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THE PERFORMANCE OF GENDER BUDGETING IN INDIA

KEY WORDS: Rationality, Preparation of Gender Budgeting, Gender Budget Expenditure, Women and Pro-Women Specific Scheme, Achieving Gender Equality

Mrs. Puneetha V.C. *

Research Scholar in Economics, DOS in Economics and Cooperation, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore -06. *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

The empirical studies reveals that the Gender budget is considered as tool for women and equity. The perspective gender budget at various stages of budget preparation and implementation for achieving gender equality. Government of India implemented gender budgeting in 2004-05 budget. Ministry of Women and Child development is the nodal agency to implement the scheme in India. In this direction, this paper examines the trends in gender budget expenditure in India since 2004-05. India has under taken various programme and policies for the effective implementation of this budget. As a result, various state governments, Ministries and departments have undertaken so many measures for the effective incorporation of gender budget in their budgetary allocation. The trend in the expenditure on gender budgeting in India has increased over the years. The share of gender budgeting in total expenditure is nearly 5 percent in India. The gender budget expenditure reveals that the growth rate of 15.06 percent during 2004-2020 period. In the budget the provision is made under two parts Part A-100 percent women specific and Part B-30 percent women specific programme. The expenditure share of 100 percent women specific components is lower than the pro women specific scheme in India. The analysis shows that since 2004-05 the gender budget expenditure in India has increased. The exponential growth rate in women specific scheme is statistically significant at 1 per cent and also pro-women specific scheme as statistically significant at 10 percent.

INTRODUCTION:

Gendering Budgeting is an important policy initiatives undertaken by Government of India for creating and enabling environment for gender equity through legislative and programmatic initiatives. Gender budgeting is gaining increasing acceptance as a tool for engendering macroeconomic policy-making and thereby achieving the goal of gender equity with empowerment. This is an important tool for gender mainstreaming also. In gender budgeting women components are introduced for achieving the gender equity. It includes formulation of gender sensitive legislation, policies, programme and schemes, allocation and collection of resources as well as assessment and follow up of programme and policies.

Though Women constitute more than 48% of India's population and play an important role in economic development, the aspirations of this critical segment of the population have for long been inadequately reflected in the policy discourse, especially in the budget framework. The 9th Five Year Plan, for the first time, recognised this gap and provided for the Women's Component Plan and continued in all Five Year plans thereafter. The 11th Plan further advanced this endeavour by emphasising on Gender Budgeting and Gender Outcome Assessment with emphasis on Gender Audits of public expenditure, programme and policies at national and state levels. In this study, an attempt is made to examine the steps undertaken by the Govt of India in enlarging the scope of this programme through its budgetary framework. Government of India adopted gender budgeting as a budgetary strategy in 2004-05 to mainstream gender in legislation, programme and policies. Various state governments also adopted this as an integral part of their budget. Ministries and departments at the central and state levels are mandated to set up gender budgeting cell as part of gender budgeting. Various departments and ministries have taken this as an important part of their programme and policies to attain gender equity. In India Ministry of women and Child Development is the nodal agency to implement this programme. The ministry has undertaken programme and policies to achieve the goals of gender budgeting. The ministry is undertaking and designing the programme for gender budgeting considering it as a tool for empowering the women in India. The present paper examines the budgetary allocation and the implementation of the gender budgeting programme in India. The analysis is based on the data provided in the union budget of India since 2004-05. The

Gender budgeting expenditure data is provided in the Volume. 1 in Expenditure section of the Union budget.

Rationality of Gender Budgeting

Budgets are universally accepted as a powerful tool in achieving development objectives and act as an indicator of commitment to the stated policy of the Government. National budgets reflect how governments mobilize and allocate public resources, and how they aim to meet the social and economic needs of their people. The rationale of gender budgeting arises from the recognition of the fact that the impact of national budgets on various sections of the society can be made different through the pattern of resource allocation and priority accorded to competing sectors. The budgetary policy of the Government has a major role to play in achieving objectives of gender equality and growth through content and direction of Fiscal and Monetary Policies, measures for resource mobilization, affirmative action for underprivileged sections etc. Women stand apart as one segment of the population that warrants special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to state resources. Thus gender-responsive budget policies can contribute to achieving the objectives of gender equality, human development and economic efficiency. The purpose of gender budgeting exercise is to assess quantum and adequacy of allocation of resources for women and establish the extent to which gender commitments are translated into budgetary commitments. This exercise facilitates an increase in accountability, transparency and participation of the community. The macro policies of the Government can have a significant impact on gender gaps in various macro indicators related to health, education, income, etc.

Gender budgeting is a tool for Gender Mainstreaming also. Mainstreaming requires gender-responsive policy. When gender equality considerations are incorporated into policymaking, the concerns and needs of both women and men become an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programme in all sections of society. The Ministry of Women and Child development has played a pioneering role in mainstreaming the idea and practice of Gender-responsive budgeting in India. Gender budgeting, thus, is a process of engaging with policies across sectors to ensure that gender gaps are addressed and a gender perspective is maintained at all stages, including formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of programme and schemes.

Gender Budgeting In India

A gender perspective on public expenditure In India had been gaining ground since the publication of the report of the Committee on the Status of Women in 1974. The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) highlighted for the first time the need to ensure a definite flow of funds from the general developmental sectors to women. India's efforts towards Gender budgeting has been clearly focused on the various Five Year Plan. The plan documents have over the years reflected the evolving trends in gender issues. Formal earmarking of funds for women began with the Women's Component Plan. However, gender sensitivity in the allocation of resources starts with the Seventh Plan. The Seventh Plan introduced the concept of monitoring of 27 beneficiary oriented schemes for women. The Eighth Plan (1992-97) highlighted, for the first time, a gender perspective and the need to ensure a definite flow of funds from the general developmental sectors to women. The Plan document made an express statement that 'the benefits to development from different sectors should not bypass women and special programmes on women should complement the general development programme the latter, in turn, should reflect great gender sensitivity'. The Ninth Plan (1997- 2002) adopted the 'Women's Component Plan' as one of the major strategies and directed both the Central and State Governments to ensure "not less than 30 per cent of the funds/benefits are earmarked in all the women's related sectors. Special vigil advocated on the flow of the earmarked funds/benefits through an effective mechanism to ensure that the proposed strategy brings forth a holistic approach towards empowering women. The Tenth Plan reinforced the commitment to gender budgeting stating that the two effective concepts of Women Component Plan and Gender Budgeting would be tied up to play a complementary role to each other, and thus ensure both preventive and post facto action in enabling women to receive their rightful share from all the women related general development sectors."

Growth And Trends In Total Gender Budget Expenditure In India

The table-1 clearly indicates the total allocation of fund in various budgets for gender budgeting which comprises of total women-specific and pro-women specifics expenditure. In 2004-05 the total gender budget expenditure allocated was Rs.10844.61 crores. It was 2.27 per cent of the total budget expenditure of India. In 2005-06, the total budget estimates for gender budget was Rs, 24032 crores. It was nearly 4.67 per cent of total expenditure. It increased to 5.10 per cent in 2006-07. The highest allocation was in the 2011- 2012 period which was 6.22 per cent of total expenditure. In the 2020-21 budget the total allocation for gender budget is Rs. 143461.72 crores i.e., about 4.72 per cent of the total expenditure. This table clearly reveals that the compound annual growth rate for the total gender budget expenditure is growing at the rate of 15.06 per cent increases during the period 2004 to 2020.

Table - 1: Details of Total gender budget estimate of India 2004-2021
Rs. in Crores

year	Total Gender Budget expenditure (Budget Estimate)	Total budgetary expenditure (Budget Estimate)	% to total expenditure
2004	10844.61	477829	2.27
2005	24032	514344	4.67
2006	28736.58	563991	5.10
2007	18636.88	680520.5	2.74
2008	27661.67	780883.5	3.54
2009	56857.61	1020838	5.57
2010	67749.8	1108749	6.11
2011	78251.02	1257729	6.22
2012	88142.8	1490925	5.91
2013	97133.7	1665297	5.83
2014	98029.84	1794892	5.46

2015	79257.87	1777477	4.46
2016	90769.5	1978060	4.59
2017	113326.7	2146735	5.28
2018	121961	2442213	4.99
2019	136934.1	2786349	4.91
2020	143461.7	3042230	4.72
CAGR (%)	15.06	12.43	2.34

Source: Union Budget of India (Various years) Expenditure statement Volume.1

Table - 2: Growth And Trends In Gender Budgeting Expenditure Women Specific Allocation

Year	Women specific scheme expenditure (100% allocation)	% to total gender Budget expenditure	% to total expenditure	Prowomen specific scheme expenditure (30-99% allocation)	% total gender budget expenditure	% to total expenditure
2005-06	7905.08	32.89	1.54	16126.92	67.11	3.14
2006-07	9575.82	33.32	1.70	19160.71	66.68	3.40
2007-08	8340.44	44.75	1.23	10296.44	55.25	1.51
2008-09	11459.61	41.43	1.47	16202.06	58.57	2.07
2009-10	15715.68	27.64	1.54	41141.93	72.36	4.03
2010-11	19266.05	28.44	1.74	48483.75	71.56	4.37
2011-12	20548.35	26.26	1.63	57702.67	73.74	4.59
2012-13	22968.93	26.06	1.54	65173.87	84.14	4.97
2013-14	27248.19	28.05	1.64	69885.31	71.95	4.20
2014-15	21887.61	22.33	1.22	76142.23	77.67	4.24
2015-16	16657.11	21.02	0.94	62600.76	78.98	3.52
2016-17	19398.66	21.37	0.98	71370.74	78.63	3.61
2017-18	31370.8	27.68	1.46	81930.03	72.30	3.82
2018-19	31373.35	25.72	1.28	90587.65	74.28	3.71
2019-20	27420.03	20.02	0.98	109514.1	79.98	3.93
2020-21	28568.32	19.91	0.94	114893.4	80.09	3.78
CAGR (%)	8.85	-3.98	-3.07	15.27	1.67	2.65

The gender budget statements are displayed in two parts, Part A gives details of the schemes in which 100% provision is for women. Part B reflects schemes where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provisions. In part B the allocation of fund is higher than the women-specific schemes. Women-specific and pro-women-specific allocations are given in the above table. The allocation for both schemes increased since 2005. Of the total allocation, the major share is for pro-women scheme. The share of 100 per cent women-specific component is low in India compared to pro-women scheme allocation. In 2005-06 the share was 33 and 67 per cent respectively for 100 per cent women-specific scheme and pro-women-specific scheme. In the 2020-21 budget, the allocation was 20 and 80 per cent respectively. The share of 100 per cent women-specific scheme in total budget is nearly one per cent only. The highest share goes to pro-women-specific schemes. The table clearly indicates that the compound annual growth rate of the 100% women specific scheme allocation growing at the rate of 8.85 per cent and pro-women specific scheme allocation growing at the of 15.27 per cent respectively.

The Result Of The Exponential Growth Model

- **H₀: The expenditure made on women and pro-women specific schemes are not positively increasing in India.**
- **H₁: The expenditure made on women and pro-women specific schemes are positively increasing in India.**

To test this hypothesis, the study used two important variables

like women specific scheme expenditure and pro-women specific scheme expenditure made by the government of India from the year 2005-06 to 2020-21. The data are collected from the Union Budget of India (Various years) Expenditure statement Volume. 1. Here, exponential growth model is used to measure the growth and trends of said indicators. The results of the model are as follows;

Model Summary And Parameter Estimates							
Dependent Variable: Women specific scheme expenditure							
Equation	Model Summary					Parameter Estimates	
	R Square	F	df1	df2	Sig.	Constant	b1
Exponential	.765	45.690	1	14	.000	8.881E3	.085

Model Summary and Parameter Estimates							
Dependent Variable: Pro women specific scheme expenditure							
Equation	Model Summary					Parameter Estimates	
	R Square	F	df1	df2	Sig.	Constant	b1
Exponential	.541	4.451	1	14	.053	2.132E4	.068

The results of the exponential growth model are reported in the above table. According to the above results, the average annual growth of women specific scheme expenditure is 8.5 percent which is statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance with the R square value of 0.765. The F value of the model is 45.690. Whereas the average annual growth of pro-women specific scheme expenditure is 6.8 percent which is also statistically significant at 10 percent level of significance with the R square value of 0.541. The F value of the model is 4.451. Therefore, it is very clear from the above analysis and growth rates of the indicators that, the hypothesis i.e., **The expenditure made on women and pro-women specific schemes are positively increasing in India** is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION:

From the last 15 years the Government of India implement gender budget implementing for the women empowerment and equity. The analysis of its implementation in India shows that gender budgeting has gained importance over the years since 2004-05. Various ministries and departments have under taken special programme and projects in their budget. Various state governments also adopted gender budgeting in the state budget. The trend in the expenditure on gender budgeting in India has increased over the years. The share of gender budgeting in total expenditure is nearly 5 percent in India. The gender budget expenditure showed a growth rate of 15.06 percent during 2004-2020 period. The expenditure share of 100 percent women specific components is lower than the pro women specific scheme in India. The highest amount under 100 percent women specific programme was allocated to Department of rural development. Hence, the government and specific ministry need to create more awareness regarding the proper women benefit scheme so that the women empowerment and equity will be adopted in the all the sectors.

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