



## **Government of Tamilnadu**

### **Department of Employment and Training**

Course : TNPSC Group II Exam  
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Topic : **Empowerment of Women**

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**Commissioner,  
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# EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

## Definition:

Empowerment is the degree of equality and freedom in all spheres of life at par with men.

- International Women's Year (IWY)- 1975 by the United Nations
- March 8-International Women's Day
- United Nations Decade for Women, from 1976–1985

- ❖ The Mission goes beyond '3 R's (i.e. Reading, Writing & Arithmetic) for it also seeks to create awareness of social disparities and a person's deprivation on the means for its amelioration and general well being.

## ***The Mahila Samakhyia Programme (1987-89)***

## Central Government schemes:

### Education

#### ***Saakshar Bharat (8 September 2009)***

- ❖ It was launched by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning programmes for non-literate and neo-literate of 15 years and above.
- ❖ It aims to recast India's National Literacy Mission to focus on literacy of women, which is expected to increase the literate population by 70 million adults, including 60 million women.

- ❖ To translate the goals of NPE and POA into a concrete programme for the education and empowerment of women in rural areas, particularly of women from socially and economically marginalised groups.
- ❖ Mahila Samakhyia (Education for Women's Equality) was launched as a pilot project in 10 districts of Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh in 1989 with Dutch assistance.

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**The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme (2004).**

- ❖ It is now integrated in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program, to provide educational facilities for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities and families below

the poverty line in Educationally Backward Blocks.

- ❖ The objective of KGBV is to ensure access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools with boarding facilities at elementary level.

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES**

SL. No.	Women Empowerment Programmes	Year of Establishment	Function
1	Support to Training and employment Programme for Women (STEP)	2003-04	To increase the self-reliance and autonomy of women by enhancing their productivity and enabling them to take up income generation activities.
2	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)	1993	To promote or undertake activities for the promotion of or to provide credit as an instrument of socio- economic change and development through the provision of a package of financial and social development services for the development of women.
3	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh	1993	To facilitate credit support or micro-finance to poor women to start income generating activities such as dairy, agriculture, shop-keeping, vending, handicrafts etc.

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4	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)- 'Sabla'	2010	It aims at empowering Adolescent girls of 11 to 18 years by improving their nutritional and health status, up gradation of home skills, life skills and vocational skills.
5	Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)	1953	To promote social welfare activities and implementing welfare programmes for women and children through voluntary organizations.
6	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh - (National Credit Fund for Women)	1993	It extends micro-finance services through a client friendly and hassle-free loaning mechanism for livelihood activities, housing, micro-enterprises, family needs, etc to bring about the socio-economic upliftment of poor women.
7	Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)	----	To improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant, lactating women and infants
8	Swayam Siddha	2001	At organizing women into Self-Help Groups to form a strong institutional base.
9	Short Stay Home for Women and Girls (SSH)	1969	To provide temporary shelter to women and girls who are in social and moral danger due to family problems, mental strain, violence at home, social ostracism, exploitation and other causes.
10	Swadhar	1995	To support women to become independent in spirit, in thought, in action and have full control over their lives rather than be the victim of others actions.
11	Support to	1986	To mobilise women in small viable groups

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	Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)		and make facilities available through training and access to credit, to provide training for skill up gradation, etc.
12	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)	1982	To improve the socio-economic status of the poor women in the rural areas through creation of groups of women for income-generating activities on a self-sustaining basis.
13	Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women	1983	Aims at the socio-economic empowerment of women

### **Health**

#### ***Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):***

- ❖ It is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women.
- ❖ The Yojana, launched on 12th April 2005, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, is being implemented in all states and UTs with special focus on low performing states.
- ❖ The Yojana has identified ASHA, the accredited social health activist

as an effective link between the Government and the poor pregnant women in 10 low performing states, namely the 8 EAG states and Assam and J&K and the remaining NE States

#### ***Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla***

- ❖ It is a centrally sponsored program of Government of India initiated on April 1, 2011 under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**The objectives of the program are:**

- Enable the Adolescent girls for self-development and empowerment
- Improve their nutrition and health status.
- Promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH) and family and child care.
- Upgrade home-based skills, life skills and integrate with the National Skill Development Program (NSDP) for vocational skills.
- Mainstream out of school adolescent girls into formal/non formal education.
- Provide information/guidance about existing public services such as PHC, CHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- ❖ The program would cover adolescent girls 11–18 years old under all ICDS projects in selected 200 districts in all states/UTs in the country. The target group would be subdivided into 11-15 and 15–18 years.

**Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) – Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) scheme**

- ❖ It is a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women to contribute to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.
- ❖ It is being implemented initially on pilot basis in 52 selected districts using the platform of ICDS

**Political:**

- ❖ 33% reservation in Panchayat and Municipalities under 73rd amendment Act & 74th amendment Act 1992.
- ❖ Women's Reservation Bill or the The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill is a pending bill in India which proposes to amend the Constitution of India to reserve 33 per cent of all seats in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women.
- ❖ The Upper House Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 9 Mar

2010. As of March 2013, the Lower House Lok Sabha has not yet voted on the bill

**Legal provisions:**

- Dowry prohibition Act - 1961
- Immoral traffic prevention Act - 1956
- Equal right to property Act- 1956
- Equal remuneration Act - 1976
- Protection from Domestic Violence Bill - 2002
- National commission for women - 1990
- Domestic Violence Act - 2005

**Other Schemes:**

- **UJJAWALA** : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Resue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Dhanalakshmi - Conditional cash transfer scheme for girl child.

❖ The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage assistance scheme was launched in the year 3rd June 1989. This scheme focused in helping poor parents for getting their daughters married. It also promoted educational status of poor girls up to 10th standard. The financial support was enhanced on continuous basis from Rs.5000/- to current annual support of 25,000/- during the 1st April 2010, as an Educational support for the poor girls.

***E.V.R Maniammaiya Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Schemes For Daughters of Poor Widows:***

❖ The Maniammaiya Ninaivu marriage assistance scheme for the daughters of the poor widows was launched in the year 1981-1982. Initially during the launch Rs.1000/- was provided and has been enhanced to Rs.20, 000 in the year 20th November 2008, to perform the marriage of the poor widows daughters.

**WOMEN WELFARE SCHEMES**

**IN TAMIL NADU**

***Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme:***

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**Anjugam Ammiar Ninaivu Intercaste Marriage Assistance Scheme:**

- ❖ This scheme was launched in the 1st July 1967, with the aim to abolish discrimination on caste grounds and also to eliminate dowry harassment. Even the intercaste marriage assistance has been included in the scheme. There is no income limit to avail this assistance. Under this scheme the intercaste marriage scheme, the married couples are financially benefited.

**Sathyavani Muthu Ammiyar Ninaivu Free Supply of Sewing Machines Scheme:**

- ❖ Sathyavani Muthu Ammiyar was Indian politician and influential dalit leader. She was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu, Rajya Sabha member and Union Minister. She began her political career as a member of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, began her own party, Thazhthapattor Munnetra Kazhagam and later joined the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

**Sivagami Ammaiya Ninaivu Girl Child Protection Scheme:**

- ❖ This scheme was launched in the year April 1992 in order to lift the status of the girl children in the society and to abolish the practice of female infanticide. In the fond memory of the then Chief minister of Tamilnadu “Thiru Kamarajar”, the scheme was renamed as Sivagami Ammaiya ninaivu girl child protection scheme in the year 2006. By the year 31st March 2010, 6192 girl children in the State of Tamilnadu are benefited.

**Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiya Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme:**

- ❖ This scheme was launched in the year 1975 with the focus to rehabilitate the widows and to encourage the widow remarriage. The financial support was gradually enhanced from Rs.5000/- to Rs.20.000/- from November 2009. Also no income ceiling was fixed to avail the scheme. The applications to avail the scheme will be processed within 15 days.

- ◆.....◆
- ❖ From 17.5.2011 onwards, the scheme of giving 4 gms 22 carat gold coin for Thirumangalyam is extended to beneficiaries under this scheme with financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/.
  - which are likely to receive female children which are abandoned by their parents due to social circumstances like debts, future financial commitments, females are prone to sexual violations etc.

***Annai Therasa Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme For Orphan***

***Girls:***

- ❖ This scheme was launched in the year 1984-1985 to support the orphan girls for getting married. In the year 1999 the scheme was named as Annai Therasa Ninaivu marriage assistance scheme for orphan girls. The financial assistance was increased from Rs.1000/- to Rs.20,000/- gradually under this scheme.

***Cradle Baby Scheme:***

- ❖ The “Cradle Baby Scheme” was introduced in the year 1992 in the Salem district of Tamilnadu. This scheme has been recognized all over India and other countries. Under this scheme, cradles are placed at locations like Hospitals, Primary Health Centers, Orphanages and Children Homes

***Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):***

- ❖ The project was launched on 2nd October 1975. ICDS is a symbol of uniqueness in the field of early childhood development, and is considered to be World’s largest program. In Tamil Nadu, the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) has 434 Projects with 47,265 Children Centers and 3168 Mini centers, totalling 50,433 centers
- ❖ The objectives of the scheme are as follows:
  - ❖ To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.
  - a. To ensure Tamilnadu as a malnutrition free state, and to provide the whole life cycle nutrition security program, with a

- focus on nutrition for the pregnant and lactating mothers, infants, children and adolescent girls
- b. To improve the nutritional and health status of the children in the age group of 0 to 6 years
- c. To lay the foundation for psychological, physical and social development of the child to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition
- d. To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.
- e. To ensure Tamilnadu as a malnutrition free state, and to provide the whole life cycle nutrition security program, with a focus on nutrition for the pregnant and lactating mothers, infants, children and adolescent girls
- f. To improve the nutritional and health status of the children in the age group of 0 to 6 years
- g. To lay the foundation for psychological, physical and social development of the child

- h. To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition

❖ The beneficiaries under this scheme are as follows:

- a. Children under the age group of 0 to 72 months
- b. Adolescent girls
- c. Pregnant women and lactating mothers
- d. Old age pensioners

❖ **International agencies are involved under this scheme**

- a. United Nations International children' Emergency fund (UNICEF)
  - b. Cooperative of assistance and relief everywhere (CARE)
- ❖ World food program (WFP)

**Awards Women and Children Sree Shakti Puraskars:**

- ❖ on International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the Government of India presents this award
- ❖ to individual women in the field of social development
- ❖ 6 awards given, in the name of following eminent women from Indian history

Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Queen of the Maratha ruled Malwa kingdom, India. Second half of 1700s.	
Kannagi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kannagi is the central character of the South Indian epic Silapathikaram (100-300 CE).</li> <li>King of Madurai had got her husband killed for false accusation of theft.</li> <li>She took revenge by burning the Madurai city with a curse.</li> <li>Now Worshipped as Goddess.</li> </ul>
Mata Jijabai	Shivaji's mother.
Rani Gaidenlou Zeliang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naga woman leader.</li> <li>Ran movement against Britishers in Manipur.</li> <li>Nehru called her Rani of Nagas.</li> </ul>
Rani Laxmibai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lord Dalhousie took away her kingdom under Doctrine of Lapse.</li> <li>Fought and died in the Mutiny of 1857.</li> </ul>
Rani Rudramma Devi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen of Kakatiya dynasty in the Deccan Plateau</li> <li>Second half of 1200s.</li> </ul>

### Award Children Related

National Child award for exceptional achievement	given to children aged between 4 to 15 years for outstanding achievement in various fields including academics, arts, culture, sports etc.
Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>given to 3 individuals</li> <li>for outstanding contribution to child development / welfare / protection</li> </ul>

### First Women in India:

- ❖ 1848: Jyotirao Phule, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, opened a school for girls in Pune, India.

Savitribai Phule became the first woman teacher in India.

- ❖ 1879: John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune established the Bethune

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- School in 1849, which developed into the Bethune College in 1879, thus becoming the first women's college in India.
- ❖ 1883: Chandramukhi Basu and Kadambini Ganguly became the first female graduates of India and the British Empire.
  - ❖ 1886: Kadambini Ganguly and Anandi Gopal Joshi became the first women from India to be trained in Western medicine.
  - ❖ 1916: The first women's university, SNDT Women's University, was founded on 2 June 1916 by the social reformer Dhondo Keshav Karve with just five students.
  - ❖ 1917: Annie Besant became the first female president of the Indian National Congress.
  - ❖ 1919: For her distinguished social service, Pandita Ramabai became the first Indian woman to be awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal by the British Raj.
  - ❖ 1925: Sarojini Naidu became the first Indian born female president of the Indian National Congress.
  - ❖ 1927: The All India Women's Conference was founded.
  - ❖ 1944: Asima Chatterjee became the first Indian woman to be conferred the Doctorate of Science by an Indian university.
  - ❖ 1947: On 15 August 1947, following independence, Sarojini Naidu became the governor of the United Provinces, and in the process became India's first woman governor.
  - ❖ 1951: Prem Mathur of the Deccan Airways becomes the first Indian woman commercial pilot.
  - ❖ 1953: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit became the first woman (and first Indian) president of the United Nations General Assembly

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- ❖ 1959: Anna Chandy becomes the first Indian woman judge of a High Court (Kerala High Court)
- ❖ 1963: Sucheta Kriplani became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the first woman to hold that position in any Indian state.
- ❖ 1966: Captain Durga Banerjee becomes the first Indian woman pilot of the state airline, Indian Airlines.
- ❖ 1966: Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay wins Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership.
- ❖ 1966: Indira Gandhi becomes the first woman Prime Minister of India
- ❖ 1970: Kamaljit Sandhu becomes the first Indian woman to win a Gold in the Asian Games
- ❖ 1972: Kiran Bedi becomes the first female recruit to join the Indian Police Service.
- ❖ 1979: Mother Teresa wins the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first Indian female citizen to do so.
- ❖ 1984: On 23 May, Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest.
- ❖ 1989: Justice M. Fathima Beevi becomes the first woman judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ 1997: Kalpana Chawla becomes the first India-born woman to go into space.
- ❖ 1992: Priya Jhingan becomes the first lady cadet to join the Indian Army (later commissioned on 6 March 1993)
- ❖ 1994: Harita Kaur Deol becomes the first Indian woman pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), on a solo flight.
- ❖ 2000: Karnam Malleswari became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal (bronze medal in the 2000 Summer Olympics at Sydney).

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- ❖ 2002: Lakshmi Sahgal became the first Indian woman to run for the post of President of India.
- ❖ 2004: Punita Arora became the first woman in the Indian Army to don the highest rank of Lieutenant General.
- ❖ 2007: Pratibha Patil becomes the first woman President of India.
- ❖ 2009: Meira Kumar became the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha, the lower house in Indian Parliament.

### **Social Injustice to Women:**

#### **Dowry**

- ❖ It is a gift / payment made by the bride's family to the groom at the time of marriage.

#### **III Effects**

- ✓ Female Infanticide
- ✓ Low esteem of women
- ✓ Girls married to old men
- ✓ Affects morale & strength of women

#### **Measures**

- ✓ Dowry prohibition Act - 1961

- ✓ This Act was introduced and taken up by then Indlaw minister Ashoke Kumar Sen,

- ✓ Domestic Violence Act (2005/2006)

- ❖ For the purpose of this act, Domestic Violence includes the demand for dowry:
- ❖ For the purposes of this Act, any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it –
- ❖ harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or
- ❖ (b) harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or
- ❖ (c) has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any

- conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b); or(d) otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.
- ❖ This act empowered the lower courts to issue "protection orders" on the complaint of a woman against her male relatives. The protection orders could include restraining orders on the husband and others, monetary compensation, and residence orders.
  - ❖ Though it is a civil remedy, violation of protection orders result in criminal penalties (including imprisonment).
- ✓ **Section**
- IPC 304B
  - IPC 406
  - IPC 498A
- The Committee submitted its report on January 23, 2013.
- ❖ **Electoral reforms:** The Committee recommended the amendment of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Currently, the Act provides for disqualification of candidates for crimes related to terrorism, untouchability, secularism, fairness of elections, sati and dowry. The Committee was of the opinion that filing of charge sheet and cognizance by the Court was sufficient for disqualification of a candidate under the Act. It further recommended that candidates should be disqualified for committing sexual offences.
  - ❖ **Education reforms:** The Committee has recommended that children's experiences should not be gendered. It has recommended that sexuality education should be imparted to children. Adult literacy programs are necessary for gender empowerment.
- ❖ Female infanticide

### ***Sexual Harassment***

- ❖ Justice Verma Committee was constituted to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women.