

Chapter: 3
Status of women's rights in the context of the Convention on the
Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
(CEDAW)

Equal rights of men and women are a basic principle of the United Nations. United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without any discrimination. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is one of the most significant achievements of the United Nations in its efforts for the upliftment of women and their equal rights. For the first time the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provided a common platform where the States Parties could engage in constructive dialogue, exchange ideas and experiences, and encourage new endeavours.

After the establishment of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) it began a new episode in the long struggle for equality, justice and integration of women into the process of progress. For the first time in the history, a Committee was constituted at the international stage to implement and observe the development made in the elimination of discrimination against women.

It also provided a chance for genuine reconsider and re-examination of national laws, policies and practices. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) experience in investigative the reports of the States Parties has now made it very easier to categorize grey areas concerning women's issues. This has helped and led the governments to take special care and adopt corrective measures. At the same time, the questioning during the presentation of a State Party's report has occasionally provoked minor changes in national law. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) is also a reservoir of information on women, which if properly utilized and made available can serve a most useful purpose. However, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has several major limitations due to which its activities and achievements are curtailed severely. Its recommendations and suggestions are not binding to the States Parties. Therefore, unless the States Party is sincerely committed to the provisions of the Convention, the CEDAW can do little. No doubt, the CEDAW has gone quite a way in the effort to eliminate discrimination against women and give them equal rights. But the fact cannot be ignored that it, along with the Convention, is seriously handicapped by the States Parties' final authority. Therefore, unless the States Parties commit themselves sincerely to the principle of equal rights, the Convention and the efforts of the CEDAW will not be enough.

Provisions contained in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women:

The substance that concurred by state parties at convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women which was received by the general assembly of the UN on 18th December, 1979 and entered in to compel on 3 September 1981.¹

Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) defines the term "Discrimination against women" as any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

¹ Myneni S.R.(2017) *Law relating to women ,asia law house,Hyderabad page 405-409*

Various steps agreed to be taken by the states parties to eliminate discrimination against women .Some important steps which is discuss in the study are following:

In article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), States Parties condemn discrimination against women in the entirety of its structures or forms and agree to follow by all suitable means. For eliminating discrimination against women state parties undertake the following measures.

State parties have to incorporate the idea of the equality of the male and female in their state constitutions or other suitable legislation if not so far included in there constitution and state parties should guaranteed in the course of law and other suitable way. For the protection for women rights state parties have to take up suitable parliamentary and other means, including sanctions where suitable, elimination all bias against the female; to abstain from taking part in any exercise of bias against the female and to guarantee that government authorities and establishments will perform in compliance with this commitment; to set up authorized safeguard system of the rights of women on an equivalent base with male and to guarantee through competent state tribunals and other government establishments the successful safeguard of women without any unfairness; to take every single suitable ways, including enactment, to change or withdraw existing laws, rules, traditions and custom which comprise bias against the female ; to take all fitting method to abolish bias against the female by any individual, association or venture; to revoke all state penal system which comprise bias against women.

Article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) reveals that States Parties have to take in all grounds, especially in the socio-economic, political and cultural grounds. State parties shall take all suitable ways, including legislation as well guaranteeing the complete progress and

development of women, State parties shall ensure the practice and pleasure of human rights and basic liberties on the basis of equality with men and women.

In the article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says that States Parties have to adopt special provisional method for women to speed up legitimate equality among male and female and shall not be measured bias as explain in the Convention. These methods shall be terminated when the goals of equality of chance have been achieved. States Parties have to approve particular ways, including those methods hold in the Convention, aimed at safeguarding maternity shall not be measured biased.

In the article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) discusses that States Parties have the responsibility to take all suitable ways, especially to reform the community and cultural model of behaviour of the male and female, The main importance should be given to getting the abolition of discrimination and traditional convention which are based on the thought of the superiority or the inferiority. State parties have the responsibilities to make certain that family education includes an appropriate knowledge of motherhood as a common job and the acknowledgment of the common liability of the male and female in the look after and growth of their kids, One of the significant issue that the importance of the kids is the primal contemplation in all cases which is unstated.

Eliminating discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country:

In the article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) reveals that States Parties have to take all suitable way to abolish bias against the female in the political and public life of the state and in particular, state party should be making sure to the female there should be equivalent provisions with the male, There should be the right to take part in decision making process. All women have the right to participate in government referendum and all women have the right to be qualified for election to every publicly voted body; all

women have the right to take part in the making of government rule or policy and its functioning. All women have the right to grip government office and execute every government meeting at every level of administration. All women have to take part in non-governmental organizations and associations connected with the public and political life of the nation.

Article 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says that; States Parties have to take every suitable way to make sure to women, on equivalent conditions with the male and with no bias, the chance to represent their country at the global stage and to take part in the effort of global association.

In the article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) clearly advocates that, States Parties have the responsibility to provide female equivalent privileges with the male to obtain transform or keep their nationality. For the special provision for the married citizen the State parties shall make sure in specially, that neither wedding to a foreign citizen nor transform of nationality by the companion during the wedding shall mechanically transform the nationality of the spouse, cause to be her stateless or compel upon her the nationality of the husband nor States Parties shall provide female equivalent privileges with the male regarding the nationality of their kids.

Eliminating discrimination in the field of education:

In the article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) says that States Parties have the responsibility to take all suitable ways to eliminate bias against women. There should be equivalent privileges with male in the ground of education. Women shall be provided similar conditions for the career and vocational assistance and similar access to studies for the attainment of degree and diplomas in educational institutions of all categories both rural and urban areas. This fairness shall be assured in nursery, general education, skilled and higher technological education and all type of vocational training, Should be access to the same curriculum, the same examinations, the same teaching staff and their

qualifications should be similar benchmark and school building and apparatus of the similar excellence, The abolition of any typecast thought of the functions of male and female at every stages and in every types of education by cheering co-education and other forms of education which will assist to reach this aim and, specially, by the modification of course books and school curriculums and the variation of coaching techniques, to advantage from scholarships and other educational funding the opportunities should be same. Women shall have same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education including adult and functional literacy agenda. State parties have to take special initiatives for the reduction of girls student drop-out rates and the arrangement of programmes for girls and women who have drop-out too early, There should be same Opportunities to take part actively in sports and physical education. State parties have to provide specific educational information about health and welfare of families as well as information and guidance on family planning.

Eliminating discrimination in the ground of employment:

In the article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) advocate that States Parties have the responsibility to take every suitable method to eradicate bias against the female in the ground of service so as to make sure, on a base of equality of the male and female, the similar privileges, in particular; there shall be no discrimination on the ground for getting same employment opportunities and there should be the same application of the same condition for preference in question of service or jobs, All women have the right to option of occupation and service freely, All women have the privileges to endorsement of the employees, The state parties should provide job security of employees. The state parties have to give all benefits of services and conditions of service. All women have the right to get job-related guidance and retraining without any discrimination as well as together with apprenticeships, higher professional guidance and frequent guidance. All women have the right equal payment and benefits. There should be no discrimination on the ground of getting equivalent value of equivalent work as well as equivalent action in the assessment of the excellence of job. After retirement from service all women have the right to social protection predominantly, illness, joblessness, invalidity and older age and other incapability to

labour as well as the right to salaried leave. All women have the right to safeguard of healthiness and to security in functioning situation as well as with the protection of the function of reproduction.

So as to stop bias against the female on the field of the wedding or motherhood and to guarantee their effectual right to work, States Parties have to take suitable ways, To prohibit, matter to the imposition of sanction, removal from office on the reason of pregnancy or of motherhood leave and unfairness in discharge on the base of marital status, State parties have to initiate motherhood leave with the salary or with analogous regular benefits with no loss of previous service. To promote the stipulation of the required supporting social services to permit parents to unite family responsibility ,household responsibilities and participation in public life, in particularly encouraging to the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities and to give the special safeguard to female during pregnancy in such work which proved to be unsafe to them.

Eliminating discrimination in the ground of health care:

Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) advocate that, States Parties have to obtain every fitting method to abolish bias against female in the ground of health care. There shall be no discrimination between male and female for enjoying the health care services, All women have the right to use health care facilities such as maternity related issue, family planning etc. In spite of the requirements States Parties shall make sure to women suitable facilities in related with pregnancy, internment and the post-natal period, if needed there should have conceding free facilities as well as sufficient nourishment during pregnancy and lactation.

Eliminating discrimination in the field of economic and social life:

Article 13 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says that; States Parties have to obtain every suitable method to abolish unfairness against the female in other parts of economic and social

life. They shall be provided similar right as to that of men specially in the right to family benefits, the right to bank loan, mortgages as well as other financial matter. State parties have to ensure that; women shall be provided the right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspect of cultural life.

Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women in India:

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most essential legally obligatory international document regarding the human rights of women. It has been approved by more than 185 countries. India had ratified this convention in July 1993. CEDAW is distinctive amongst existing human rights mechanism because it is completely apprehensive with encouraging and defending women's human rights and because it operates from the principle that patriarchy is a universal reality.

The Constitution of India discusses about the concept of gender equality. The (NCW) National Commission for Women was established in 1990 to defend the rights, and It was a milestone as per as women rights is concern. Another significant development for women right was the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitutions of India which was amended in the year 1993. This amendment provided women's reservation of seats in the Panchayats and Municipalities. This is also a well-built foundation for women as per as political participation is concern.

Major initiatives of government for implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and its challenges:

Education:

Our society is basically patriarchal in nature where men dominate over women and enjoy more rights and privileges than women, equal rights and privileges including educational were denied to the fair sex through the ages. But it is true that in ancient

India women enjoyed high honour and status in the society.²Some of them were highly educated such as Gargi, Maitreyee and Lilabati. After the Muslim period the picture was totally changed. Women confined four walls or PARDA NASIN. The British rules in India are important from the point of view of women's progress, specially New efforts by the Missionaries. In the year 1849 the first educational institution for women was established in India by Mr. D.W Bethune. Indian social reformer like Raja Rammohan Roy, Vidyasagar, Debendranath, Radhakanta Dev etc in Bengal and Agarkar, Ranade, Dadabhai Naoroji helped to break the ice of conservatism. In the year 1882 the government of India realised the need of women's education and started giving grants to women educational institutions on the basis of the recommendations of education commission.

After independence progress has been made in the field of women's education, it was not satisfactory as the progress was not much and there was lot to be achieved. In the year 1947 women educations in India received a new dimension. The constitution of India 1950 has established at least in paper complete equality to both sexes in respect of social and political rights.

Education assists a woman to survive a high-quality life as well as with the help of education she can understand and gain knowledge of her birth rights. Education empowers women to move forward and contribute on the way to the progress and success of the nation. If the condition of women has not improved as well as they dependent on men, the vulnerable situation of women cannot be transformed. We have to take a broad move towards in the field of women education if we do so the condition of women automatically improved. Education can help women for her bright future. The economic empowerment of women will only come through proper education. Self -dependency of women will not come without proper education. Economic self dependency of women can only come through appropriate education.

² Barman Sampa (2015), "Policies and recommendations of women education in the context of modern Indian History" *International Journal of Applied Research* ;page 786-788

Education can help women for more conscious about their birth rights and justice. In contemporary progressive society educated women are looked upon with honour and dignity. In contemporary time women like Kiran Mazumdar, Indra Nooyi, Kamala Harris etc are the role model of millions of women and girls as well as they are the source of motivation. Educated women can establish her as a highly successful one in the fields of life.

Literacy and educational attainment level are considered as significant factors for development of any society. The quality of a society can be judged through level of educational attainment. Right to Education is the essential human right. The condition of women's education in India is bad form. Especially in rural India women are not aware even the value of education in fact they give more preference on their male child education.³ Large percentage of women in India is not aware of their basic rights due to their illiteracy and they can never fight for them.

Though female employment rate is better in rural areas, they were mainly engaged in unskilled jobs but in urban areas due to better education, the women were engaged in variety of jobs. Education especially woman education is a main factor influencing health. It leads to improved utilization of health care and better community political participation. Equal access to education for women are very important today for improving their status in the society. An educated woman can face the vagaries of life without any fear. It creates modern outlook among women which, in turn, strengthens their claim for better status in the society. Lack of education implies lack of awareness about their own rights and privileges which ultimately becomes a factor in deteriorating their social status. So in present context, the most important thing is to impart education to women and to make them socially and economically independent.⁴

³ *Dr.Kumar Vijay.V.(January 2016) Violation of women human rights –A Review, publication (IRJCL) ISSN-2349-705X.*

⁴ *Begum Rashida.(November 2014) Violation of Women Rights in India Published by Scholar Publications(IJHSSS),ISSN:2349-6711*

‘Education for all’ is one of the foremost responsibilities being carried out by the Indian government but still India has the lowest women literacy rate in Asia. India is doing well in the field of education but the speed is slow it has not achieved what it should have been so far. Before independence just 2-6% of females were literate. The percentage of female literacy rate went up to 15.3% in 1961 and 28.5% in 1981. In 2001 female Literacy rate crossed 50% in India. By 2011 female literacy rate in India stood at 65.46%. The above data show that, there is an obvious increase in the female literacy rate but India is far behind as compared to other countries at global level.

Various government schemes on education:

The Government of India has taken several measures to promote educational development; some major initiatives by the government are following.

Right to Education (RTE):

In the year 2002 the 86th amendment of Indian Constitution inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to give free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right in such a way as the State may, by law, determine.⁵The Right to Education Act, 2009, which is an important legislation envisaged under Article 21-A. It means that all children have a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and even-handed quality in a formal school which satisfies assured important norms and principles.

On 1st April 2010 the Article 21-(A) and the RTE Act was came into effect. With this RTE ACT, India has moved forward to a right based the framework that casts a legal responsibility on the Government of India and State Governments to put into operation this fundamental child right as preserved in the Article 21A of the Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of the RTE Act.⁶

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ <https://mhrd.gov.in/rte>

The Provision of RTE Act 2009 is following:

Firstly, the act provides free and compulsory education for children till completion of elementary in a nearby school.

Secondly, the Right To Education act make clarification that, ‘compulsory education’ means commitment of the appropriate government to provide free elementary education and make sure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to all children in the 6-14years of age group. According to the RTE act, ‘Free’ means that no child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or payment which may stop him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education.⁷

Thirdly, the act provides for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.

Fourthly, the RTE act specifies the duties and tasks of proper Governments, local authority and parents in providing free and compulsory education, and contribution of monetary and other tasks between the Central and State Governments.

Fifthly, the Right to education act lays down the norms and principles relating student Teacher Ratios, buildings and infrastructure, school-working days and working hours of teachers.

Sixthly, the act provides for the rational distribution of teachers by ensuring that the specified pupil teacher ratio is maintained for all school, instead of just as an average for the State or District or Block, thus make sure that there is no urban-rural disparity in teacher postings. It also provides for prohibition of engagement of teachers for non-educational purpose, other than the census, elections, and disaster relief.

Seventhly, the act provides for appointment of properly trained teachers, i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications.

⁷ *Ibid.*

Eighthly, the RTE act strictly prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment; selection or screening measures for entrance of children; capitation fee; private tuition by teachers and running of schools without recognition,

Ninthly, the RTE act provides for development of the curriculum in consonance with the values enshrined in the Constitution, and which would make sure the multitalented development of the child, building on the child's knowledge, potentiality and ability and making the child free of panic, trauma and anxiety through a method of the child responsive and child centred learning.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is the National programme for free and compulsory elementary education which was launched in 2001, looking for to ensure universal access, retention and quality development in education. The major aims of SSA include that all children in the 6-14 years age group complete five years of schooling by 2007; eight years of schooling by 2010; viaduct gaps between gender and social category groups at the primary stage by 2007 and at the elementary stage by 2010 and get universal retention by 2010. The programme also aims to established new schools in habitations where they are deficient and reinforce those in others by providing extra classrooms, toilets, drinking water and grants for school maintenance and development. The strength of the programme lies in its move towards of involving the PRIs/tribal councils, NGOs, teachers, community, activists and women's organizations. ⁸

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA):

For the development of secondary education and improve its quality RMSA is launch in March 2009 by the government of India. RMSA aims to boost the enrolment rate by providing a secondary school within rational distance of every home and also aims to develop the quality of secondary education by making every secondary school conform to prescribed norms, abolishing gender, socio-economic and disability

⁸ www.mhrd.gov.in/ssa

barriers and providing universal admission to secondary level education. The scheme involves multidimensional research, technical consulting, implementation and financial support.⁹

Samagra Shiksha:

Samagra Shiksha is an important programme for the school education. The aim of the scheme is extending from pre-school to class twelve. Therefore the scheme has been all set to the broader goal of improving school usefulness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and even-handed learning outcomes. The Samagra Shiksha imbibes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).¹⁰

The vision of the Scheme is to make sure comprehensive and even-handed quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education. The sustainable development goal wants complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all boys and girls with relevant and effective learning outcomes, as well as eliminating gender bias in education and guaranteed equal admission to all levels of education and vocational training for the susceptible, including persons with special abilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situation.

The key objectives of this Scheme are provision of quality education and attractive learning outcomes of students; Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education; make certain to impartiality and inclusion at every levels of school education; make sure to minimum standards in schooling requirements; encouraging Vocational education . Another objective of the scheme is that, to support states in implementation of RTE act 2009 as well as reinforcement and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIET as a nodal agency for teacher education.

⁹ rmsaindia.gov.in

¹⁰ Samagra.mhrd.gov.in

Table 3:1: Trend in literary rates in post independent India

Year	Female	Male	Literacy gap
1951	8.86	27.15	18.29
1961	15.35	40.40	25.05
1971	21.97	45.96	23.99
1981	29.76	56.38	26.62
1991	39.29	64.13	33.84
2001	53.67	75.26	18.59
2011	64.63	80.88	16.25

Source: Census report 2011

The above table shows the gender gap between the male and female from 1951 to 2011 on the basis of literacy level. In the year 1951 female literacy rate was 8.86 and male literacy rate was 27.15. In the year 2011 also there was 16.25 literacy gaps between the male and female. The above data reveal that, after 60 years there is no change in literacy gap.

Women's health:

Health is an essential factor that contributes to human security and economic growth. At present, women in India face various health problems, which ultimately influence the aggregate economy's output. The high level of gender disparity in India harmfully impacts the health of women. Gender inequality directly related to poor health outcomes for women. Different studies have significantly found that the rates of admission to hospitals differ with gender, because men visiting hospitals more frequently than women. Differential admission to healthcare occurs because women characteristically are entitled to a lower share of household resources and therefore utilise healthcare resources to a lesser amount than men.

The women's health status in India relates to the perceived interest response because of the societal and cultural practices that create an environment where the self-image of women is marginalized compared to her counterpart. Therefore, outcomes relating

to healthcare decisions within households will support the men, due to superior self-worth.

Poor maternal health frequently affects a kid's health in unfavourable ways and also decreases woman's capability to participate in economic activities. Hence, national health programmes such as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Family Welfare Programme have been shaped to tackle the maternal health care requirements of women across India.

India has enacted the National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) in the year of 2005. The primary goals of NRHM were to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality ratio as well as, aimed to create universal access to public health services and also maintain the gender ratio. However, several research studies found that although India was able to develop some measures of maternal health since the ratifying of the NHRM in 2005, the country was still far behind most emerging countries.

Although India has witnessed remarkable growth over the last two decades, maternal mortality remains persistently soaring in comparison to many developing countries. The main causes for the high levels of maternal mortality are directly related to the socioeconomic situation and cultural constraints restraining access to care. But, maternal mortality is not the same across India or even a particular state; due to the availability of adequate medical facilities generally urban areas have lower maternal mortality rate. For instance states with higher literacy and development rates tend to have better maternal health and also lower infant mortality.

The following two tables show the miserable situation of women health in India.

Table 3:2: Infant mortality rate in India since 2011 to 2018 (per 1000 live birth)

year	Female	Male	Total
2011	46	43	44
2012	44	41	42
2013	42	39	40
2014	40	37	39
2015	39	35	37
2016	36	33	34
2017	34	32	33
2018	33	32	32

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India

The above data in the table 3:2: shows that infant mortality rate in India have considerably decreased from 44 per 1000 live births in 2011 to 32 in 2018. From the year 2011 to 2018 infant mortality rate were 44,42,40,39,37,34,33 and 32 per 1000 live birth. Though, infant mortality rate in India slightly improved from 44 in 2011 to 32 in 2018 but it is not satisfactory.

Table 3:3: Maternal mortality rate of Assam vs. India. (Per 100000 live births)

	2004-06	2007-09	2010-12	2011-13	2014-16	2015-17	2016-18
Assam	480	390	328	300	237	229	215
India	254	212	178	167	130	122	113

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India

The above data in the table 3:3: reveals that the maternal mortality rate is very high in Assam compare to national average. In the year 2004-06 the maternal mortality rate of Assam was 480 per one lakh live births but in the same period the national maternal mortality rate was 254. From 2007-09 to 2016-18, the maternal mortality of Assam was 390,328,300,237,229 and 215 respectively but in the same period the national mortality rate was 212,178,167,130,122 and 113 per one lakh live births. However the

maternal mortality rate of Assam has dropped to 215 in 2016-18 but it is still almost twice the national average.

Major government schemes on Health care:

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM):

The National Rural Health Mission is the one of the biggest scheme started by the government of India in 2005. The major objective of the scheme is, to provide effectual health care to rural population all over the country with special attention on 18 States, which have weak public health facilities or weak infrastructure. The National Rural Health Mission aims to take an architectural change of the health system to make possible it to effectively grip increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme and endorse policies that reinforce public health management and service delivery in the country. The National Rural Health Mission wants to refresh local health customs and mainstream AYUSH into the public health system. Another aims of NRHM, to successful amalgamation of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation & hygiene, nutrition, and safe drinking water through a District Plan for Health as well as wants to develop access to rural people, especially poor women and children, to even-handed, reasonable, accountable and effective primary healthcare.¹¹

Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme:

The first phase of the programme started from 1997 to 2003 and second phase from 2003. The aim of the scheme is to reduction of maternal and infant mortality, making of consciousness about rights of population in health care and development in the health care delivery systems. To Initiative for reducing maternal mortality and morbidity include the endorsement of safe deliveries in institutions and at home as well as the birth attendants are being trained for conducting clean deliveries under RCH. Along with this, efforts have been amplified to address women's health issues and concerns related to HIV/AIDS, TB etc.¹²

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² <http://mohfw.gov.in>

The ‘Janani Suraksha Yojana’ scheme:

The principal objective of this scheme is, to reduction in maternal mortality/infant mortality by creation available quality care in necessary and emergency obstetric services and by way of focusing at improved institutional delivery in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) groups. The scheme also focuses on tracking of pregnancy from the early stage, detection of pregnancy-related difficulties, and better assistance on delivery in a health institution, connecting antenatal check up and mental care as well as providing appropriate referral and transport assistance as well as effective link between the field level Government machinery specially ASHA worker and intended beneficiaries. To encouraging mental care as well as institutional delivery and small family norms. The Janani Suraksha Yojana’ scheme is accessible to all women from BPL families, of age 19 or above. Benefit is available up to two live births as well as cash assistance as provided to the mother on the birth of a child in a health institution (institutional delivery) on a graded amount. ¹³

Political Participation:

In India the number of women representatives is very low compared to the number of male representatives. Women are generally regarded as followers. There is a widespread feeling in our male dominated society that women are not able to provide good and effective leadership. In most of the societies, women are not given the opportunities to enter in the field of politics. ¹⁴

In the political field, the Constitution of India has guaranteed adult suffrage to the citizens of India. The electoral process is an important mechanism to represent and promote women's interest. However, the participation of women in the political process is far from adequate. Women have remained at the side-line of politics. Over the years the participation of women in elections by way of voters and contestants has

¹³ www.nhm.gov.in

¹⁴ *Tiwari Pawan kumar:(2015) Political participation of women in India and the role of mass media p-157,published by Deptt.of .psc,BodolandUniversity Kokrajhar..(JONER) ISSN:2321-0583*

increased significantly, but the visibility of women in the electoral fray appears in inverse proportion to the promises made by political parties on their empowerment.¹⁵

The following two tables show the deplorable condition of women in politics.

Table 3:4: Female (contesting and elected) in last three Loksabha election

Loksabha/Year	Total no of contesting candidate	No of Female contester	No of elected female
Fourteenth/2004	5435	355	45
Fifteenth/2009	8070	556	59
Sixteenth/2014	8251	668	62
Seventeenth 2019	8026	724	78

Source: Election commission of India, & LokSabha Secretariat

The data table shows that Out of 5435 total no of contesting candidate 355 were female and 45 female were elected in Fourteenth Loksabha election 2004. In fifteenth loksabha which was held in 2009, the total no of contesting candidate was 8070 out of this 556 were female contester and 59 female were elected. In Sixteenth loksabha which was held in 2014, the total no of contesting candidate was 8251 out of this 668 were female contester and 62 female were elected. In seventeenth loksabha which was held in 2019, the total no of contesting candidate was 8026 out of this 724 were female contester and 78 female were elected.

¹⁵ Ripima bujarbaruah (2002) *Violation of women Human rights, A case study in Kamrup District, Assam. A thesis submitted to Guwahati University for Phd in Political science.p.77,78*

Table 3: 5: Women members elected/nominated in Rajyasabha

Year	No of women member	Total percentage
2010	27	11.0
2012	24	9.8
2014	31	12.8
2016	27	11.0
2020	24	9.8

Source: Electoral statistics pocket book 2017 and Election Commission of India.

The table shows Out of total 250 Rajyasabha members only 27 were female members in 2010, which constitute 11.0 percent of the total member. In 2012 no of female members were 24, which constitute 9.8 percent. In 2014 it was 31 which constitute 12.8 percent. In 2016 out of 250 member house, the only 27 was female which constitute 11.0 percent and in 2020 also only 24 are female member which constitute 9.8 percent of total members.

After analyzing the data it can be observe that; Women's involvement in positions of power in both houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) of the Parliament is very unfortunate. Although women have been incoming the political ground, the number of women share positions of decision participation power is very low.

Government has taken numerous initiatives as well as positive action to triumph over historical and political disadvantages faced by women, thus enabling them to enter and successfully participate in politics and public life.

The Constitution of India ensures the equal political rights to women and men. The constitution of India comprises the right to cast vote as well as right to contest elections, right to form associations or unions. Right to hold public office as well as also provides safeguard women against any kind of discrimination against women.

For this purpose government enacted the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993. These legislations are providing 1/3 reservation for women in all seats and all

post of chairperson in local bodies in both rural and urban areas. Out of the total women reservation seats, minimum one-third of seats reserved for SCs and ST women. Thousands of women have entered public office across the country due to this initiative.

Women are now establishing space to her in the different decision-making committees of the different national political parties. However, they take part in debate and make suggestions they still have limited no voting power in decision-making. While more or less all the political parties in their manifestos have indicated the need to increase the number of women in these bodies, their occurrence would improve the involvement of women in decision making process and in centre-staging the concerns of women.

Government Schemes for Women Empowerment:

The Government of India has been taken numbers of initiative to empower the women through different schemes. Some of the schemes related to women empowerment in India are following:

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) 1982:

The principal endeavour of the launched Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) plan is to get better the socio-economic rank of the poor women in the rural areas by the government. The foremost object of the launched to the Central Social Welfare Board scheme is to promote social welfare activities and use welfare programmes for women and children through impulsive organizations. The major objective of the scheme is, to guarantee continued existence, safeguard and progress of the girl children with the definitive aims of build up a bright future for the girl children.

The scheme National Credit Fund for Women was established in 1993 to make credit available for lower income women in India.

National Commission for Women (1992): The main objective of this statutory body is to revision and supervises every issue describing to the constitutional and legal

protection make available for women, re-examine the existing legislation and to recommend modification wherever needed.

Reservation for Women in Local Self-Government (1992): The milestone of women political empowerment “the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act approved in 1992 by parliament make sure one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices of rural and urban areas.”¹⁶

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (2000):

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana is one of the best initiatives for the empowerment and welfare of women. The government of India launched the scheme with effect from 25th December 2000. The scheme was implemented in Tamil Nadu with effect from 1st November 2001 in urban areas from 1st December 2001 in rural areas and collectors are overall in charge for the implementation of this scheme in the District. The objective of the scheme is to guarantee food security to the poor family. Originally at the time of introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme, each beneficiary was given 25 kg. per month at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kg., this has been increased to 35 kg. of rice per card, per month at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. through fair price shop from November 2006 onwards.¹⁷

Women empowerment through the scheme of, National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001):

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women was set up in the year 2001. The purpose of this policy is to bring about the improvement, progress and empowerment of women the Development of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

¹⁶ <http://www.ipemgzb.ac.in/ipem-journal/Law-Journal.pdf>

¹⁷ *Welfare Schemes for Women in India*, <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>., Accessed on 01-03-19.

Distance Education Programme for Women's Empowerment (2000):

. The National literacy mission came up with different plans and strategies, With a view to achieve education for all by in 2000. The specific objectives of an adult education are acquiring the skills necessary for improving the economic status and well-being of women, imbibing the value of women's equality empowerment.¹⁸

Swayam Siddha (2001):

The Swayam Sidha scheme was set up by the government in the year 2001 for organizing women into self-help group. The objective of the scheme is, to empowerment of women through SHGs is the needs of the hours. It is basically concerned with equality, participation, influencing decision and access to opportunity. It has been realized that organizing of women group is one of the most successful tools for connecting women in the development process and this mission can be fully performed by the participation of self-help groups in women's empowerment.¹⁹

Women empowerment through the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) (2009):

The Mother and Child Tracking System scheme was set up in the year 2009. The principal objective of this program is helps to monitor the health care department to guarantee that all mothers and children have access all the required services and medical care, during pregnancy and delivery and also maintains a record of all pregnancies registered and all births from 2009, December onwards.

The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana-Conditional Maternity Benefit Plan (IGMSY-CMB) (2010):

This scheme was set up in the year 2010, the scheme sponsored by the central Government for pregnant women age 19 and over, for their first two live births. This program provides cash to help better health and nutrition of the pregnant women in three instalments. But government employee doesn't take benefits of this scheme.

¹⁸ Ajit Kumar Sinha (ed.), *New Dimensions of Women Empowerment, New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications, 2008, p.142*

¹⁹ *Ibid p.87*

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) (2016):

In 2016 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the welfare program of the government of India, The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The main purpose of the scheme is providing 50,000,000 LPG connections to women from families below the poverty lines. It is guided by a strong commitment to carry in changes in lives of poor women.

Ujjawala:

Ujjawala is a wide-ranging Scheme for deterrence of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of sufferers of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual brutality.

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual abuse is an organized offence that violating fundamental human rights. India has emerged as a transit point of trafficking specially in cross border trafficking. The problem of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual abuse is especially challenging due to its many complexities and difference. The principal causes of trafficking are Poverty, low status of women, lack of a protective environment, etc.

A powerful move towards the issues is required which will assume the preventive way to face trafficking especially in vulnerable areas and sections of population; and to facilitate rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the trafficked victims.

For that purpose the government of India has formulated a Central Scheme called “Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Ujjawala.” The new scheme has been formulated for the purpose of preventing trafficking on the one hand and rescue and rehabilitation of victims on the other.

The principal aim of the scheme is to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual abuse through social enlistment and participation of local communities, awareness generation programmes, create public conversation through

workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative action. Another aim is to support rescue of victims from the place of their abuse and place them in safe custody, as well as provide rehabilitation services both instant and long-term to the sufferers by providing fundamental facilities or requirements such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training. To assist reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large as well as help repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

Nirbhaya Fund:

Violent behaviour and maltreatment against women and girls is regular on streets, in public transport and in other public places. These types of behaviours restrict women's right to mobility, discouraging their liberty to walk freely and move in public spaces of their choice as well as Such violence also limits their admission to essential services and harmfully impact their health and wellbeing.²⁰

For this circumstance, and subsequently the misfortune of December 2012 at Delhi, the Government has established a dedicated fund – Nirbhaya Fund. This fund can be utilized for projects particularly designed to get better protection and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.²¹

As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance in the date of 25.03.2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal Ministry to assess and suggest proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of approved schemes in combination with the line Ministries /Departments.

²⁰ *ibid*

²¹ *ibid*

STEP programme or Support to Training and Employment Programme for women:

Government of India has set a grand arrangement training 500 million persons by 2022 which translates to training 42 million a year. The ministry of women's and child development (MWCD) through its STEP Programme has been addressing special attention to the poor women and women in remote areas who are not in a position to go out of their immediate surroundings and go to a formal skill centre to obtain training. The main objective of the scheme is, to provide skills that give employability to women and provide competencies and skills that facilitate women to become self-employed/ entrepreneurs.

The STEP Programme is a hundred percent Central government Scheme is under implementation since 1986-87. One of the objectives of this scheme is to provide training to poor and marginalized women in traditional trades which are mostly in the informal sector. The programme strives to build up the traditional knowledge of women and change it into sustainable living capacitating.²²

Mahila E-Haat:

On 7th March 2016 a bilingual portal was launched by the Ministry of Women & Child Development government of India. This is a distinctive direct online marketing platform. This platform supports women entrepreneurs, SHGs and NGOs for showcasing the products or services which are manufactured by them. It is a scheme for meeting aspirations and requirements of women. This programme has done keeping in mind that technology is an important element for business efficiency and to make it accessible to the majority of Indian women entrepreneurs, SHGs and NGOs.²³

²² *ibid*

²³ *ibid*

One Stop Centre:

In the 12th five year Plan, the Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment had suggested setting up of One Stop Crisis Centres, on pilot basis. They recommended for providing shelter, police desk, legal, medical and counselling services to sufferers of violence under one roof incorporated with a 24 hour Helpline.

24

For this purpose Justice (Retd.) Usha Mehra Commission was set up to recommend measures to improve women's security. The commission submitted their report on 22nd February 2013 and suggested that there is required for establishment of a "one-stop centre" at a notified hospital to assist sufferers of sexual abuse and guarantee speedy punishment to culprits.

On 1st April 2015 the scheme one stop centre was approved by the government for implementation. The objective of the scheme is, to make easy access to an incorporated range of services including medical, police and legal support with psychosocial counselling as well as temporary support services to women affected by violence. The government has been decided that One Stop Centres would established from corner to corner of the country in phased manner under this scheme. One Centre was approved per State and Union Territories in the first phase. In the second phase, 150 additional Centres were established during 2016-17. The government decided that 50 additional One Stop Centres each will be established during the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-2020 respectively and the scheme is implemented with 100% Central aid.

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) carried out the review of performance of the functioning of One Stop Centre. In this review report, it has been emerged that the services of One Stop Centre are very helpful and this will be the central point for the women affected by violence to gain incorporated services and suggested for more expansion of One Stop Centre in all districts.

²⁴ *ibid*

The One Stop Centre will give support and help to women pretentious by violence, both in private and public spaces. The One stop centre will be open 24 hours with referral services. To provide recommendation services, lists of hospital, police stations, lawyers, counsellors will be available at the Centre.

Mahila police volunteers (MPVs):

The main threat to women equality and empowerment are the gender-based Violence faced by women both in public and private spaces, including domestic violence, sexual battering, rape, voyeurism, stalking etc. A gender approachable police service requires special training, increased numbers of female personnel within the police force and community outreach to incorporate gender issues into policies and protocols. There has been ratification of various legislations by the Parliament in recent years, which address the issue of gender based violence, these are

1. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013,
2. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
3. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013,

It's provided an opportunity to women facing violence to take the remedy to law. But the crime rate against women in India including rape, dowry death, cruelty of the husband, and kidnapping of women, were highly increase from the year 2013 to 2016. According to the National Crime Records Bureau in the year 2013 there were 118866 cases of cruelty by husband, 70739 cases of assault of women, 51881 cases of kidnapping, 33707 cases of rape against women. In 2014 there were 122877 cases of cruelty by husband, 82235 cases of assault of women, 57311 cases of kidnapping, 36735 cases of rape against women. In 2015 there were 113403 cases of cruelty by husband, 82422 cases of assault of women, 59277 cases of kidnapping, 34651 cases of rape against women. In the year 2016 there were 110378 cases of cruelty by husband, 84746 cases of assault of women, 64519 cases of kidnapping, 38947 cases

of rape against women. So, it is indicating the miserable conditions of women in India.

The role of Police is crucial in protection and security of citizens in general and particularly women. To increase the numbers of women in the police force, Home Ministry has approved the proposal to give 33% reservation to women in the police force by implementing it in Union Territories and propagating in the States. There has been a rising emphasis on gender sensitivity of the police force through training programmes, performance assessment, women police stations to deal with crime against women. However, it is a common fact that women who are sufferer of violence or harassment may not find it easy to come near to the police or other authorities for getting help or support. Therefore, it would be responsibility of government to provide them an effective option for getting help and support.

In order to encourage these objectives the government of India envisages appointment or nomination of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) in all States and Union Territories. This Mahila Police Volunteers will work as a link between police and community and help women in suffering. Mahila Police Volunteers are predicted as empowered, responsible, socially conscious women for encouragement leadership in local settings to facilitate police outreach on gender concerns. The Mahila Police Volunteers play as a role model for the community. The government give permission to MPVs for report incidences of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry persecution and violence faced by women in public spaces.

Nari Shakti Puruskars:

From the year 1975 the United Nations began to celebrate 8th March as the International Women's Day. This is the day which provides an opportunity to recognize the achievements of women for the country and acknowledge their contributions to the society.²⁵

²⁵ *ibid*

Every year the Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrates International Women's Day on 8th March. In this occasion, in the year 2015 the ministry has been decided to acknowledge Women's achievements. For this purpose the ministry confers Nari Shakti Puruskars to eminent women and institutions in acknowledgment of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.

In order to recognize the hard work made by women & institutions in portrait illustrious services for the cause of women, particularly vulnerable and marginalized women, the ministry hereby announce national level awards for conferring on well-known women, organisations and institutions. This award may be called; "Nari Shakti Puruskars" and it shall be applicable to institutions and persons who have rendered illustrious services to the cause of women.

In the last decade, there has been rigorous effort by the government to recognise and support women such as National Policy for Empowerment of Women in 2001. The issues connected to women have gained maximum importance and attention. "Nari Shakti Puruskars" is the policy of the Government's obligation towards women with the aim of reinforcement their legitimate position in the society and it also provides a chance to the current generation to recognize the contribution of women in construction of society and the country.

It would be awarded on well-known women and institutions portrait renowned service to the cause of women especially belonging to the weaker and marginalized sections of the society. The recipients are drawn from institutions and individuals and the concern ministry invite nominations from the State Governments, Union Territories, NGOs, various Universities and Institutions as well as private and public sector undertakings which are working for women empowerment.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:

As per as girl child sex ratio is concern the 2011 Census showed a miserable picture. There was significant declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio between 0-6 years with an all time low of 918. The issue of decline in the Child Sex Ratio is a major sign of

discrimination against women as it reflects both pre-birth and post birth. The principal cause of declining in the child sex ratio is low Sex Ratio at Birth. Social attitude towards girl child on the one hand, easy accessibility, affordability and consequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been significant cause for declining Child Sex Ratio as well as preference for sons and bias towards daughters has create this problem. ²⁶

The decline of child sex ratio as pointed by Census 2011 data is a call for immediate action. Strong and time bound efforts are needed to ensure survival, safety and education of the girl child.

For this purpose, on 22nd January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched by the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the issue of declining of Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of girls and women. Initially, the scheme was launched in 100 districts in the session 2014-15. Further, it was expanded to 61 other districts in 2015-16. After successful implementation of the scheme in initial stage, the scheme has been extended to all districts of the Country through a countrywide mass media campaign, and focussed involvement and multi sectoral action in select districts.

The main objectives of the Scheme are, to stop gender prejudiced sex selective elimination as well as to ensure survival and safeguard of the girl child. Another objective of the scheme is to make sure education and participation of the girl child. .

In this short period, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme has been well-received and encouraging trends are noticeable in several districts. The scheme has been doing well in establishing the upgrading of Child Sex Ratio as a National Agenda. After the successful execution in 161 districts, the Cabinet has approved the extension of Beti Bachao Beti Padho scheme. Under this Scheme, a countrywide campaign was launched for celebrating Girl Child and enabling her education. The aim of the campaign is to ensuring that girls are born, nurtured and educated without bias to become empowered citizens of this nation with equal rights. A comprehensive media

²⁶ *ibid*

approach is being adopted to make consciousness and disseminating information regarding the issue across the country. This includes radio spots/ jingles in Hindi and regional languages, television advertising, outdoor and print media publicity, community meeting through mobile demonstration vans, social media and field advertising, Consciousness creation through SMS campaigns, as well as Social Media Platforms are being used such as MyGov, Vikaspedia, Website of WCD ministry, Facebook, Youtube, etc.

Swadhar greh:

The Department of Social Welfare in 1969 a scheme namely Short Stay Home for women and girls was introduced as a social protection mechanism. The aim of the scheme is, to prevent women from exploitation and to support their survival and rehabilitation. Another aim of the scheme is, to provide temporary accommodation, preservation and rehabilitative services to women and girls rendered dispossessed due to family discord, brutality, mental pressure, social exclusion or are being forced into prostitution etc.

In 2001-02 the Department of Women and Child Development launched another scheme with the same objectives namely Swadhar –A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances. The scheme aims to rehabilitate such women in difficult circumstances through the provisions of, accommodation, counselling, training, and clinical and legal aid, etc.

To measure the performance of both the schemes, an evaluation was conducted by the Centre for Market Research and Social Development, New Delhi in 2007. The evaluation report found that the profile and category of residents, admission procedure, counselling, quality of service, vocational training, rehabilitation and follow up procedure are approximately same in both the schemes. Therefore, they suggested amalgamation of these two schemes for better performance and outcomes with lesser administrative burdens and procedures. It also suggested that the new scheme should give importance on establishing one such home in every district.²⁷

²⁷ *ibid*

The optimistic findings of the evaluation study has encouraged the Ministry to put forward this new scheme that would target the women sufferers of regrettable circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could direct their life with dignity.

The new scheme speculates a helpful institutional framework for women sufferers of difficult circumstances so that they could guide their life with dignity and confidence. It envisages that accommodation, clothing, and health as well as economic and social protection are guaranteed for such women. Under this new scheme Swadhar Greh will be established in every district with capability of 30 women.

The objectives of the schemes are

- 1) To provide to the primary need such as accommodation, food, clothing, medical aids and care of the women in suffering and those are without any social and economic support.
- 2) To allow them get back to their emotional power that gets hampered because of their meet with regrettable circumstances.
- 3) To offer them with legal support and guidance as well as allow them to take steps for their readjustment in family and society.
- 4) To re-establish them financially and emotionally.
- 5) To act as a support system that understands and encounters various needs of women in suffering.
- 6) To facilitate them to start their life once again with dignity and confidence.

For the large cities and big districts which have more than 40 lakh population or those districts where there is a requirement for extra support to the women, more than one Swadhar Greh could be setup. The facility of Swadhar Greh could be expanded up to 50 or 100 on the need basis and other important parameters.

Universalisation of Women Helpline:

The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is proposed to give 24 hours urgent and emergency response to women affected by violence through

recommendation by proper authority such as police, one stop centre, hospital, etc and information regarding women related government schemes and programs across the country through a single uniform number. Women Helpline is incorporated with One Stop Centre Scheme, women which are affected by any kind of violence and need of redressal services will be referred to one stop centre through Women Helpline. .

Under the Women Helpline Scheme, the States and Union Territories will utilise their active women Help lines through a dedicated single national number. The Telecommunication, Department of Government of India has provided short code 181 to all States and Union Territories. It is envisaged that this number would be well-matched with all the active telecommunication services whether providing post-paid or prepaid cell phone or landline services through any public or private network like. GSM, CDMA, 3G, 4G, etc. All private or public help lines of our country would be incorporated with this women helpline number.²⁸

The major aim and objectives of this Scheme are:

- 1) One of the objectives of this scheme is, to make available toll-free 24-hours telecom facility to women affected by violence looking for support and information.
- 2) Another objective of this scheme is, to assist crisis and non-crisis interference through recommendation to the proper agencies such as police, hospitals, Ambulance services, legal aid and One Stop Centre.
- 3) One of the principal objectives of this scheme is, to give information concerning to the proper support services, existing government schemes and programmes to the woman pretentious by violence, in her exacting condition within the local area in which she resides or engaged.

Scheme for working women hostel:

As a developing nation India is growing rapidly particularly in last few decades. We have also seen the progressive change in socio economic structure of our nation.

²⁸ *ibid*

Today lots of women are leaving their homes in search of employment in metro cities as well as small towns and rural areas where employment opportunities exist. But one of the major problems faced by women is lack of safe and expediently situated lodgings. The government of India worried about the problems faced by working women, For this purpose the Government of India, introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for construction of new and development of existing buildings for provided that hostel facilities to working women in cities, towns as well as in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. Based on an assessment, the active scheme has been revised to promote accessibility of secure and expediently situated accommodation for working women who want to live away from their families due to professional commitments.²⁹

The main purpose of the scheme is to promote accessibility of protected and easily located accommodation for working women, with day care service for their children, where possible, in cities, towns, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.

The scheme provides support construction projects for of new hostel buildings, development of existing hostel buildings and hostel buildings in rented property. The scheme facilities shall be providing to all working women without any discrimination with respect to caste, religion, marital status etc. although the projects is particularly for working women but trainee women for the job may also be accommodated in the hostel with condition. The basic condition is that, such trainees should not occupy more than thirty percent of the total capacity of the hostel as well as they may be accommodated in the hostels only when adequate numbers of working women are not available. Children of working women, under the age of 18 years for girls and 5 years for boys may be accommodated in such hostels with their mothers.

²⁹ *ibid*

Conclusion:

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a historical achievement. The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is distinctive amongst existing human rights mechanism because it is completely apprehensive with encouraging and defending women's human rights and because it operates from the principle that patriarchy is a universal reality. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most essential legally obligatory international document regarding the human rights of women.

However, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has several major limitations. Its recommendations and suggestions are not binding to the States Parties. Therefore, unless the States Parties commit themselves sincerely to the principle of equal rights, the Convention and the efforts of the Convention will not be enough.

India had approved this convention in July 1993. For this purpose, numbers of laws and various legal safeguards have been enacted for the protection of women. While rigorous efforts are being made to improve the status of women in India, the slow progress of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) impact the status of women in India. It is very unfortunate that after 27years of its rectification, there are still needs to be done in terms of implementation of the rights which are included in the Convention. There still exists a large gap between the aims enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and connected instrument on the one hand and the situational realism of the position of women in India, on the other.