



CHALLENGES AND PREPAREDNESS IN ACHIEVING SDG FROM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This paper attempts to review the status of Preparedness and the Challenges in achieving SGD Goals by Indian Government by 2030. Given the Financial distress World Facing for the last few years Indian situation is no more different as the world has become interdependent. Though performance improved on 14 out of 17 indicators of women's agency, attitudes and outcomes. On seven of them, the improvement has been such that India's situation is comparable to, or better than, that in a cohort of countries after accounting for levels of development. However, variables such as Gender gap, Education, Employment, Household Decision Making Power, Freedom of movement, Domestic Violence, Female Infanticide, etc., and the issues related to Governance, Political participation in Legislative bodies, Gender Budgeting and the Sociological issues related it were reviewed to the extent possible show the other way. The overall data proves that the passé of meeting the goals is not only very slow but can be concluded negative. However, being the signatory of UN treaties, we are bound to adhere and implement SDG. The sustainable slash in budgetary allocations to the areas of the goals even to the focused Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 is not compatible to the claims. The twin effect of world financial distress and spin effect of Economic policies at home force us to conclude differently with the outcome results on the selected Goals here.

Key Words: *Domestic Violence, Sustainable Development and Women Empowerment.*

Introduction

Many variables are part of influencing development agenda, but the Economic variable is crucial. Productivity growth has slowed significantly around the world since the 2008 global financial crisis and had a greater impact on India also. Meeting the SDGs needs [@ 28% of Tax-GDP Ratio] abundant public finances that has to be raised by increasing Tax-GDP ratio. Being a tax noncompliant society, India is starving for funds to meet the demands of public finance. Unlike the developed countries as shown in the table of selected countries India's Ratio is very low. The analysis shows that Tax GDP Ratio continues to be very low in India

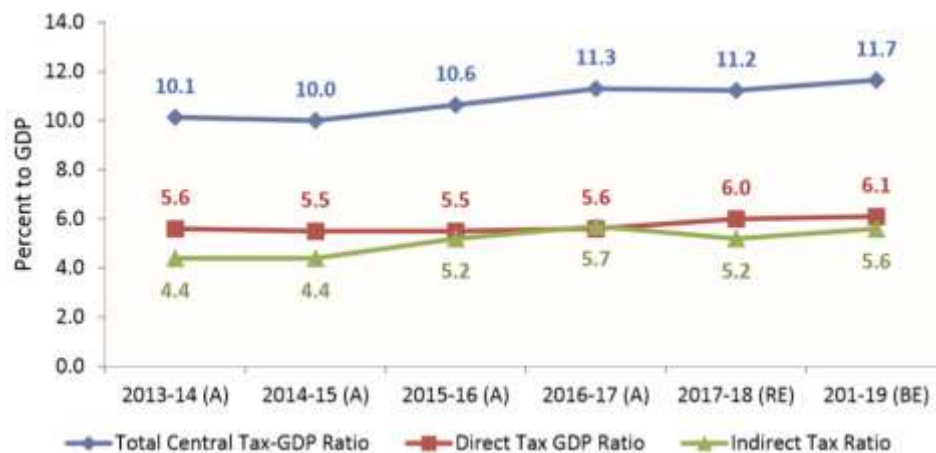
as per the available data. The policy initiatives to increase tax collections such as Demonetization might yield better tax compliance in the medium to long term perspective but had immediate adverse effect on the economy as much of the economy is cash based forcing major stake holders to with draw from production. The following tables illustrate the Tax GDP ratios in world and Indian Context.

Some of the Tax GDP ratio of India

| Year | Tax Expenditure | GDP at current market price | Expenditure as a proportion of GDP [in%] |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2018-19 ^{BE} | 2442213 | 18722302 | 13.04 |
| 2017-18 ^{RE} | 2217750 | 16784679 | 13.21 |
| 2017-18 ^{BE} | 2146735 | 16784679 | 12.79 |
| Excluding from the total Union Budget expenditure- "Funds collected from GST Compensation Cess, which are transferred to a non-lapsable fund in the Public Account" | | | |
| 2018-19 ^{BE} | 2352213 | 18722302 | 12.56 |
| 2017-18 ^{RE} | 2156419 | 16784679 | 12.85 |
| 2016-17 | 1975194 | 15183709 | 13.01 |
| 2015-16 | 1790783 | 13682035 | 13.09 |
| 2014-15 | 1663673 | 12445128 | 13.37 |
| 2013-14 | 1559447 | 11233522 | 13.88 |
| 2012-13 | 1410372 | 9944013 | 14.18 |

**Note: The figures for total Union Budget expenditure, for 2017-18^{RE} and 2018-19^{BE}, do not include "Funds collected from GST Compensation Cess, which are transferred to a non-lapsable fund in the Public Account". Source: Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2018-19 documents*

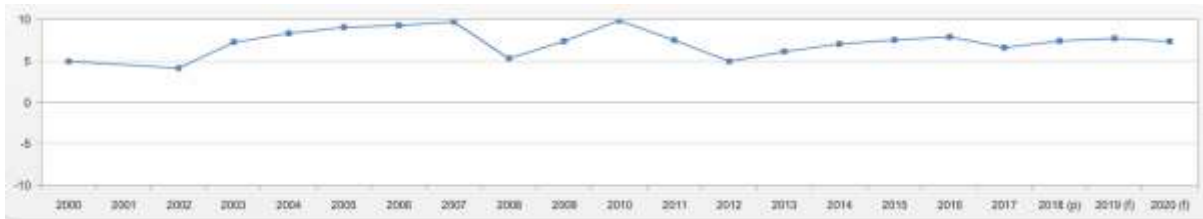
Tax-GDP Ratio



*The tax collection number excludes the GST Cess compensation

Source : Compiled from Budget Documents.

Given the data sets of Tax GDP ratio meeting the SDG Goals is impossible. The projection by IMF is also asserts the conclusion.



Source: from Global economic outlook data base assessed on 24/9/2018

Tax GDP ratio of selected countries

| Country | Ratio |
|----------------|-------|
| United States | 26% |
| Germany | 45% |
| Canada | 40% |
| Japan | 36% |
| United Kingdom | 34% |
| Australia | 34% |
| South Korea | 34% |
| France | 48% |
| China | 20% |
| Russia | 20% |

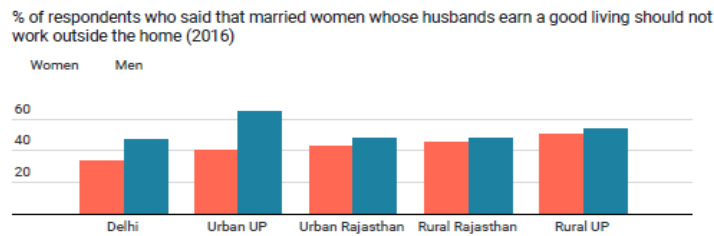
However, the paper strives to look into the datasets of some of the variables that directly impacts all the SDGs burnout of the complex situation. The NITI Aayog’s VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW Report focused on Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 presents a rosy picture in contrary to reality drawn from the Financial data. The conclusions drawn from different data sets mandate the Union of India to address the shortcomings in terms of policy interventions, planning and implementation.

The first challenge that covers all the SDG Goals is participation of Women in Workforce:

UN SDG put more emphasis to address the concerns of women, whereas Half of India’s work force is away from economic activity certainly not going to be a vibrant economy but will continue to suffer the Socio-political-cultural implications born out of it. Indian women belonging to deprived sections and Religious Minorities are the first-rate victims of this reality.

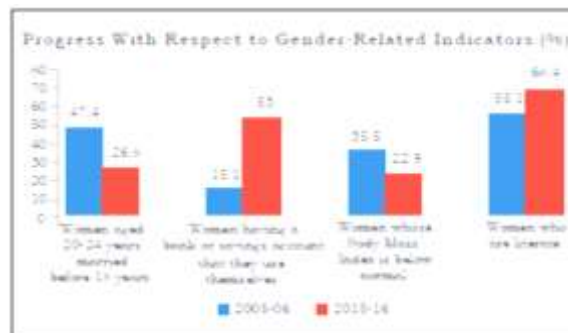
The share of Indian women above the age of 15 employed in workforce is only 25 per cent. It was 34 per cent in 1991 and has been sliding steadily since. India’s performance has improved on 14 out of 17 SDG indicators of women’s agency, attitudes, and outcomes says Economic Survey 2017-‘18 in contrary to Comparative figures of NFHS-4. In NFHS-3 survey 43% of married women in the age group of 15-49 years had reported working in the past 12 months. This proportion has declined to 31% in the latest survey against 98% of married men in the last 12 months. On seven of the SDGs, the improvement has been such that India’s situation is better than, that in **a cohort of countries** after accounting for levels of development as per the Economic survey 2017-’18 that needs to be checked through “**Mark twain’s**” lenses.

Belief that women should not work outside home appears to be widespread



Above chart is based on the Social Attitudes Research, India (SARI) survey, covering 6,370 adults in Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, 1,695 men were also interviewed in Mumbai, 48% of whom answered that married women whose husbands earn a good living should not work outside the home. Source: Diane Coffey et al (EPW, 2018) 'Explicit Prejudice: Evidence from a New Survey' - Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

The statement of the Chief Minister, largest State Uttar Pradesh in India on 21st March 2017 “**Women not capable of being left free or Independent**” and the ideological exponent of ruling party RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat “ **Women should be just housewives and husbands should be the breadwinners**” are the Mindset resulted in these statistics. The woeful gender gap in the workplace has cascading effect in making India a poor nation.



Source : The NITI Aayog’s VO L U N T A R Y N A T I O N A L REVIEW Report page 30 of the pdf version

Gender Equality

A staggering 63 million women missing from India's population. An additional 21 million girls are "unwanted" in preference of a boy instead. The sex ratio (females/1000 males) in India has improved up to 943 in 2011. However, the World Bank projections for India suggest a decrease of sex ratio to 931 by 2021. The skewed sex ratio in favour of males not only led to "missing" women but also increases crime against women. Many Socio-Cultural practices resulted in "*unwanted*" girls. Beyond government's schemes and initiatives for women, a shift in Mindset is more important.

Gender Gap

India slipped by 21 places with 108th position out of 144 countries says World Economic Forum's (*WEF*) as compared to 87th rank last year. India's cumulative score was 0.669 down from 0.683 in 2016. India has successfully closed 67% of its gender gap. The reason is due to low scores in two indicators (i) Health and Survival: India ranked 141 at bottom four because of poor sex ratio at birth. (ii) In Economic Participation India ranked 139 as per ILO, down from 136 last year, as Indian woman is estimated to earn less than quarter of annual income earned by a man. She gets paid only 60% of what her male counterpart gets for similar work. Across sectors, only 13% of senior officials, managers and legislators are women. Fall in India's ranking can be attributed to widening of its gender gaps in political empowerment as well as in healthy life expectancy and basic literacy.

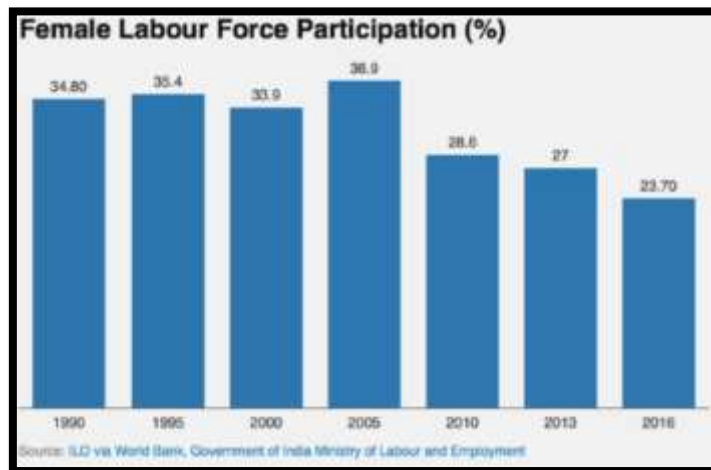
Though India succeeded in fully closing its primary and secondary education enrolment gender gaps and very near to closing its tertiary education gender gap, but its overall literacy rate still shows disparity between men (80%) and women (59%). Moreover, in case women holding top political positions, India's ranks high at 15th position but the proportion of women in legislature is an abysmal 11%.

Female Work force

Globally, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) among prime working age women (*aged 25–54*) stands at 63% compared to 94% among their male counterparts. Female labour force participation rate *FLFP* in India dropped from 34.8 percent to 27 percent in the two decades that saw relatively stable economic growth. Statistics suggest that India will be unable to take advantage of its current stage of "*demographic dividend*", with a high share of working age population and women stay out of jobs. Employing women leads to cascading effects in creation of more jobs as woman generates employment for 1.3 more people. In the first four months of 2017, a nugget of information went by unnoticed: while jobs for men increased by

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0.9 million, 2.4 million women fell off the employment map. In contrast, women went missing from the workplace at precisely the same time that girls were making massive advances in education. The logical link that education should lead to jobs is broken in India. In rural India, 67% of girls who are graduates do not work. In towns and cities, 68.3% of women who graduate don't have paid jobs.



If women participated in the economy at par with men, India could increase GDP by up to 60%, or \$2.9 trillion, by 2025. Majority of the women that are out of work force are from deprived sections of Indian Society beyond religion and caste identities. However, Government policies left out people observing non-Indic faiths that amounts 18% of the population and the Indigenous people with Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes are getting namesake benefits that never got grounded and remained as part of appeasement practice.

Gender Pay Gap

India had worst levels of gender wage disparity is as high as 27%, men earning more than women in similar jobs. The Global Wage Report 2016-17 of the International Labour Organisation (*ILO*) found that India suffers from huge gender pay gap and ranked at 108. The gender pay gap was 24% in 2014 and 27% in 2015. In India, the top 1% earns 33 times what the bottom 10% did. The top 10% also earned 43% of all wages. Since 2006, average wages rose by 60% in India. The figures differ in various sectors such as the financial services in India depict the lowest gender pay gap of 17.7% while the manufacturing sector stands at a massive inequality of payment of 34.9%. Men earn hourly median gross wage of INR 345.8, whereas women only receive INR 259.8.

Poverty

Indian bears the greater brunt of poverty. About 12 per cent of India's female population is classified as single, including women who are widowed, divorced, separated, and older unmarried women, according to the 2011 census, but specific Gender based poverty statics are not made available. The poverty concept of India still is not compatible with world as its methodology is on the premise of more than three-decade old consumer basket. UNDP come up with relatively new method of Human development Indices that Ranks it 130 out of 189 countries in the 2018 report. The report also states that about 26.8 per cent of India's HDI value is lost on account of inequalities.

India's HDI trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts

| | Life expectancy at birth | Expected years of schooling | Mean years of schooling | GNI per capita (2011 PPP\$) | HDI value |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1990 | 57.9 | 7.6 | 3.0 | 1,733 | 0.427 |
| 1995 | 60.4 | 8.2 | 3.5 | 2,015 | 0.460 |
| 2000 | 62.6 | 8.3 | 4.4 | 2,470 | 0.493 |
| 2005 | 64.6 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 3,157 | 0.535 |
| 2010 | 66.6 | 10.8 | 5.4 | 4,357 | 0.581 |
| 2015 | 68.3 | 12.0 | 6.3 | 5,691 | 0.627 |
| 2016 | 68.6 | 12.3 | 6.4 | 6,026 | 0.636 |
| 2017 | 68.8 | 12.3 | 6.4 | 6,353 | 0.640 |

Between 1990 to 2017, India's HDI value saw a 50 per cent increase from 0.427 to 0.640, an indicator of the country's remarkable achievement in lifting millions of people out of poverty.

Health

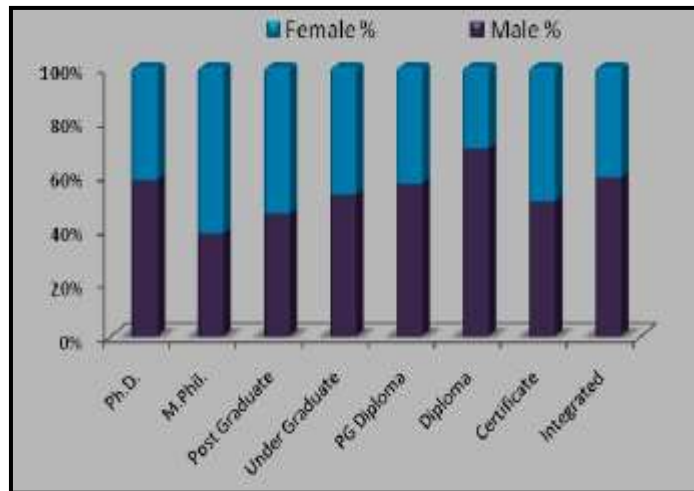
Maternal healthcare expenses push 46.6% mothers in India into poverty. India has high maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of 167: for every 100,000 births. This is more than twice the target to be achieved under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Health expenditure is greater than or equal to 40% of a household's non-subsistence income, i.e. income available after basic needs have been met, according to the World Health Organisation (*WHO*). As many as 63% households nationwide had a maternal health expenditure of 40% as per NSSO. In the 10 years to 2014, out-of-pocket (OOP) health spending has pushed 50.6 million people back into poverty, *IndiaSpend* reported on 8 May 2017. In India, 14.67 crore women are suffering from anemia and 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) as per Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE.

Education

In India 32.4% of young girls aging 14-18 years opt out of schools due to 'family constraints', says the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) report. The number is very

high for Muslims followed by SCs and STs. More girls (32%) drop out of school than boys (28%) as they reach adolescence. Further, 76% of female students had never used internet in their life and 22% of girls had never used a mobile phone. However, when it comes to boys, 51% have access to internet and 88% have access to mobile phones.

The real challenge is employability gap with 60% of the 8 Lakhs engineers graduating from technical institutions across the country every year remain unemployed (Source : AICTE). 39% employers state that attracting and finding quality talent is one of the most challenging aspects. 90% of jobs are skill-based, only 2% of the population (in the 15-25 age group) is currently enrolled for vocational training (vs.60-80% worldwide). The government’s recent skill gap analysis concludes, that by 2022, approximately 109 million more skilled workers would be needed in 24 key sectors of the economy. This skill assessment clearly indicates the scarcity of skilled workforce in India who can take the jobs as 97% of students opting for General programmes. There is a policy lacuna in addressing the issue beyond the availability of resources. Many of the higher and professional educational institutions are suffering with shortage of teaching staff.



Crime against Women

As per the latest data from National Crime Records Bureau, the crime rate against women rose from 41.7% to 53.9%, between 2011 and 2015.

| Crime Head | Crime Incidence (IPC + SLL) | | | Percentage Variation | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|-------------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2014 - 2015 | 2015 - 2016 |
| Total Crime against Women | 38,385 | 41,001 | 41,761 | 6.8% | 1.8% |

Up to 3,27,394 cases were reported in 2015 alone, including 34,651 cases of rape, 4,437 cases of attempted rape, 59,277 kidnapping and abductions, 7,634 dowry deaths, and a whopping 1,13,403 cases of domestic cruelty, among others.

| S. No. | Crime Head | Total Cases Reported | Major Metropolitan Cities during 2016 | | |
|--------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Cruelty by husband or his relatives | 12,218 | Delhi (3,645) | Hyderabad (1311) | Jaipur (1,008) |
| 2. | Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty | 10,458 | Delhi (3,746) | Mumbai (2,183) | Bengaluru (820) |
| 3. | Kidnapping & Abduction | 9,256 | Delhi (3,364) | Mumbai (1,142) | Bengaluru (674) |
| 4. | Rape | 4,935 | Delhi (1,996) | Mumbai (712) | Pune (354) |

Source: NCRB Report 2016 Page XXXiii

The National Family Health Survey (*NHFS-4*) released by the Union health ministry says every third women, since the age of 15, has faced domestic violence of various forms in the country. Unfortunately, 'reported' is the key word here, given that a majority of crimes against women remains unregistered, even in 2017 barely paints the whole picture. The failure of Criminal Justice systems due the short fall of Judicial Officers in Courts, law and order Agencies, increase in political intervention and the cost of Justice.

Child Marriages

India has the highest number of child brides in the world. Nearly 12 million Indian children were married before the age of 10 years, 84% of them Hindu and 11% Muslim as per Census 2011. As many as 7.84 million (65%) married children were female, reinforcing the fact that girls are significantly more disadvantaged; eight in ten illiterate children who were married were also girls.

Zero Hunger

As per Global Nutrition Report 2016, India ranked 114th among the 132 countries in terms of stunting prevalence in children (under 5 years). The overall prevalence of underweight. Stunting and wasting among <5 year children was 25%, 29%, 16% respectively. The Union Budget allocations for the health sector have stagnated at 0.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With the given shortages of many indicators of health sector meeting the SDG-3 is a mirage. The more hyped Ayushman Bharat aimed to serve 50 Crore people is

with RS 2000 Cr allocation is an insurance scheme. The package grant for different treatment is not viable.

Political Empowerment

As per the data compiled by the Inter-parliamentary Union India is ranked at 141 with 12% women in both Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The national average of the representation of women in **State Legislative** bodies stands at 9%. Women in India are much better represented in the Panchayati Raj Institutions as compared to the Parliament with 1,06,154 Sarpanches out of 2,52,919 Gram Panchayats. Women's reservation bill is pending since 2008 as the then opposition and present ruling party objected it over few concerns, even after four years of their government, there was no progress to address the concerns and pass the bill in the lower house.

The role of parliament in SDG 3: Promoting healthy lives

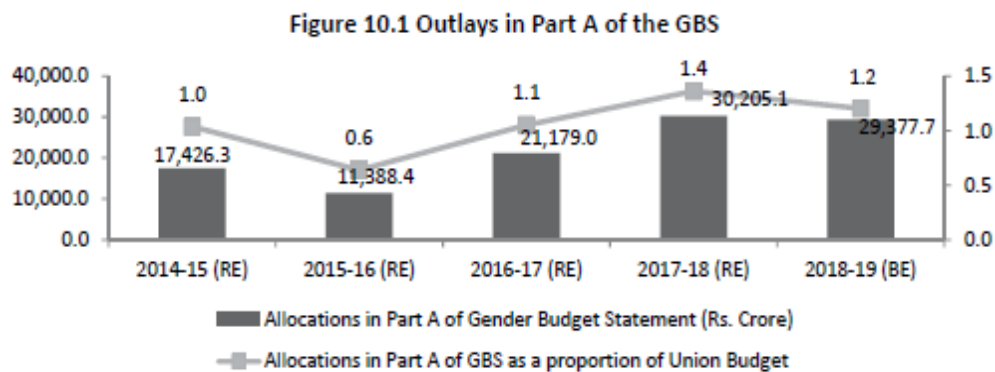


Source: Page 75 of Global Parliamentary Report 2017 Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations Development Programme, 2017 at www.ipu.org/oversight and www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/library/

Gender Budgeting

The budget is an important tool to assess how well the various policies, programmes and schemes meant for women are getting operationalised. A number of recent policy documents including the Three Year Action Agenda (2017-18 to 2019-20) presented by the NITI Aayog and the National Policy for Women 2017 (draft) have highlighted Gender Responsive Budgeting as a priority area of action to achieve not only more gender equitable development

outcomes but also to meet the SDGs. Unfortunately, the allocations, expenditure mismatch with the objectives.



A sustainable approach irrespective of change in the ruling Party is necessary to address the issues that are more connected to Social Mindset.

Conclusion

The government's claim of faring better than the coherent countries is not matched with the available data. The budgetary allocations, expenditure and grounding different schemes are in mismatch. There is no effort to address the prevailing Midset against 'Women' by the government that is disempowering them and pushing the overall Happiness index of the country from 122nd position to 136th position. India needs to address this by adopting more aggressive modes of budgetary allocations, grounding the schemes and adopt stringent means to tackle the Mindset prevailing against women in all spears of life.

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