





SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# INTRODUCTION

- Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.
  - Women and girls, everywhere, must have equal rights and opportunity, and be able to live free of violence and discrimination.
  - Women's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. In short, all the SDGs depend on the achievement of Goal 5.
  - Gender equality by 2030 requires urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtail women's rights in private and public spheres.
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- The principles of gender equality and objectives of gender justice are embedded in the Constitution of India and are sought to be actualized through various legislation, policies, programmes, and special government initiatives.
  - Efforts to ensure access to essential services, such as food security, primary education and health care, housing, water and sanitation, are underway to address challenges affecting women and girls.
  - The Indian Economic Survey 2019 noted that there had been a considerable improvement for women in areas of decision-making in multiple spheres. Government's schemes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana schemes, among others and mandatory maternity leave rules are all steps in the right direction.

# LAWS PERTAINING TO WOMEN/CHILD


- India's commitment towards undertaking reforms to ensure gender rights and equality is reflected in several legislations enacted for ensuring equal opportunities and dignity of life for women, namely:-
  - The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
  - Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005
  - Section 376 Indian Penal Code relating to Rape
  - The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956
  - Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
  - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
  - Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
  - The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

# Targets

- **End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.**
- **Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.**

# ACTION TAKEN

- One-Stop Centres (OSC) are being implemented across the country to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including police, medical, legal, psychological support and temporary shelter to women affected by violence.
- Ujjawala, a comprehensive scheme is operational for preventing the trafficking of women and children.
- The "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Enable her Education) is a comprehensive scheme now implemented countrywide to address the problem and allied issues of women's empowerment in a life-cycle continuum approach.

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- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), a sub-scheme under Umbrella ICDS aims to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies by reducing malnutrition/ under-nutrition, anaemia among young children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
  - The Maternity Benefit Programme- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana was initiated in 2016 under Umbrella ICDS under Ministry of Women and Child Development, aimed to provide partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives such that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of her first living child.
  - Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was launched in 2015 as a Government of India backed saving scheme to encourage parents of the girl child to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their girl child.

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- The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Livelihoods Mission aims to mobilise and organise poor women, build their skills, facilitate access to credit, marketing and other livelihoods services, and covers 63 million women from rural areas organised into Self Help Groups (SHGs).
  - Economic empowerment received a big boost with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) widely expanding access to bank accounts together with access to direct benefits under various welfare schemes, insurance services, and other savings instruments like term deposits among others.
  - Initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission and Women's Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog create an ecosystem of innovation, research and entrepreneurship across the country which aims to engage young girls and women.





8.32%

of seats in the State Legislative Assemblies are held by women

EARNINGS OF FEMALES

78%

OF THAT OF MALES (REGULAR WAGE SALARIED EMPLOYEES)



17.5%

FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



Sex Ratio at birth

896 Females per 1000 males

13.96%

OPERATIONAL LANDHOLDERS ARE FEMALE



FOR EVERY 1 LAKH FEMALE POPULATION

58 WOMEN ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME



59.97%


CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN ARE SEXUAL CRIMES AGAINST GIRL CHILDREN



ONE IN THREE WOMEN EXPERIENCE SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

# CHALLENGES

- There is an acute data gap in the country for gender equality in several sectors, especially for transgender people. It is essential to invest in gender-sensitive data and analysis of disaggregated data to identify gaps/ challenges. Climate change and related risks also need to be assessed and addressed in terms of the multiplier effects these have on women and girl child, among other vulnerable groups.
- Female labour force participation in India is declining and currently stands at 17.5 per cent and has the following characteristics: a) Agriculture still has the largest share; b) Gender wage gap across sectors is as high as 50-75 per cent; and c) 93 per cent are in informal employment; a large proportion being women, with little or no social protection.

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- Inequalities continue to exist in women's access to and ownership of land. In rural India, while 75 per cent of rural women workers are engaged in agriculture, women's operational landholding is only 13.96 per cent
  - Globally, women-owned businesses and enterprises only benefit from approximately 1 per cent of all public procurement contracts. It calls for gender-responsive and inclusive procurement both in public and private sector.
  - Technical training on energy-related businesses for women, along with business development and market support, is a great way to promote gender equality and sustainability all at once.

# CONCLUSION

- While the SDGs are interlinked, only SDG-5 can unlock them all. For example, more education will directly contribute to better and safer cities and every 1% increase in access to secondary-education for women, directly contributes a 0.3 percentage point increase in national annual per capita income growth rate.
- Thus, India's developmental vision must spotlight SDG-5, lest we compromise our developmental vision.