



## Comprehensive Approaches for Development of Women and Children

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### ABSTRACT

*The goal of the paper is to study of women and child development of India focusing to three major sides. These are 1) Prepare a pilot action on woman and child development, 2) Stress on Female education and 3) Combating of Trafficking. This paper explores what are the different factors influences Indian women and child and focuses specifically the barriers and opportunities for development.*

*Mother's illiteracy and child development are interlinked. So, making healthy people, female education is utmost essential for the progress of a country.*

*Child development barriers are Socioeconomic barriers, Physical Barriers, parental barriers etc.*

*Regarding trafficking, a multi-sectoral approach is needed which will undertake preventive measures to arrest trafficking especially in vulnerable areas and to enable rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the trafficked victims.*

*The aim of this paper is to present different perspectives and explores relevant issues that can inspire future debates and comprehensive research and programming.*

**Keywords : Development, Female Education, Trafficking, Jel Classification: D63, J13, O15**

### Introduction

Children are the principle assets of any country. Child Development is an important factor as it is the future of the nation. The best way to develop national human resources is to take care of children.

India has the largest child population in the world. Significant progress has been made in many fields but much remains to be done. Here, girls in particular face discrimination at all stages. So, efforts are to be given for improvement of their quality of life.

Women face disparities in access to and control over services and resources. Despite several struggles by women to for no gender-bias or inequality, but the Twelfth Plan too, exhibits insufficient awareness of the specific problems of women. The projected gross budgetary support for the "women and child development" sector for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period also shows a decline from the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.

The budgetary allocations for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment: gender budget (with an increased pool of Rs 97,134 crore)

The projected Gender Budgetary Support for Woman and Child Development for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan is Rs 1,17,707 crore, out of which the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) accounts for Rs 1,08,503 crore. [1]

[http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/planrel/12appdrft/appraoch\\_12plan.pdf](http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/planrel/12appdrft/appraoch_12plan.pdf)

### Literature review

Poor nutrition is most frequently associated with family poverty, little or no parental education, and unstable working conditions or unemployment for families (Karp, Cheng, & Meyers, 2005).

Poor nutrition also affects fetal health outcomes in developed countries (Chapin et al, 2004).

The maternal depression is predictive of disturbances in child development [2]

Trafficking of children is a worldwide phenomenon affecting large numbers of boys and girls everyday. [3]

Times of India: 01-10-2013, 05:22 : Lucknow : **Sadatganj cops rescue 7 child labors** ; Seven minors were rescued by anti-trafficking cell of Lucknow police in Old city area.

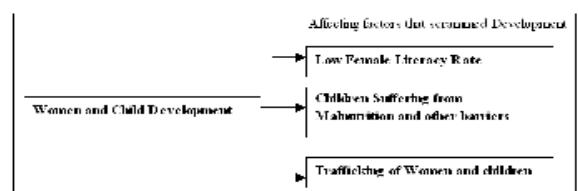
According to Mohamed Y. Mattar, There is "absence of a specific anti-trafficking law" [4]

### Objective of the study

- Prepare a pilot action on woman and child development
- Stress on Female education
- Combating of Trafficking

### Analysis

There are several factors affects development of woman and children. A diagrammatic representation is given below:



### Low Female Literacy Rate and Its Impact on Our Society

The level of education indicates development of any nation or region. India has made a considerable progress in "Education

for all" program and with all the efforts the literacy rate grew to 74.04% in 2011 from 12% in 1947. Females constitute about 50% of country's human resource but lack of female-education deviate from the progress and development of India. As per the census of 2011, an effective literacy rate for men was 82.14% whereas for women it was 65.46%. It has been estimated that at the current rate of progress, India will attain universal literacy on 2060. It indicates that female education progress is very slow and has negative impact on our society.

#### Effect of Female education

Lack of education means lack of awareness. If a woman is not educated, not only she suffers but also the entire family has to bear the consequences of her illiteracy and she also face more hardships in life than literate ones. Illiterate women suffer from malnutrition and all other related health problems. The same thing happened for her kids also, which hampers the family as well as the nation's progress as a whole.

#### Cause of low female literacy rate in India

Poverty is the root cause of low female literacy rate. More than one-third of population in India is living below the poverty line.

In India, after marriage, Girl child have to leave their parents' home. So their education is just considered as wastage of money as well as time.

Another barrier to female education in India is the lack of female teachers. India is a gender-segregated society and it is also an important factor in the low female literacy rate in India.

#### Barriers in child development

##### Malnutrition of child

Under-nutrition is caused by a large number of factors that include lack of access to medical care and health services; high disease load; lack of access to food, nutrition and health education; early marriage, pregnancy and non-spacing of children; anemia among women; low birth weight babies; poor cultural practices regarding feeding of colostrums and breast feeding; poor quality of water and sanitation; and migration and mothers having to go for work leaving children at home. There are several social factors also cause of malnutrition. Such as starvation (religious ground) etc.

Socioeconomic Barriers (includes Poverty and Underdevelopment)

Key Issues	Impact on child Development
Physical issues	Unhealthy and malnourished mothers are more likely to give birth to low birth weight babies
	Poor knowledge of health and nutrition can not ensure their young children's health and nutritional status
Social issues	Children grow up in an environment of serious depression, the development of their brains may be weakened
Illiteracy	Illiteracy and lack of formal education creates barriers for women in all aspects of social life.
Mother's control over child	Literate mother can control her young child easily.

Ministry of Women and Child Development announces a lot of program for child development and for last few years they work for the development and welfare of children in the country.

#### Prevent trafficking of women and children

Human trafficking is the trade in humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor or for the extraction of organs or tissues including surrogacy and ova removal. Article 23 prohibits trafficking of human beings and forced labour.

Socioeconomic status includes education, income and occupation. A low socioeconomic status leads to poorer health and poverty, diminishing a child and family's overall quality of life. Stress in poor families linked to maternal depression.

#### Behavioral and Emotional Barriers

Depression and adverse child outcomes are **co-related**. Behavioral and emotional problems in children often affect the quality of their social relationships, thus posing significant barriers to social and emotional development. Children with behavioral disorders such as oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder often have difficult relationships with others because of their aggressive tendencies.

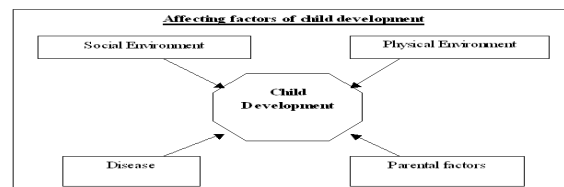
#### Physical Barriers

Chronic physical inactivity can lead to several developmental concerns in children, including obesity, lower academic achievement and fewer social interactions etc. Physical disablement sometimes bears a great barrier to children also.

#### Parental Barriers

Parental neglect cause emotional and behavioral barriers to development in children. Children of both working parents sometimes suffer from emotional need and as a result they choose or move towards unsafe way.

Beside above, Parental affect such as neighborhood, safety, etc are a few of the factors that may influence family psychological well-being, and thus children's development. External factors such as political environment, macro-economic policy change, adverse climate and weather also affect child development.



#### Parental Factors

Parental effects starting from pre-natal and post-natal stage to young age. Hence poverty, status, housing condition, employment etc directly affect to child development.

In India, major supply factors for trafficking are Poverty, Illiteracy, Infanticide, Natural disaster etc. Women and girls are trafficked for domestic work, forced marriage and which often entails sexual abuse.

#### Combating of Trafficking

##### Role of Govt

Government should create compulsory high quality education, employment opportunities and income generation program. Also introduce awareness program about trafficking at school level.

### Role of NGOs

NGOs working in the rural areas should aware about trafficking to rural people.

### Role of Media

- Media attention reaches several viewers and should therefore media has an important functions:
- Create awareness that human trafficking is inappropriate and illegal and has negative consequences.
- Wide publicity should be given regarding the legal, penal provisions against trafficking and the modus operandi of the traffickers through radio, television, newspaper etc.

### UN also took initiative to fight human trafficking.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) initiative to prevent trafficking

In India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in an attempt to stop the trafficking of women and children has undertaken a number of initiatives.

It includes three pilot projects were implemented i) Pilot project to combat trafficking women and children for commercial sexual exploitation under the sanction of tradition ii) Pilot project to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial, sexual exploitation in source areas and iii) Pilot project to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation in destination areas. The projects are in the process of being converted into a full scheme.[5] <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/Initiatives-to-combat-trafficking-of-Women-and-Children.htm>

Beside above points govt. should take special care in festival, religious gathering and natural calamity/accident.

Create a anti trafficking pool for monitoring border, and inside activities.

### Major Findings

- Discrepancy between Genders in terms of budgetary allocations.
- Lack of awareness in health particularly in rural sector.
- Lack of awareness about trafficking by general public. Wide publication is required through media.

### Recommendation

To prepare a pilot action plan on woman and child development

Family is the first environment with which children interact since birth. So, parents play the most vital role for child development.

### For Child Development Parents need to do:

- Provide a friendly environment at home for optimal development and learning and spend quality time with the child.
- Encourage exploration and experimentation according to child's abilities.
- Play a cooperative role and establish a relationship of trust and mutual respect

- Not to force formal learning and competition at this early age and respect children's abilities and personalities.
- Assess the child's interest and participation, skills and abilities, social interactions.
- Ensure quality childcare for the children of working mothers.
- Acquire perfect knowledge about the characteristics of social environments and interventions that support healthy child development

### Suggestive measures for women development to be undertaken by Govt. of India:

Women groups have been to engage in gainful economic activities through small business and enterprise. Supported women to liaise with banks and micro finance institutions and organized eligible credit facilities. It includes: a) Innovative Handholding, Financing and Capacity Building b)

### Supporting Intermediary Organizations.

#### Income Generation

- Pay special attention to the needs and aspirations of the socially and economically marginalized, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and specially economically weaker segments of society, physically and mentally handicapped persons, orphans and destitute with due focus on women and children.
- Organize poor rural, tribal and urban under-privileged women into groups and set up Self-Help Groups for their socio-economic development and empowerment.

### Health

Early childhood care with sufficient medical facilities.

Upgrade the Status of Rural Public Health Infrastructure

Improve the Health & Nutritional status of women and children by conducting awareness and service programmes in the areas of health, hygiene, HIV/AIDS control & prevention, nutrition, small family norms, sanitation, etc.

### Education

- Knowledge of brain and biological development leads to the conclusion of every human being. Evolve programs for education at primary levels and Non-formal Education for school dropouts, out of school children, working children, adolescent girls and adults.
- Provide Vocational Training to increase employment opportunities for the youth, adolescent girls and women and promote Income Generating Programmes.
- Create Environmental Awareness and undertake environment improvement activities like agro-forestry, agro-horticulture, soil and water conservation, sustainable agriculture development, watershed management, etc.
- Build linkages between people's institutions, Government and other NGOs.

### Concluding remarks

The government should work towards female education in rural as well as urban India. We should encourage the girl child in getting education to create a balanced and educated society. This will help India to reach towards the gender-neutral sector.

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