



# HOME SCIENCE & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



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## Index

1.	<b>Dr.Nitin Hosmelkar, Vijaya U. Patil</b> Family Planning is a Human Right: Issues and Challenges to Women.....	15
2.	<b>Dr. Nuzhat Sultana M.B.</b> Women Education – Progress And Prospects.....	19
3.	<b>Mrs. Rachana M. Sirsat</b> Women Health and Diet.....	21
4.	<b>Smt.Sadhana Deshmukh</b> Women Empowerment Through Micro-Credit And Micro-Finance: A Case Study Of Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank Mhaswad District Satara, Maharashtra, India...	24
5.	<b>Dr. Vibha Hemant Katey</b> Women Empowerment- Challenges.....	28
6.	<b>Vijaya U. Patil, Dr.Nitin Hosmelkar</b> Migration and Women: Review of selected films.....	30
7.	<b>Chourasia L., Joglekar Abhaya</b> An Analytical study on Anthropometric Measurement of School Going Girls.....	35
8.	<b>Dr. Anvita Agrawal</b> Contribution of Women in Textiles Handicraft Sectors.....	39
9.	<b>Ms.Kanchan Saxena, Ms. Garima Tyagi</b> Focus of National Commission for Women: Women Empowerment.....	42
10.	<b>Priti Dhankhar</b> Self Help Groups And Women Entrepreneurship.....	46
11.	<b>Dr.Chetana V. Dongrikar</b> Role of Mother in Child Development; Specially Starting Three Years.....	49
12.	<b>Dr.Jaysheela Baswantrao Manohar</b> Stress Management through Yoga and Balance Diet for Women.....	53
13.	<b>Dr. Archana R. Choudhari</b> Legal Status and rights of Indian Women.....	55
14.	<b>Ms. Ashwini Balasaheb Kumbhar, Mrs. Megha Saurav Desai</b> Rural Women Entrepreneur And Skill Development.....	57
15.	<b>Dr.Nilima L. Bargat</b> Women's learning movements - Problems and Solution.....	61
16.	<b>Sou Nivedita Prashant Shete</b> Women Entrepreneurship in India : Opportunities Challenges in present Technological Era.....	64
17.	<b>Miss. Sonal Tuljaram Kame</b> Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities.....	68
18.	<b>Miss. Wanjari Manisha P., Dr. Maya Khandat</b> Rural Women Entrepreneurship Development and Self Help Groups.....	71
19.	<b>Mrs. Anuja D. Kandi</b> Osteoporosis among Menopausal Women –A health Problem.....	77
20.	<b>Smt. Jadhav Ranee Jagannathrao</b> Role of National women Commission in Women Development.....	81



## 20. Role of National women Commission in Women Development



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### ABSTRACT

*In India women have come a long way from the rarer women scholars and sages of the vedic age to the women in different sectors of society and civilization. Today such as the armed forces, Arts, information technology politics and a number of similar sectors which have traditionally been male dominated, while simultaneously balancing the roles of wife, mother and daughter. While India women have fought against the patriarchal Indian society and triumphed at many levels, cases of rape, dowry death, female infanticide, sexual harassment at workplaces. Female illiteracy and similar problems are still rampant in India society it was in this backdrop that the committee on the status of women in India (CSWI) the establishment of the National Commission for women of full the surveillance functions and to facilitate redresser of grievances and to accelerate the socioeconomic development of women*

### Introduction :

In the last four decades the women's movement have increasingly sought to influence state policy with a view to include women issues and perspectives and increases women's representation and participation. As a result of this activism and gradual transformation sparked by the women's movement, governments in various countries, especially in the third world took steps to reform existing laws, incorporated policy directives on women and development in the planning process and initiated women specific programmes and projects. Since the mid seventies, there has also been global debate to eliminate women's inequality through effective mechanisms that could implement the new commitment women's equality and participation and monitor its results. In India the establishment of women's welfare and Development Bureau and a national plane of Action in 1976 followed the Report of the committee on the status of women in India The recommendations of the world plane of Action for the International women's Decade had also included the creation of such national agencies

### The Genesis Of the National Commission For Woman :

The demand for setting up a national commission for women was raised for the first time by the committee on the status of women in India in 1974 which brought out first exhaustive report on the status of women in India after independence. The report noted the absence of women's perspective in the overall development process and the in difference of polity – makers

and planners was forcefully documented. In view of this it enclosed the recommendation given by the UN commission on the status of women in its 25<sup>th</sup> report for a statutory and autonomous commission with a mandate to review, evaluate and recommend measures and priorities to ensure equality between men and women in all section of national life. The body per-cived by the committee right from the beginning was an autonomous, statutory body. Referring to the proposal for a commission, the report says. " we have given careful consideration to this type at the state and national levels. We also believe that it is imperative for such commission to have creation recommendatory and man datory powers as well as statutory, autonomous status if they are to be effective in heir functions." The committee recommended the constitution of stator, autonomous commission with a broad based and representative composition at the center and states and suggested four functions that the commission, should perform. These include as collection of information on different matters eg education, employment, health, welfare, political participation impact of social legislation etc form the concerned agencies of the government and to suggest a) improved methods of data collection, b) evaluation of existing policies, programmes and laws that have a bearing on the status of women and to suggest amendments or improvements c) recommend to parliament or to the state legislature, new laws. Policies, The government concerned with a view to implementing the stated objectives and policies. The government concerned should be responsible to consider

such recommend for action or to explain their non – acceptance within a stipulated period of redress of grievances in cases of actual violation of existing laws.

In 1987 the government appointed a national commission on self – employed women (NCSEW) with road forms of references to make a comprehensive study of the working conditions of women in the self – employed sectors, which was later expanded to include, “all unprotected women labour in the country and extend by women in the informed sector. The NCSEW recommended that a labour commissioner for women in the unorganized sector be appointed to look into the problems of women working in this sector. In 1988 in the national perspective plane a proposal for commissioner with in the department of women and child development surfaced. The women’s groups saw the creation of the position of a commissioner for women’s rights as negation of their long standing demand for the setting up of a national and autonomous commission for women. In their critique of the national perspective plane, they very clear made their position clear.

It was in 1990, that the government of India decided to set up a national commission for women. In addition to national and international factors, discussed earlier there also political factors that motivate the creation of the new at this point of time. Because of the successful politicization of women issues by the women’s movements, its was no longer possible. For the political parties to ignore women as a political constituency. While as a result of the women’s movements. Women’s issues became part of the public and political agenda of political parties. It was also a fact that the movement was also facing newer challenges, as the whole gender question seemed to become more and more complex.

**The constitution of The commission :**

The national commission for women Act, 1990 (ACT no. 20 of 1990 of Government of India) Constituted the national commission for women as statutory body. The first commission was constituted on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1992 with Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik as the chairperson.

The Act of 1990 under section 3 provides for the constitution of the commission. This section lays down that the commission will consist of one chair person. Who is committed to the cause of women, five member form various fields and a member secretary who shall be an expert in the fields of management, organizational structure, sociological movement or a member of the civil service of the union all the members of commission are nominated by the central government.

Each person holds office for a period of five years or till he attains the age of seventy. All least one member each of the commission must belong to a scheduled caste or scheduled Tribe. In addition to the abovementioned members of the commission, the commission has the power to set up committee with members form outside the commission.

**List of current and former chairpersons of the NCW :**

No	Name	Form	To
1	Jayanti Patnaik	3 Feb. 1992	30 January 1995
2	Dr. V. Mohini Giri	21 July 1995	20 July 1998
3	Vibha Parthasarathi	18 January 1999	17 January 2002
4	Dr. Poornima Advani	25 January 2002	24 January 2005
5	Dr. Girija Vyas	9 April 2008	15 February 2008
6	Dr. Girja Vyas	2 August 2011	8 April 2001
7	Mamta Sharma	2 August 2011	1 August 2014
8	Laitha Kumaramangalam	29 September 2014	28 September 2017
9	Rakha Sharma	2017	Present

**Role of NCW in women Development :**

- The committee on the status of women in India (CSWI) recommended nearly two decades ago, the setting up of national commission for women to fulfill the surveillance functions to facilitate redressal of grievances and to accelerate the socio – economic development of women.
- The NCW adopts a multi pronged strategy to tackle the problems of violence against the women, generating awareness among women, thus equipping them with the knowledge of their legal rights and with a capacity to use these right.
- Assisting women in redreassal of their grievances through pre litigation services.
- Facilitating speedy delivery of justice to women by organizing parivarik mahilalok Adalots in different Parts of the country
- Review of the existing provisions of the constitution and get information about their status and recommend paradigm shift in the empowerment of women.
- The NCW has also started a very innovative concept of organizing parivarik Mahilalok Adalats. The program was first started in the year 1995 with the main objectives :
  - Provide speedy justice to the women
  - To generate awareness among the public regarding.
    - 1) Conciliatory made of dispute settlement
    - 2) Legal sanctity of lok Adalats.
  - To gear up the process of organizing the lokadalat.

- To encourage the public to settle their disputes outside the formal set – up
- To empower public especially women to participate in justice delivery mechanism.

#### **Inquiry and Investion :**

The NCW new also has the powers of civil court while investigating and examining matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the constitution and other laws. It is empowered to consider mater relating to deprivation of women rights and take up the issues with the appropriate authorities on its own. It looks complaints and take suomoty. notice of matters relating to non – implementation of law and non – compliance of policy decision, guidelines or instructions enacted and aimed at, mitigating hardships, ensuring welfare and achieving equality and development and then take up the issues arising out of such matters with the appropriate authorities.

In keeping with its mandate the commission initiates various steps to improve the status of women and works for their socio – economic empowerment. The commission's chair person, numbers and officers visit various part of the country to attend meetings, seminar, workshop, public nearing, organized by NCW/ non Government organizations (NGO's) women study centers of universities and investigates various causes of atrocities committed against women. Beside they visit jails hospitals to know the plight of women prisoners and women patients respectively and recommend to their redressal. They attend legal awareness camps on legal rights of women ets. Organized by NGO's / Women study centers of the universities to gain firsthand knowledge about the problems faced by women there so as to suggest remedial measures and to take up the issues with the concerned authorities.

In complaints related to sexual harassment at work place, the concerned organization / department is urged to constitute an internal complaints committees as per the Hon'blesupreme courtJudgment. The complaints received related to various categories of crime against women such as domestic violence, dory demand and harassment, torture, murder kidnapping/ abduction, complaints against NRI marriages, desertion, bigamy, rope, police,

apathy, harassment/ brutality. Cruelly by husband, deprivation of women – rights, gender discrimination, sexual harassment.

The commission was made national Level Nodal co – ordinating Agency in 2009 to receive and process all complaints from India and abroad related to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian husbands – resulting from cross country marriage and NRI cell was inaugurated on September 24, 2009. The complaints relate to deprivation of women's right or any issue involving grave injustice to women.

#### **Recent Initiatives :**

The commission has taken a number of initiatives to create awareness among women and their capacity building to exercise their right for dignified life and sensitizing the police personnel some of these initiative include "violence free home a women' right", 'Jago' as well as MOUs signed with other organization for partnership mahilaAdhikarAbhiyan, has been lunched in Rajasthan successfully in 2011 street plays initially in few states namely rajasthan, Punjab and participation in "vatsalyamela' etc.The commission also brought out a number of publications some of them are, 'Bahut Hua AB AurNahisahna', ' Handbook on laws relating to dowry and Domestic Violence', 'Do not fear – Do not bear', ChaloGaonki Ore' 'Sexual Harrassment at work place', problems relating to NRI marriage dos and don't'smeeraDidi se poocho' etc.

#### **Conclusion :**

The National Commission for women is committed as per its mandate, to help achieve the goals of development and empowerment of women legally, socially politically and economically and there by improving the status of women in the Society. There is no doubt about the effective ness of the Commission and abut the good work which it is doing for the women of India. The National Commission is the primary body involved in protecting the interests of women however it is imperactive that social conditions that restrict the development of women must also be amended this is essential because as seen earlier women have been victims of social ostracization and neglect and in the name of religion that have been deprived their basic rights to life and personal liberty..

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