CHAPTER -7

CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 : Conclusion

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India is a large nation with diversified religions, cultures, and traditions. Its culture has been male dominated and it continues to be so as of today also, however, there are now exceptions due to UNDP’s interventions in helping nations to provide a balance gender growth for better & balanced economic development. For this UNDP introduced Human Development Index (HDI) in 1990, then in 1995 it introduced Gender Development Index (GDI) followed by introduction of Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and Gender Inequality Index (GII). All these efforts have given results on the world level and it is also true with India.

With reference to all the secondary data analysis is made between development of women in developed countries and in India, I have following conclusions are drawn with respect to subject matter of the present research work that is ‘The Impact of UNDPs Gender Related Approach on Aspect of India’s Economic Policy’.

7.1 : Conclusion:-

1. In comparison with earlier decades from 1950 to 2000, the later decades from 2000 till date show a significant improvement in development of women in India including girls.
2. UNDP’s HDI data shows India’s HDI in 1990 as 0.309 and GDI as 0.401 for the same period in 2012 HDI improved to 0.554 and GDI improved to 0.600.
3. Health of women has also been a matter of concern over long years. There are four indicators considered by UNDP when it comes to health of women. (a) Total fertility rate (b) Maternal mortality rate (c) life expectancy and (d) Sex ratio.
4. Total fertility rate on global level was 2.82 in 1995-2000. It came down to 2.50 in 2012. While in case of India, it was 3.30 in 1995-2000 which came down to 2.50 in 2012. This means here we are with the world level development and it’s a good symptom.
5. Maternal mortality rate (MMR) on global level was 400 per 1000 births. In 2010 it came down drastically to 210. In India in 1990 MMR was 600, it came down to 200 in 2010. This can be said as a major achievement as India proved to be better than world average of 210 MMR in the same period.

6. Life expectancy rate on world level for women in 1995 was 65.14 years of age which improved to 71 years age by 2010. For men for the same period on global level, this rate was 61.6 years which improved to 67 years. For India, in 1991 this rate for women was 61.9 and for men it was 60.7. In 2011 it improved to 67.3 for women and 63.8 for men.

7. The concern for sex ratio of males and females remains more or less same over last many decades. There has been a cycle of decline and improvement in this ratio of number of women per 1000 men. If we considers decades from 1951 where the ratio was 946 females per 1000, it declined to 927 women per 1000 men in 1991 and again improved to 943 women per 1000 men in 2011. Let us now compare it on global level. In 2001 the ratio was 986 women per 1000 men, it 2011 it slightly came down to 984 women per 1000 men. If we see this global average, we can easily conclude that in this aspect India is lagging much behind and calls for some larger corrections in improvement of this ratio.

8. Gross enrollment ratio. This is related with number of girls attending schools in India. It was 49 % in 1999. It came down to 46.4% in 2007. The data shows that by 2010 many countries in the world had crossed 50% enrollment mark. 2007 trend shows a significant scope for creating awareness about importance of education in the early years of life for girls.

9. GEM reports on development of one decade (1996-2006) state that the improvement in women participation in political & decision making power from 0.573 to 0.625, economic participation & decision making power from 0.443 to 0.546, power over economic resources from 0.231 to 0.319 and gender empowerment measure from 0.416 to 0.497 show that things are improving for Indian women in almost all key areas, though with a very slow pace, mainly in rural areas. India’s rank is 95th on global level in GEM.
10. In case of political participation, if we refer the data of the seat allocation, we see fairly good improvement for women in parliament and legislative assembly. We can see that the number of seats allocated for parliament for women has improved from 40 to 60 & that for legislative assembly has improved from 59 to 86 during 1996 to 2011, and this can be said as quite satisfactory development considering the representation of women in rural areas and over all dominance of males in all sectors of economy. There is significant development in local government political participation too.

11. Gender inequality index. The world rank of India was 122 in 2008, it improved by 5 placed in 2014 (127th rank). It shows that there is women in India, in certain parts of the country have started getting fairly better equal rights in comparison with all earlier decades.

7.2 Suggestions and Recommendations:-

Considering the gaps in the overall elements leading to gender development on national level verses the gender developmental needs of this large country, and on the basis of following findings, recommendation and suggestion are given further there are best on studies of various initiatives on global level by countries who have shown significant development in all elements connected to HDI / GDI / GEM & GII, so that these recommendations come to use once properly understood. My recommendations are designed to suit Indian systems including political, social and economic systems.

1. Creating awareness among literate women: It is observed that women in India have no idea of UNDPs efforts towards development of women. Even literate women are far off from this information, and one can imagine what must be the status of illiterate women, mainly who are in rural areas. Therefore, its is suggested that either the government or NGOs need to take up awareness creation process on massive scale to reach women at all places, urban as well as rural. This means that a strategic awareness program be taken in hand with specific targets of sharing various plans and programs of UNDP and how they have helped so far on global level to produce a balanced gender approach so that there is no imbalance in justice to existence of women in India. Let all girls and women know the real benefits of HDI / GDI / GEM and GII. Let each literate women be trained in how to create awareness and then each
literate woman can take up small target groups to spread it across the nation. Like self-help groups can do this very easily as they are already working for many women in India.

2. Improve implementation methods / approach towards designed policies by government and through government: It is observed that there is wide gap between designing of the programs under guidelines of UNDPs initiatives and actual implementation of these programs / policies on ground level. Therefore even if programs / policies look very strong on paper, the real benefits to women have yet not been passed on. This is just because there is no appropriate mechanism with government to audit the implementation strictly as per policy.

   Government authorities need to be little bit more sincere then what they are today with respect to this issue because, the imbalance in gender development is an issue that is threatening lives of women in India. For example the issue of drop outs of girl students is a serious matter from the point of view of personal progress of each woman. The way boys are promoted and taken care; girls are not having this privilege with respect to education or literacy improvement.

   Small audit teams run by NGOs who have delivered qualitative results can be engaged to improve this state.

   All the statutes related with gender equality must come under this audit of implementation to pass on real designed benefits to the beneficiaries.

3. Information sharing on implementation of programs and policies: It is important that government creates methods and ways to share information on what exactly is happening on various schemes/policies and programs declared by it. For example, the finance minister in 2013 declared Rs.1000 crore Nirbhaya Nidhi based on the incidence of Nirbhaya who was gang raped in December 2012 in Delhi. There is no information about how these funds are really being utilized for the purpose for which they are allocated. This leave an opportunity for unwanted elements to earn out of these packages declared by the government and the real purpose is defeated.

4. Attend unorganized sector on priority: Majority of the women workers work in unorganized sector in India and very few in organized. Those who are in
organized sector can take benefit of equal pay for equal work, mostly. However, this is not happening with women in unorganized sectors like construction, bidi production, or on labor on farms. A strict regulation to cover up this gap can be very useful for improving individual income and an increased income level will benefit not only the individual woman but also the whole family.

5. Special Women’s Bank: A special Bank was declared by central government in November 2013. However, this bank operates only in metros. If the branches of this bank is promoted and extended to all cities it will help women in many ways right from jobs to them in these banks to providing credit on moderate interest rates. In turn it will help women to improve their level of income and also to take risk and be entrepreneurs.

6. Bench marking: Introduction of bench marking process to be adopted by government of India to achieve similar results as achieved by developed nations with respect to HDI / GDI / GEM / GII. Here, government should be in a position to adopt similar policies and processes that are adopted by the countries who have ranked top in achieving targets set by UNDP. This will help bringing best policies / systems and processes to this country and women will benefit faster. While doing this, government can very well take care of the needs of the country and women so that the models copied suits the national priorities.