

Gender Responsive Budgeting and Empowerment of Women- An Inter State Analysis

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Abstract

Global economy has achieved economic development and social development, but women continue to remain a marginalized section and lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. Hence they require special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. The greatest effort in this context is the introduction of gender budgeting as a means of linking the social, economic and political policy framework. Gender budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach women as much as men. The present paper analyses the impact of gender responsive budgeting on women empowerment and also compares the extent of women empowerment in the state with gender responsive budgeting and non-gender responsive budgeting states.

Key Words: *Gender Responsive Budgeting, Women Empowerment, Gender Equality*

Introduction

Gender equity and empowerment of women are the crucial factors for development policy of the government. Economic development is interlinked with gender equality and the development of women and children, and it is also crucial for meeting the international development standards assessed as human development index, gender empowerment index, millennium development goals, etc. Women's empowerment can provide the possibility for all countries to have some combination of increased productivity, improved human resources, less stress and better overall education and health. Therefore, most of the countries have tried to make policy for removing the gender inequality through gender budgeting. GRB initiatives seek to create a direct linkage between social and economic policies through the application of a gender analysis to the formulation and implementation of government budgets. Gender budgeting is a dissection of the government budget to establish its gender-differential impacts and to translate gender commitments into budgetary commitments. Thus, gender budgeting looks at the government budget from a gender perspective to assess how it addresses the needs of women in the areas like health, nutrition, education, and employment.

In 1984, Austria introduced the first gender budgeting

initiative. In India, government at the central level adopted gender responsive budgeting in 2005-06. The basic aim of this was to enable allocation of funds for various schemes which are designed for the assistance of women. With the production of the gender budgeting statement as part of the Union Budget documents, an institutionalized effort is being made to answer the basic question that how much of the government's total expenditure is flowing to women. At present, twenty-two states have taken initiatives to implement gender budgeting for the welfare of women in India (Soni, 2018).

Among the Indian states, Odisha, Tripura, UP, Karnataka, and Gujarat are the early adopters of gender budgeting (Lok Sabha Secretariat Information Bulletin, 2016). Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh adopted gender budgeting in the year 2007-08. Bihar, Kerala, and Nagaland adopted in the year 2007-08. Andaman Nicobar Islands (2012), Rajasthan (Aug 2011), Maharashtra (Jan 2013) Dadra and Nagar Haveli (2011-12) are the recent adopters of gender budgeting initiatives. Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, and Puduchery have not yet adopted gender responsive budgeting initiatives.

For analysing gender budget in India, the government budget is classified into three categories such as (i) Specifically targeted expenditure to women and girls

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(100 percent targeted for females). (ii) Pro-Women Allocations: which are the composite expenditure schemes with a significant women's component (at least 30 percent targeted for women), and (iii) Residual Public Expenditure that have gender-differential impacts (that is, a scale of $0 < \text{Expenditure} < 30$. Gender budgeting assesses how the budget of a public authority addresses the needs of women in the areas like health, education and employment. It seeks affirmative action to address specific needs of women and provides a way of assessing the impact of Government revenue and expenditure on women. Thus, gender budgeting makes the gender specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women. Gender budgets are referred by several names, like, 'Women's Budgets', 'Gender Sensitive Budgets', 'Gender Responsive Budgets' and 'Applied Gender Budget Analysis'. All these terms refer to gender budget initiatives (Dalal, 2016).

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the present study is to analyse the impact of gender responsive budgeting on women empowerment, and also to compare the extent of women empowerment in the states of India with and without gender responsive budgeting.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The required data was taken from NFHS report and also Expenditure Budget, Volume 1 (Statement 20), Various Issues. HDI calculation method was used for the measurement of Women Empowerment Index. The Dimensional Index was calculated by using the formula $\frac{\text{actual value} - \text{minimum value}}{\text{maximum value} - \text{minimum value}}$. The value of Women Empowerment Index varies from zero to one. One is the best and zero is the lowest.

Review of Literature

Chakraborty (2014) examines the role of fiscal decentralization and local level gender responsive budgeting experience in three states namely Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal. Gender budgeting is essential to ensure a fair, just and efficient distribution of public resources for all round development of the society, and is also a powerful tool that can narrow the gender gaps in income, health, education and living standards (Nayyar, 2006). Basak (2017) explored the strategies to be adopted in educational institutions to promote gender sensitization. Guha and Goswami (2009) have discussed the role of gender budgeting in empowering women, and opined that certain related issues like efficiency, good governance, etc., need to be addressed for making gender budgeting an

effective tool for women's empowerment in the Indian perspective. The result of facilitating policy dialogue to include gender issues in macroeconomic policies will no doubt improve the human development performance that would also surely empower women and accelerate the economic growth of India (Chattopadhyay, 2006). Women's economic empowerment increases the country's productivity and women will also be benefitted with greater involvement in important decision making which will in turn lead to true development (Guha and Goswami, 2009). Sen (2000) explored the possible points of entry to engendering the work of Ministries of Finance. Sodani and Sharma (2008) observed that a gender sensitive budget should focus on more effective targeting of public expenditure and counterbalance undesirable gender-specific consequences.

Results and Discussion

Gender Responsive Budgeting in India

In India, gender budgeting has been used as an effective tool to address women related problems like gender inequality and also to analyze other gender-related issues that have been gaining importance for the last two decades. Several states have implemented gender budgeting with ultimate success. States such as Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and many others have implemented gender-responsive budget as an effective tool to address gender-related issues. The gender responsive budgetary provisions for women specific and pro-women specific programmes during the years from 2005-06 to 2020-21 are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 presents the gender responsive budgeting of India from 2005-06 to 2020-21. The percentage of gender responsive budgeting to total budget allocation was very low during 2005-06 (2.79). But later on it was increased and reached its highest level in 2011-12 (6.22). After 2012, the percentage share of gender budget to the total budget allocation has shown a slight decline and later reached the level of 4.71 % during 2020-21. It also shows that in gender budgeting, largest fund allocation has been provided to pro-women specific programmes than the women specific programmes. The allocation has declined to 19.1 percentage for women specific programmes whereas 80.08 percentage budget allocation was given to pro-women specific programmes during 2020-21.

Gender Responsive Budgeting and Women Empowerment

To analyse the impact of gender responsive budgeting on the empowerment of women, the states are classified as states with and without gender responsive budgeting.

Table 1: Gender Responsive Budgeting in India

Year	Magnitude of Gender Budgeting (BE) in Crores	Percentage of Gender Budgeting to Total Budget	Allocation for Women Specific (BE) in Crores (Part A)	Percentage Share of Part A to Gender Budget	Allocation for Pro-Women Specific Schemes (in Crores) (Part B)	Percentage Share of Part B to Gender Budget
2005-06	24032	2.79	7905.08	32.9	16126.92	67.10
2006-07	28736.53	5.09	9575.82	33.32	19160.71	66.68
2007-08	31177.96	4.5	8795.47	28.21	22382.49	71.79
2008-09	27661.67	3.68	11459.61	41.43	16202.06	58.57
2009-10	56857.61	5.57	15715.68	27.64	41141.93	72.56
2010-11	67749.8	6.11	19266.05	28.43	48485.75	71.56
2011-12	78251.02	6.22	20548.35	26.26	57702.67	75.74
2012-13	88142.8	5.91	22968.93	26.06	65173.87	75.94
2013-14	97133.7	5.83	27248.29	28.05	69889.41	71.95
2014-15	98029.84	5.46	21887.61	22.33	76142.23	77.67
2015-16	79257.87	4.46	16657.84	21.02	62600	78.98
2016-17	90624.76	4.58	17412.01	19.21	75212	80.79
2017-18	117221.47	5.28	30184.52	25.75	87036.97	74.25
2018-19	121961.32	4.99	24440.07	20.05	97521.25	79.96
2019-20	142813.3	4.72	29473.52	20.64	11339.78	79.36
2020-21	143461.72	4.71	28568.32	19.91	114893.4	80.08

* Government of India, Gender Budgeting Statement and Annual Report of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Various Issues

The parameters used for the calculation of Women Empowerment Index are women who are literate, currently married women who usually participate in household decisions, women who worked in the last 12 months and were paid in cash, women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use. Table 2 shown below explains the impact of gender responsive budgeting on women empowerment.

Table 3 is presented with the calculated value of Women Empowerment Index of Indian states with gender responsive budgeting. It shows the change in women empowerment before and after undertaking gender budgeting initiatives. With the GRB from 2005-06 onwards there exists a slight increase in the value of women empowerment in Indian states. At the national level the value of Women Empowerment Index was 0.439 in 2005-06 and it has been increased to 0.573 in 2015-16. Table 3 shows the change in Women Empowerment Index of Indian states without GRB. The values show that the change in Women Empowerment Index is more favourable to states with GRB than states without GRB. This change in the value of Women Empowerment Index is basically the result of the implementation of gender responsive budgeting itself. Table 4 shows the impact of gender responsive budget on the empowerment of women.

When we compare the rate of increase in value of women empowerment in state with and without gender responsive budgeting, it reveals that rate of increase in the value of Women Empowerment Index is higher in states with gender responsive budgeting. The average change in the value of women empowerment among gender responsive budgeting states is higher than that of the states without gender responsive budgeting and the value is actually higher than the national average value. So the present data highlight the fact that gender responsive budgeting is essential for women empowerment and also fastened the process of economic development.

Conclusions

The notion of gender budgeting has received substantial attention worldwide. Most of the countries in the world are now implementing the policy of gender budgeting. It is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach women as much as men. The rationale for gender budgeting arises from the recognition of the fact that the national budget that impacts men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. Gender budgeting is the way for women empowerment to bridge the gap that exists between men

Table 2: Women Empowerment Index in States with Gender Responsive Budgeting

Sl. No.	States	Women who are Literate (%)		Currently Married Women who Usually Participate in Household Decisions (%)		Women who Worked in the Last 12 months who were Paid in Cash (%)		Women Having a Bank or Savings Account that They Themselves Use (%)		Women Empowerment Index		
		2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	Change
1	Arunachal Pradesh	65.6	52.7	89.1	95.7	17.1	27.5	56.6	19.0	0.564	0.488	0.077
2	Bihar	49.6	37.0	75.2	69.2	12.5	17.2	26.4	8.2.0	0.399	0.322	0.077
3	Chhattisgarh	66.3	44.9	90.5	76.6	36.8	33.8	51.3	8.1	0.619	0.413	0.206
4	Gujarat	72.9	63.8	85.4	83.8	30.2	33.3	48.6	19.9	0.595	0.506	0.089
5	Himachal Pradesh	88.2	12.3	90.8	79.2	17.0	10.6	68.8	22.2	0.655	0.299	0.356
6	Jammu & Kashmir	69.0	53.9	84.0	60.4	12.4	16.9	60.3	21.9	0.554	0.376	0.178
7	Karnataka	71.7	59.7	80.4	68.6	29.1	34.7	59.4	22.1	0.603	0.468	0.135
8	Kerala	97.9	93.0	92.1	88.0	20.4	28.0	70.6	27.0	0.698	0.591	0.107
9	Madhya Pradesh	59.4	44.4	82.8	68.5	29.9	32.8	37.3	8.9	0.526	0.391	0.135
10	Maharashtra	80.3	70.3	89.3	84.9	28.9	35.2	45.3	20.3	0.611	0.532	0.078
11	Nagaland	81.0	75.2	97.4	96.9	22.3	21.5	38.9	7.4	0.596	0.499	0.097
12	Odisha	67.4	52.2	81.8	80.3	22.5	27.9	56.2	9.8	0.567	0.426	0.141
13	Rajasthan	56.5	36.2	81.7	65.1	18.6	27.2	58.2	7.6	0.532	0.34	0.191
14	Tripura	80.4	68.5	91.7	77.9	26.3	24.9	59.2	18.7	0.644	0.474	0.17
15	Uttarakhand	76.5	64.7	89.8	71.5	15.5	15.6	58.5	20.1	0.593	0.422	0.171
16	Uttar Pradesh	61.0	44.9	81.7	75.9	16.6	16.0	54.2	13.2	0.527	0.367	0.159
	India	68.4	55.1	84.0	76.5	24.6	28.6	53.0	15.1	0.573	0.439	0.134

* NFHS 2015-16 and WEI is Authors Calculation

Table 3: Women Empowerment Index in States Without Gender Responsive Budgeting

States	Women who are Literate (%)		Currently Married Women who Usually Participate in Household Decisions (%)		Women who Worked in the Last 12 Months who were Paid in Cash (%)		Women Having a Bank or Savings Account that they Themselves Use (%)		Empowerment Index		Change	
	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	2015-16	2005-06	Index 2015-16	Index 2005-06		
1	Andhra Pradesh	62.9	NA	79.9	NA	42.1	NA	66.3	NA	0.639	NA	-
2	Assam	71.8	63	87.4	88.1	17	25.8	45.4	11.7	0.547	0.471	0.076
3	Goa	89	83.6	93.8	91.1	23.6	33.2	82.8	42.4	0.721	0.63	0.091
4	Haryana	75.4	60.4	76.7	83.8	17.6	15.5	45.6	12.4	0.532	0.422	0.109
5	Jharkhand	59	37.1	24.8	77.7	24.8	27.8	45.1	14.4	0.383	0.393	-0.01
6	Manipur	85	72.6	96.2	94.4	40.9	49.7	34.8	8	0.652	0.578	0.074
7	Meghalaya	82.8	69.5	91.4	90.4	35.9	22.7	54.4	16.9	0.667	0.496	0.172
8	Mizoram	93.4	94	96	97.2	29.4	28.7	57.1	8.1	0.691	0.571	0.12
9	Punjab	81.4	68.7	90.2	87.9	18.5	20.2	58.8	14.6	0.616	0.474	0.143
10	Sikkim	86.6	72.3	95.3	93.6	19.9	22	63.5	20.9	0.658	0.519	0.14
11	Tamil Nadu	79.4	69.4	84	87.4	30.5	45.7	77	15.9	0.68	0.559	0.121
12	Telungana	52.4	NA	81	NA	44.7	NA	59.5	NA	0.606	NA	-
13	West Bengal	70.9	58.8	89.9	70.2	22.8	30.1	43.5	14.1	0.565	0.435	0.13

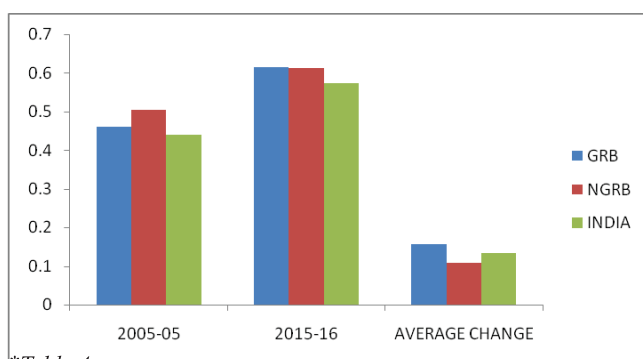
* NFHS 2015-16 and WEI is Authors Calculation

Table 4: Impact of Gender Responsive Budgeting on the Empowerment of Women

	2005-05	2015-16	Average Change
GRB	0.459672	0.615952	0.15628
NGRB	0.504328	0.612128	0.1078
INDIA	0.439423	0.573407	0.133983

* Compiles from Tables 2 and 3

Fig.1: Impact of Gender Responsive Budgeting on the Empowerment of Women



*Table 4

and women. Woman can also make use of the gender budget as an indicator for the fulfilment of their specific needs and rights to have education, employment, social participation, financial independence etc. Today with gender budgeting, significant progress can be seen in the areas of women's social, economic and political participation and up to a some extent gender equality can also been achieved. But much more needs to be done and added to have the desired outcomes of women empowerment and gender equality through the tool of gender budgeting.

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