this year.
4. India has slightly improved in WEF’s wage equality for similar work indicator where it stood at 72nd place.
5. The economic survey report suggest that India’s performance has improved on 14 of 17 indicators of women’s agency,attitude and results, over the past 10-15 years.

Conclusion

Budgets accumulate resources through taxation policy and classify resources to several sectors of the economy.Funds are distributed to the different schemes and programmes which are for the overall development of the women in our country.There has been indicative advancement in the



gender budgeting over the time in India. The government of India has framed many policies and programmes for the empowerment of the women in the different sectors of the economy. In India gender budgeting has not deciphered efficiently into policies. Proper steps should be taken otherwise GRB will be unsuccessful to fulfil the desired result. Sectoral initiatives on gender equality should be given importance, to integrate gender responsive budget into the outcome budgets. It is needed to incorporate gender into monetary policies. More policies should be framed to reduce the gender inequalities. Gender responsive budgeting is an effective instrument for reducing the gender inequalities.

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