Chapter-7

Conclusion and Suggestions
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India is amongst the fastest growing countries in the world today, with a GDP growth rate of more than 8 per cent during the eleven plan period and more than 5 per cent in the second half of the twelfth plan. This high level of growth can be sustained only when all sections of the society, especially women become equal partners in the development process. It is well recognised that societies which discriminate by gender tend to experience less rapid economic growth and poverty reduction than societies which treat men and women more equally. Gender equality and empowerment need to be a core development goal if the growth planned has to be achieved. Some deliberate policy steps are critical to achieve gender equality. The institutions of economics, politics and the law must be considered in terms of how they relate to each other and how they play out across the different areas where gender discrimination occurs; and gender assessments have to be undertaken continuously to reveal gaps and monitor progress towards gender equality. In order to create more gender equality, scholars and field practitioners have recognized the importance of empowering women. Mayoux (2000) defines empowerment as a process of change in power relations that is both multidimensional and interlinked. She has laid out a framework that is useful for developing strategies for women’s empowerment are Power Within, Power To, Power With and Power Over.

The earliest and systematic endeavour toward making women a focus of development took place in 1946. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to ensure empowerment of women and gender equality. During 1970’s and 1980’s, the advocates of women development spoke of integrating women into developmental process and during 1990’s the emphasis was on bringing gender issues into the planning process. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in the year 1994, laid emphasis on women’s rights and health. The Beijing Platform for Action contains twelve critical areas of concern including women’s poverty.
and women's economic and political empowerment, and particularly emphasises the needs of poor women. The Millennium Declaration signed in 2000, at the United Nations' Millennium Summit, commits the member countries “to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable”. Gender equality is one among the eight Millennium Development Goals. In 2001, UNIFEM launched a 20-country programme (2001-2004), creating a momentum among Governments, Civil Societies and Parliamentarians to make budgets from gender perspective. In 2005, the second phase of the programme was launched. It aimed at the application of gender analysis to government budgets, focusing on the use of “Gender-Responsive Budgeting” as a tool to increase accountability, participation and gender responsiveness in national budgets. Several countries, both developed and developing, have initiated gender budgeting. Gender budgets have now been introduced in varying forms in more than sixty countries throughout the world. Gender budgeting emerged out of feminist practical politics initially in Australia and later in other countries. The idea of gender budgets gathered further momentum when the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action called for the integration of a gender perspective into budgetary decision-making.

In the first twenty years following independence, Indian policy makers were primarily concerned with overall economic growth of the country. The third decade of independence witnessed an increasing concern for equity and poverty alleviation. But, gender issues were not the priority. As a result, policies and programmes specifically aiming at women were limited in scope and resources. It is only in the last twenty years, that it became evident that though women constitute an overwhelming majority of poor and that programmes of economic and social development are structurally biased in favour of men. This bias is now being openly acknowledged and corrective policies and programmes are being formulated, which calls for a systematic gender and development approach. Change in the focus and target group compelled the variety of approaches used to take some different forms. This leads to shifts in approaches for women are- Welfare Approach, Equality Approach, The Anti Poverty Approach, Effectiveness Approach, Development Approach and Empowerment Approach.

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Gender budgeting stress reprioritization rather than an increase in overall public expenditure and in particular, the reorientation of programmes within sectors rather than changes in the overall amounts allocated to particular sectors. Moreover, one of the key thrusts of a gender-sensitive budget is to ensure a greater visibility of the care economy in fiscal policy measures and its inclusion in a system of satellite accounts into the National Accounts System. The UNDP defines gender mainstreaming as: “Taking account of gender equity concerns in all policies, programmes, administrative and financial activities and in organisational procedures, thereby contributing to a profound organisational transformation”. Rhonda Sharp, with extensive experience on gender budgets, notes: “A significant gap can exist between the gender equality commitment of a government and the policies and programmes funded by its budget”. A gender analysis of government budgets offers an innovative tool for ensuring a better match between government’s policy commitments and development outcomes for recognising, underlying gender inequalities and redressing them through allocation of public resources. Gender budgets aim to ensure a fair, just and efficient distribution of public resources for the overall development of the society. The rational of gender budgeting in common are: Economic Efficiency, Good Governance, Right to Information and International Development Commitments and Commonwealth Mandates.

The Government of India has made concerted efforts for the holistic development of women. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of India, in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. To accord equal socio-economic and political status to Indian women, Government of India has incorporated gender perspective in various plans, policies and programmes since long time. However, gender budgeting as a distinct tool was institutionalised from the Union Budget 2005-06 for engendering microeconomic policy-making. In India, analysing public expenditure from the gender perspective received attention since the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women titled Towards Equality was brought out in 1974. It is important to note that gender sensitivity in allocation of resources began from Seventh Plan (1987-1992), however, formal earmarking of funds for women started with Women’s Component Plan in the year 1997-98. The Seventh Plan (1987-1992) introduced monitoring of 27 major women specific
schemes and the quantum of funds flowing to women. The Eighth Plan (1992-97) highlights that benefits of development from different sectors should not bypass women and special programmes on women should complement the general development programmes. The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-02) introduced “Women Component Plan”, where 30 percent of the funds and benefits would flow to women and the Tenth Plan (2002-07) and Eleventh Plan (2007-11) reinforced commitments to Women Component Plan along with Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB).

The MoWCD as the nodal department for the advancement of women and children, has taken several initiatives for gender budgeting. It also provides support to all other agencies to carry out gender budgeting initiatives. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, was commissioned by DWCD to study gender-related economic policy issues, which included gender segregation of relevant macro data, quantification of contribution of women in economy, assessment of impact of government budget on women, the role of women in improving institutional framework for delivery of public services and the policy alternatives for building a gender sensitive national budgeting process. The NIPFP study highlighted the fact that women related allocation in the Union Budget is very less. It has drawn the inference that gender incidence of public expenditure is difficult to measure in accurate quantitative terms, since the bulk of the expenditure is meant to provide services which are public in nature. Another vital initiative in India was undertaken by “The National Commission for Women (NCW)”.

The NCW sent a Memorandum to the Finance Minister listing various demands for the Union Budget 2004-2005 which highlights the important areas, such as, women’s health, rural environment, basic village infrastructure, women’s economic and political empowerment and macro-economic policy. An Expert Group was constituted by the government in 2003 to review the Classification System of Government Transactions. The Ministry of Women and Child Development adopted the mission statement of “Budgeting for Gender Equity” in 2004-05 and also framed the Strategic Framework of Activities to implement this mission. In his Budget Speech for the year 2006-07, the Finance Minister introduced a statement highlighting the gender sensitivities of the budgetary allocations and covers 10 demands for grants which include schemes where
100 per cent of the allocation is for the benefit of women as well as schemes where at least 30 per cent of the allocation is targeted toward women. The gender budgeting statement 2006-07 consists of two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A reflects the schemes in which 100 per cent of budgetary allocation is meant exclusively for women. Part B deals with women specific budget allocations wherein, at least 30 per cent of the total provisions are earmarked for women. Government of India has also made gender budgeting commitments with reference to MDGs. The MDGs provide a shared vision of a much improved world by 2015, where extreme poverty is reduced by half, child mortality is greatly reduced, and gender disparities in primary and secondary education are eliminated, women are more empowered and health and environment indicators improve within a global partnership for development.

From the review of literature certain important observations may be summarised as: The concept of gender budgeting is of recent origin, it is a result of sustained efforts of different women-groups and organisations, it is a result of realisation of centuries old exploitation, marginalisation and discrimination against at least a half of population. It is now realised that gender budgeting is necessary for social justice and economic equality. Governments have now introduced gender components in the budgets. It is admitted that gender development generates benefits which are helpful to both the sexes. There is serious need to carry out incidence analysis of different women-specific programmes. The gender budget policy should be regularly analysed, for which involvement of women organisations is necessary.

Bringing women in focus for development the Government laid special thrust on women’s employment with the objective of making women self-reliant and economically independent. For this purpose, several women-specific and women related policies and programmes were enunciated by the Government of India in all Plan documents and attainment of self-reliance. The First Five Year Plan (1951-56) was mainly welfare oriented as far as women’s issues were concerned. Sets up the social welfare board in 1953 to promote women welfare work through voluntary organizations, charitable trusts etc. The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) undertook a number of welfare measures through the voluntary sector. The programmes for women were implemented through the National Extension Service Programmes through Community Development Blocks. In
the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) efforts were geared to organise “Mahila Mandals” (women’s groups) at grass-roots levels to ensure better implementation of welfare schemes. The Third, Fourth, Fifth and other Interim Plans (1961-74) accorded high priority to women’s education. Measures to improve maternal and child health services, and supplementary feeding for children, nursing and expectant mothers were also introduced. Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) was regarded as a landmark in women’s development. The Plan adopted a multidisciplinary approach with a three-pronged thrust on health, education and employment of women. In the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) the development programmes for women were continued, with the objective of raising their economic and social status and bring them into the mainstream of national development. A very significant step therein was to identify and promote “beneficiary-oriented programmes” which extended direct benefits to women. Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) attempted to ensure that the benefits of development from different sectors did not bypass women. Special programmes were implemented to complement the general development programmes. The flow of benefits to women in the three core sectors of education, health and employment were monitored vigilantly. Women were enabled to function as equal partners and participants in the developmental process with reservation in the membership of local bodies. This approach of the Eighth Plan marks a definite shift from ‘development’ to ‘empowerment’ of women. Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) envisaged:

➤ Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development.

➤ Promoting and developing people’s participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj institutions, cooperatives and self-help groups.

➤ Strengthening efforts to build self-reliance.

➤ The convergence of services from different sectors.

➤ A women’s component plan at the Central and State levels.

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) formulated to ensure requisite access of women to information, resources and services, and advance gender equality goals.
Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) proposed to undertake special measures for gender empowerment and equity. The MoWCD would make synergistic use of gender budget and gender mainstreaming process. The Twelve Five Year Plan (2012-2017) entails strict adherence to gender budgeting across the key elements for Gender Equity to be addressed in the Twelve Plan can be clubbed under the following:

- Economic Empowerment
- Social and Physical Infrastructure
- Enabling Legislations
- Women's Participation in Governance
- Inclusiveness of all categories of vulnerable women
- Engendering National Policies/Programmes
- Mainstreaming gender through Gender Budgeting

Thus, the significance of the role women in development had been recognized by the government of India right from the first five year plan (1951-1956). However, women in these earlier plans were considered as subjects of 'welfare' and category of disadvantaged groups such as destitute, disabled, aged etc. As a category women had been gained special importance since the sixth five year plan. It is noteworthy that seventh and eighth five year have emphasized on 'development' and 'empowerment' respectively. With the passage of time, 11th and 12th five year plan have focused on inclusive growth. In other words, 'women' as a category must be included in the development process. Despite the various discrimination faced by women, the 12th five year plan has emphasized on single women by providing 'quota' in jobs. Moreover, women's inclusion in inclusive growth is only then possible when inclusive democracy turned to be reality not the myth.

The Budget for the year 2000-01 stressed the empowerment of women. The budget pointed out that, there is an urgent need for improving the access by women to national resources and for ensuring their rightful place in the mainstream of economic development. Toward this objective, the government set up a Task Force to review all existing legislation and government schemes pertaining to the role of women in the national economy. The Task Force would chalk out specific programmes for observing
2001 as “Women’s Empowerment Year”. The year 2001 was observed as “Women’s Empowerment Year”. Gender budgeting is specially mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speeches, in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. The Ministry of Finance started introducing a separate statement on gender budgeting from Union Budget 2005-06. It included 10 demands for grants. Similarly, a separate statement was included in Union Budget 2006-07. The gender budgeting statement 2006-07 consists of two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A reflects the schemes in which 100 per cent of budgetary allocation is meant exclusively for women. Part B deals with women specific budget allocations wherein, at least 30 per cent of the total provisions are earmarked for women.

The gender budget allocations as presented in Part A were Rs. 3259.88 crore in 2001-02, .89 per cent of the total union government expenditure. It rises to Rs.9575.82 crore, 1.69 per cent of the total expenditure in 2006-07. Further it increased to 97134 crore, 1.63 per cent of the total union government expenditure in the budget 2013-14. The allocations as presented in Part A as a percentage of total gender budget is 23.52 in 2001-02. It increases to 32.89 per cent in 2006-07. Further, with fluctuations it decreases to 28.05 per cent in 2013-14.

The gender budget allocations as presented in Part B was Rs. 10596.37 crore, 2.82 per cent of the total union government expenditure in 2001-02. It rises to Rs.19160.71 crore, 3.39 per cent of the total expenditure in the budget 2006-07. It further increased to 69886 crore, 4.20 per cent in 2013-14. The allocation as presented in Part B as a percentage of total gender budget was 76.47 per cent in 2001-02. It decreases to 66.67 per cent in 2006-07. With some ups and downs it increases and reached to 71.94 per cent in 2013-14.

The total size of the gender budget (Part A and Part B) comes to Rs 13856.25 crore, which was 3.69 per cent of the total union government expenditure in 2001-02. It rises to Rs.28736.53 crore, which was 5.09 per cent of the total union government expenditure 2006-07. Further it rises to 97134 crore, 5.83 per cent of the total union government expenditure in 2013-14.

The number of demands covered under gender budgeting has increased to twenty four in 2006-07 from mere ten demands in 2005-06. The total number of demands in 2007-08
has increased to thirty three compared to twenty four in 2006-07. The number of demands covered in 2008-09 has remained same, that is, thirty three as in the year 2007-08. Thirty three demands were covered, which was same as in previous two years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Further it raises thirty five demands in 2013-14. The number of ministries covered under gender budgeting has increased to twenty seven in 2006-07 from nine ministries in 2005-06. It remains same in the year 2008-09 and then it rises to twenty eight in 2009-10 and continues in the year 2010-11. Further it increased to twenty nine in 2011-12 and 2012-13; reached to thirty in 2013-14.

The NIPFP categorised the public expenditure specifically targeted to women into four clusters. Following NIFPF, the present study also categorised the women specific budgetary allocation into four clusters, viz. Protective and Welfare Services, Social Services, Economic Services and Regulatory Services. The analysis reveals that 45 per cent of the expenditure is on social services, followed by 2 per cent on economic services, 1 per cent on protective and welfare services, 0 per cent on regulatory awareness generation while the remaining 52 per cent on other services in 2006-07 while it is round 88 per cent of the expenditure is on social services, 2 per cent on economic services, 1 per cent on protective and welfare services, 0 per cent on regulatory awareness generation while the remaining 9 per cent on other services in 2012-13. The figures are startlingly different for 2013-14. The social services accounts 91 per cent of the expenditure, 0 per cent for economic services, the protective and welfare services accounts for 2 per cent and regulatory and awareness generation account 0 per cent and the remaining 7 per cent accounts for the others.

The analysis of the trends of various ministries/ departments of the specifically targeted expenditure for women i.e. 100 per cent women specific programmes from 2005-06 to 2013-14 shows that the Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development and Department of Women and child Development shows the greater share in expenditure under 100 per cent women specific programmes while department/ ministry of social Justice and Empowerment and Home Affairs decreases during the period of the study.

The analysis of the growth of 100 per cent women specific targeted Programme of various ministries/ departments to the total gender budget allocation in different years
shows that the rural development shows the greatest share and it is continued by the
health and family welfare. Besides that, Agriculture Research and Education shows
fluctuations by the school education and literacy and the women and child development
shows the fluctuations in growth rate. The Social Justice and Empowerment, the Home
Affair also shows a decline in the growth rate. The science and technology and
Biotechnology shows a rise in the growth rate as a percentage of total gender budgets for
100 per cent Specifically Targeted Programmes during the period of the study.

The analysis of the trend of growth of 100 per cent Specifically Targeted
Programmes for Women to the total Union Government Expenditure of Various
Ministries/ Departments from 2005-06 to 2013-14 shown that there is not any major
increase in many of the ministries/ departments. Moreover, the share agriculture research
and education, home affairs, school education and literacy, science and technology,
biotechnology, social justice and empowerment constituted at the range around 0.001 to
0.005 per cent the total union government expenditure. A comparatively greater share
was noted under health and family welfare, rural development and women and child
department which are 0.57, 0.91 and 0.09 per cent respectively in 2013-14, and ranges
between 0.1 to 0.9 per cent during the period of study.

The budgetary allocation on specifically targeted programmes by various
ministries/ departments to the total expenditure of various ministries/ departments during
the period of the study observed that the share of specifically targeted programmes in
various ministries like health and family welfare, rural development and women and
child development is greater than the others. Besides that the agriculture research and
education, home affairs, school education and literacy, science and technology,
biotechnology, social justice and empowerment shows an increase in growth with less
magnitude which ranges around 0.5 per cent to 1.7 per cent during the period of the
study.

Higher budgetary allocation per se does not necessarily translate into higher
expenditure on women. There is significant spread between the budget allocation and the
revised estimate and in turn actual spending. The fiscal marksmanship of the programmes
can be broadly measured through the ratio of RE to BE. Higher the ratio of RE to BE,
greater is the deviation between the budget estimates and revised estimates. The significant deviation of revised estimates from budget estimates is noted for the women specific programmes.

It the analysis of the fiscal marksmanship of the programmes which can measured through the ratio of RE to BE revealed from the table 11 that the fiscal marksmanship agriculture research and education ranges from 0 in 2005-06 to 0.98 per cent in 2013-14, the health and family welfare ranges from 1.41 per cent to 0.9 per cent, rural development ranges from 1.9 per cent to 0.89 per cent, social justice and empowerment ranges from 0.43 per cent to 0.14 per cent; while, women and child development ranges from 0.99 per cent to 0.45 per cent during the period of the study. It is noted that the share of women specific targeted programmes in various ministries/ departments shows a declining trend during the period of study.

The analysis of the trend of 30 per cent women specific programmes under various ministries/ departments from 2005-06 to 2013-14 reveals that almost every ministries / departments shows the rising trend but the department of electronics and information technology, ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation, ministry of labour etc. shows the less growth rate during the period of the study.

The trend of budgetary allocation of 30 per cent women specifically targeted programme for women of various ministries/ departments as a percentage of total gender budget allocation by the central government reveals that the budgetary allocation of department of agriculture and cooperation, department of electronics and information technology, department of AYUSH, ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation, ministry of labour, ministry of textile and ministry of youth affairs and sports is less as compared to other ministries and departments.

The budgetary allocation for 30 per cent specifically targeted programmes by various ministries/ departments to the total expenditure of various ministries/ departments during the period of the study observed that the share of 30 per cent specifically targeted programmes in some ministries is less than one like department of agriculture and research and department of electronics and information technology. Some of them show the declining trend like the department of health and family welfare. Some of the
ministries/ departments show the increasing trends like ministry of housing and poverty alleviation, department of higher education, department rural development.

Fiscal marksmanship estimated for the 30 per cent women specifically targeted programmes are shown that there is no significant deviation between the budget estimates to the revised estimates in case of 30 per cent women specifically targeted programmes for most of the years under the department of electronics and information technology, ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation, ministry of labour, ministry of textile, ministry of tribal affairs etc. The fiscal marksmanship of these ministries/ departments is near about 1………….

The Global Gender Gap Index, introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006, is a framework for capturing the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress. It provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups, and over time. The rankings are designed to create greater awareness among a global audience of the challenges posed by gender gaps and the opportunities created by reducing them.

India’s performance in bridging the gap between male and female is very poor among the countries of the world. India has 101th rank in gender gap index out of 136 countries in the world in 2013. Its rank has improved as compared to previous years 105th in 2012 and 113th in 2011. India has fared badly in removing gender-based disparities, ranking 114 out of 142 countries in World Economic Forum’s 2014 gender gap index.

To estimates the parameters we have taken a sample of 103 countries and applied the Ordinary Least Squares Method of estimation. The result shows that the magnitude of the coefficients of GDP per capita of the nation is very low which is almost negligible. Therefore, it can be interpreted that the GDI rank score is not much affected by the GDP per capita of the nation. Though, the coefficient of female life expectancy is not statistically significant but the magnitude is quite high i.e. 72.7 per cent. The other two factors which are equally significant are female literacy rate and female workforce participation rate. To conclude one may say that female literacy rate and female workforce participation rate are the important determinants of GDI rank scores.
The GDI ranks of the major Muslim countries as one may observe that the rank of Muslim countries is very low as compared to many other countries. Some of the Muslim countries are very rich but globally they are much below in the ranking of GDI. The GDI rank of the nation did not mainly depend on the GDP per capita income of the nation but also depend on other factors. In spite of high GDP per capita the condition of the Muslim women is poor as compared to other countries having the lower GDP per capita income (shown in appendix table A.5.1). In other words, the status of women does not depend on the prosperity of the nation.

A sample of 300 Muslim women were taken from Aligarh City to identify the factors affecting the women empowerment using the multinomial logit model. The dependent variable is obtained from the respondents' perception about that they have freedom to go out or take any sort of permission to move, their concerns in the money matters while the explanatory variables are marital status, father's/ husband's occupation, father's / husband's income, respondent's income, respondent's literacy, respondent's educational qualification, bank account, use of ATM, knowledge about women protection act by the respondent. The various combination have been taken for estimation and results reveal that women have limited decision-making power, limited mobility and limited control over resources. From the empirical analysis literacy is come out to be main robust variable which enhance the women empowerment. Therefore, one may suggest that the government must pay full attention to literate the Muslim women. There is need to study women empowerment between different communities and religious groups reveals that and education and employment can play an important role in the process of improving women's empowerment in India.

**Some Issues and Suggestions**

The major recommendations for the sustainable process of gender budgeting are as follows:

- An important aspect that throws light on the approach towards Gender Budgeting across various Ministries is the basis on which specific percentages of allocations of schemes are being reported in Part B of the GB Statement. In order to examine this aspect, the quantum of allocations shown in Part B under various schemes
were compared with their total outlays as shown in the Detailed Demands for Grants. In addition, operational guidelines of the schemes were also studied. It was found that most of the programmes and schemes that are listed in Part B of the GB Statement report a flat 30, 40 or 50 per cent of their total allocations despite there being no underlying basis to do so (in terms of guidelines for earmarking certain proportions of allocations for women, or data on beneficiaries of the schemes). Very few Ministries/Departments have clear policy guidelines in their schemes for earmarking certain minimum proportions of allocations for women.

➢ The GB Statement, in its present format, does not require the Ministries to give any explanatory note/information on the assumptions that they might have made in reporting the specific shares/proportions of budget allocations for their schemes in Part B of the GB Statement.

➢ The preparation of GB Statement in the Union Budget remains largely an ex-post exercise. Most of the Ministries/Departments provide information on their schemes, for reporting in the GB Statement, after the total allocations for the schemes have been decided. Hence, the preparation of the GB Statement does not affect the actual process of budget formulation in the Ministries; whereas, ideally, the Ministries should try to formulate special measures for women and girl children in their schemes during the main process of budget formulation and report the amounts of budget allocations provided for such special measures in the GB Statement.

➢ Also, in the present format, the GB Statement reports only Budget Estimates (of allocations meant for women and girl children) for the ensuing fiscal year and Revised Estimates for the ongoing fiscal year. It does not report Actual Expenditure Graphs (for women and girl children in the schemes covered) for the previous fiscal year. In fact, in the prevailing method of Gender Budgeting in the Union Government, the Ministries are not required to capture such Actual Expenditure Graphs or get those audited, and, hence, such Graphs are not available for being reported in the GB Statement.
- Gender disaggregated benefit incidence analysis can be a useful tool for analysing the distributional impacts of public expenditure across gender.
- Sectoral initiatives on gender budgeting need to be given emphasis.
- The attempts to frame policies to integrate the unpaid care sector in GRB need to be given priority.
- The institutional mechanisms for GRB need to be strengthened.
- Open a new head in the budget classification on ‘gender development’.
- Integrate gender budgets into outcome budgets.
- Build gender disaggregated data.
- The scope of the “Gender Budgeting Statement” should be expanded to cover all ministries and departments.
- Strengthen the sex disaggregated database within relevant Ministries/Departments, which will enable better analysis and more effective monitoring of targets and achievements for men and women.
- Most of the interventions for Women’s Livelihood in the State are restricted to the traditional sectors and do not incorporate any major thrust for enabling women to participate in the sunrise sectors in the economy. With regard to Women’s Livelihood, therefore, special emphasis should be given to promote the employment opportunities for women in those sectors of the economy, which have been leading the economic growth in the country, such as, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and Biotechnology, etc. With regard to Women’s Education, appropriate interventions should be made for addressing the problem of high Dropout Rate of girls and such interventions must be funded adequately.
- The State Government should collect gender-wise data on ex post beneficiaries of all of its major programmes/ schemes that are meant for both men and women. Such data should be used to formulate more appropriate policies for women in the State. However, in the interim, the Government should undertake a review of all those programmes/ schemes which have policy guidelines requiring earmarking of funds and benefits for women; and should take steps to ensure that all such guidelines are being implemented.
> All programmes and schemes of the government must be made more gender responsive.

Despite decades of development planning, the outcomes for women and girls in India continue to be low in almost every sphere. The Global Gender Gap Report 2011 notes that not only does India rank 113th of the 135 countries, it has dipped since 2006 when it ranked 9811. Further, the breakup on the various indicators within this overall rank is cause for greater concern12. It is only in the sphere of political empowerment that India finds itself well-situated (19th from a total of 135); in terms of educational attainments, it is ranked 121st while its position with regard to economic participation and opportunities (131st) and health (134th out of 135 countries) are a wake-up call to the government. As per the Ministry of Women and Child Development (2009), the Gender Development Index (GDI) i.e. the Human Development Index (HDI) adjusted for disparities between women and men was less than the HDI score in both 1996 as well as 2006 due to the existence of gender based disparities in life expectancy at birth, adult educational level rate and income.

The study highlighted the low proportion of women related allocation in the union budget and the tendency for revised allocations being less than budgeted projections. The study concluded that gender incidence of the benefits of the public expenditure was difficult to measure in precise quantitative terms, since the bulk of expenditures was meant to provide services that were essentially public in nature. The suggestion was that the expenditures meant primarily for women be shown separately so they could be easily culled out from budget heads of social and economic services in which it was possible to segregate such expenditures.

If Gender Justice is to be ensured, women need to be empowered socially, economically and politically. If women are to be empowered, it is necessary to make everyone of them literate, reach them information and generate awareness, equip them with legal literacy and help them in every way to realise their own potential. If women are to be empowered economically, it is necessary to equip them with vocational skills; provide employment and income generation, extend free channels of micro-credit, provide management/entrepreneurial skills, social security and thus allow them greater visibility.
Future agenda

There is need to study the budget in a more disaggregated manner. Besides, that one may study the success of different women specific schemes. Still there is scope to study the women empowerment with large sample taken all section of the society. There is a need to examine the women empowerment in different communities, religion, cast and region to have a holistic view of this concept and policy formation.