

Gender Budgeting: Awareness and Impact

Abstract

Gender budgeting is one of the most important steps the Indian Government has introduced so as to counter gender-related issues in the country. In the financial year 2005-06 the Government of India introduced its first gender budget statement followed by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar and Assam. In Gujarat, however, the gender budget statement was prepared for the first time in 2014-15. It was nomenclated as *OneIndia* with the provision of more than Rs 45,259 crore for 495 schemes for women. The Gujarat government for the first time introduced 'Gender Budget' as a part of its annual Budget presentation, clubbing all the women-centric provisions under one head.

In the present study an attempt has been made to understand the level of awareness about various government schemes about women empowerment among women of Vadodara district of Gujarat.

Keywords: Gender Budgeting, Gender Responsive Budget, Women, Gender Equality, Budget, Government.

Introduction

Gender budgeting is new concept in India as the government and people started debating about gender sensitive budget analysis in the year 2000. India's promise for gender equality further strengthens the base for gender responsive budgeting in the country.

Gender budgeting can be defined as a procedure of looking at the practice of formulating budgetary policies and budget expenditure through the gender lens. It is an itemization of the government budget to ascertain its gender-differential impacts and to translate gender commitments into budgetary commitments. So, the discussions relating to Gender budgeting does not look for to create a separate budget but seeks positive action to address explicit requirements of women.

A budget, on the face of it, appears to be a gender-neutral policy instrument, seemingly it is not. There are "gender blind budgets" which ignore the differing effects on women and men and on different groups of women and men. Gender-blind budgets do not consider that women and men have different roles, responsibilities and capabilities. They ignore the economic and social differences that exist between women and men. This inevitably means that those who are most marginalized within the society are silent, thus their voices are not easily or readily included within the budgeting agenda. The direct and indirect effects of a government's expenditure allocations and revenues on women and men are accounted through the gender budget. Gender budget is a tool that reminds the government about its responsibility of maintaining gender equality. Across the globe, gender budgets are known differently like "Gender Budgets", "Women's Budgets", "Gender Sensitive Budgets", "Gender Responsive Budgets" etc. In the present study an attempt has been made to understand the level of awareness about various government schemes about women empowerment among women of Vadodara district of Gujarat.

Gender budgeting in India-Gujarat-Vadodara

Gender budgeting is one of the most important steps the Indian Government has introduced so as to counter gender-related issues in the country. In the financial year 2005-06 the Government of India introduced its first gender budget statement followed by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar and Assam. In Gujarat, however, the gender budget statement was prepared for the first time in 2014-15. It was nomenclated as *OneIndia* with the provision of more than Rs 45,259 crore for 495 schemes for women. The Gujarat government for the first time introduced 'Gender Budget' as a part of its annual Budget presentation, clubbing all the women-centric provisions under one head.

Jyoti Achanta

Associate Professor,
Dept. of Business Economics,
Faculty of Commerce,
The Maharaja Sayajirao University
of Baroda, Vadodara
Gujarat, India

The government has made a provision of more than Rs 45,259 crore for 495 schemes for women in the Gender Budget. This includes Rs 32,383 crore towards planned expenditure for 2014-15 and Rs 12,866 crore in non-planned expenditure. The gender budget has two main categories: category A comprises schemes having 100 per cent fund allocation for women, and category B consists of schemes having 30-99 per cent fund allocation for women [with beneficiaries including males too]. For category A, Rs 1,880 crore have been allocated, while for category B, Rs 32,379 crore have been sanctioned. The women-centric schemes are divided between 17 government departments, ranging from Agriculture to Urban Development. On these grounds this project focuses on exploring, analyzing and determining the potential of Gender Budgeting in Vadodara along with related issues, also suggesting future strategies.

Significance of the Study

One of the most important policy instruments of government is budget because no other policy will work without money. To transform an economy government budget is one of the powerful tools. The main goal of gender budgets is to highlight the gap between policy statements and the resources committed to their implementation, ensuring that public money is spent in more gender equitable ways. In the introductory stage, the initiatives were termed 'women's budgets' because the focal point was on the impact on women and girls. However, recently, the importance has shifted to 'gender' as a category for analysis and to evade any misunderstanding that the activists are working to produce a separate budget for women. Gender responsive budgeting initiatives endow with a way of assesses the impact of government revenue and expenditure on women.

For the empowerment of women and boosting their contribution the preparatory point is to engender national budget. Around 60 countries in the world initiated gender budgeting by 2006. It is in this backdrop that the need to study nature, scope, significance and different dimensions of gender budgeting arises.

Status of Women in Gujarat

The status of women is how the society perceives a woman and what it should be. Women at every stage are deprived of opportunities because of their sexuality. "The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they not only constitute nearly half of its population,

but also influences the growth of the remaining half. Women along with the men, from time immemorial have formed an integral part of social structure throughout the world. In Indian society too, women have played and continue to play an important role. Besides looking after all the household work including the health care and education of children and family management as well, they also participate in several economic activities. Variations in status of women, according to the cultural milieu, family structure, caste, class and proprietary rights etc have been taking place from time to time [Barik, 2011]".

"Women in Gujarat record mixed progress. Today, more of Gujarat's girls are in school. But the ratio of girls to boys in the state is among the lowest in the country. Secondary school attainment among adult women is close to the national average, but it remains below many other advanced states. While farming dominates employment for both men and women in rural areas, urban men have more salaried jobs than urban women. Child sex ratio in Gujarat is among the lowest in the country, Child sex ratio, 2011 [age 0-6] 890 females per 1,000 males. Maternal health has been improving in Gujarat *Maternal mortality ratio maternal deaths is now 112 per 100,000 live births in 2013*. Secondary education attainment among adult women in Gujarat is similar to the national average it is 26 percent in 2012. Labor force participation among women in Gujarat is below many other states in India. *Female labor force participation rate in 2012 was 30%* [World Bank Group, 2017]".

The position of women in Gujarat is poor when compared with the women in some other states on many indicators. To accomplish the aims and objectives set for social sector development focusing women and children, The Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) was established. In Gujarat to address the concerns of women and children, the DWCD is playing important role through policies, institutions, schemes and programmes. The various activities, delegated to DWCD in state to promote the welfare of women and children includes food supplementation; women's empowerment; self-help groups for women; it also intends to set up the State's Women Commission, Gender Resource Center [GRC] and Gujarat Women's Economic Development Corporation's. The DWCD is also expected to enforce the laws for the prevention of dowry and the prevention of immortal traffic act.

Summary of Women and Child Development Department's Budget [In Rs-Crores]

Sr. No.	Details	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
1	Total Budget of WCD	2349.51	2056.95	1952.62	1875.52
2	State's Total Budget	183666	172179	151851	139139
3	Percent WCD Budget of State's Total Budget	1.27	1.19	1.29	1.35
4	Total Budget outlay for social security & Welfare of Women in WCD	232.24	216	180	183.08
Out of [4 above], the budget outlay for widow pension is as given below					
	Widow Pension	125.6	120.62	118.32	114.13

Source: Gender Budget Statement, 2018-19, Gujarat State, Compiled by Pathey Budget Centre

The above table shows that, of the total state's budget less than 2 percent is spent for activities of DWCD, which has the main accountability

of empowerment of women. It can be seen from the data that more than 90 percent is actually spent on Integrated Child Development Scheme [ICDS] and

less than 10 percent are spent for issues relating to social security and welfare including violence against women. Over the last four years, the budgetary allocation showed the declining trend. Of the total outlay for social security and welfare of women, the majority of it is being spent on widows' pension and very little remains for increasing women's safety and for addressing violence against women. For the financial year 2018-19 the state's total budget outlay is Rs.183,666 crores of which Rs. 62,303 crores is reserved for schemes in categories A and B benefitting both women and men. Merely Rs. 4,568 crores is allotted for women a specific scheme which in percentage terms is 2.48 percent.

It can be noticed that the probable expenditure for violence against women for the financial year 2017-18 was 54.42 crores and the proposed provision for 2018-19 is Rs. 48.73 crores, indicating a reduction of around 6 crores. It can also be noticed that In terms of percentage the budget outlay shows that only 1.06 percent of the women specific gender responsive budget of Rs. 4568 crores is allotted for violence against women [VAM]. This indicates the low preference is given to deal with the vulnerabilities faced by the women in the present social setup.

Review of Literature

In the present study review of literature illuminates the fact that the subject and issues relating to 'gender budgeting', particularly a primary study, remains a potential area for researchers. The major area of interest and research in this field include experiences of different countries which have adopted gender budgeting; impact of gender budgeting in agricultural sector; education sector; need to adopt gender budgeting in public finance; experiences of several states in India which have initiated gender budgeting, etc.

Gender budgeting remains a promising area for research. Virtually all studies on the gender budgeting in India were carried out after 2005-06 after introduction of gender budgeting. The growing importance of gender budgeting has led to its economic aspects becoming thrust areas of recent research. These pertain to the different segments of gender budgeting like finance, planning, patterns of expenditure, costs involved and administrative procedures.

In the study carried out by Moser [1989] discusses about the development of gender planning in the Third World. The study reveals the capability of different planning interventions [Welfare approach, Anti-poverty approach, Equity approach, Empowerment approach] to meet gender needs in sectors as employment, housing and other basic services. Women in the third world play the "triple role" of reproductive, productive and community managing and yet, their work remains unrecognized by the planners, whose task is to assess different needs of people within low income communities. From the gender planning perspective this work provides the critique of different policy approaches to "women in development".

In their study Budlender, Sharp and Allen [1998], articulate that this study is outcome of the experiences of developing gender-sensitive budgets in several countries. It systematically explains the significance and terms of gender sensitive budgets and instances of those countries were gender budgets have initiated gender. The study also discussed how gender issues occur in a budgetary context. It also discussed about the seven tools or methods which may be used in the gender-sensitive analysis of budgets. The seven tools includes, gender-aware policy appraisal, gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessments, gender-disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis, gender-disaggregated tax incidence analysis, gender-disaggregated analysis of the impact of the budget on time use, gender-aware medium term economic policy framework and gender-aware budget statement. This study also explains how to prepare gender-sensitive budget statement and provides an initial approach for those governments wishing to undertake a gender-sensitive analysis of their budgets.

Chakarborty, L. [2004] in this research highlighted the experience on fiscal decentralization and local level gender responsive budgeting in India. In the present study three states Kerela, Karnataka and West Bengal were selected. It was found in the study that Kerela has shown a good illustration in integrating gender needs in the process of decentralized planning as well as translating it into women component plan in fiscal transfers. In Kerela, the model was most successful in the country. In Karnataka, the process of decentralization has created enormous possibility for incorporating gender needs at local level. In West Bengal, the women in governance at the third tier could change the types of public expenditure at local level corresponding to the revealed preference [voice] by women. However, that could have little influence on gender needs as the majority of the expenditure at local level was in the nature of committed non-developmental expenditure. The paper argued that amidst the plethora of criteria for fiscal devolution, the right thing to do even from gender viewpoint is to first make fiscal transfer based on per capita basis and then make suitable adjustments for backwardness.

Goyal [2005] in the present study, highlighted the efficacy of gender budgeting as a means for attaining women's empowerment. The initiatives that have been taken by Government of India in the context of gender budgeting is also shown in this study. The research studies as reviewed above are either of general nature or they study one particular gender related issue. No work is available which analyses gender budgeting exercise as carried out by Government of Gujarat, in a chronological order. The present study is an attempt to fill this gap.

Rajneesh, S. [2008] inspects gender budgeting in Karnataka state for the year 2007-08. The study found that the state has undertaken earmarking resources for women in the majority of sectors. Karnataka has attained a high level of improvement in gender related indicators through the SHGs movement. The study also mentioned that the

total allocation to category A was Rs. 685.4100 crore and 3056.4100 crore to category B in 2007-08.

Parvati, Jhamb, Shrivastava and Rehman [2012], in their study has made an attempt to analyse the strategy of Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Union Government and selected States [viz. Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar], highlighting the different approaches that each of them have followed for its implementation. The report highlights both gaps and positive developments from each of these states, providing useful insights on how Gender Responsive Budgeting needs to be re-interpreted by our policymakers.

Rashid AP [2016], in the study discusses that, a gender budget is a budget that will take care of the pattern of society and distribute the money and resources for the process of gender-responsive operationalization of policy and programs have the capacity to rearrange the alignment of the society to make it as equal and equitable one. The gender-responsive budgeting is an indicator to examine government's responsibilities and commitment towards the equal development of the society. This Paper discusses the Kerala scenario since 2008 to 2015.

Shalini Rudra [2018] in her study discusses that, gender equality is a fundamental human right. This principle is also found in the SDG 2030 Agenda where its signatories, including India, reaffirmed their commitment to mainstreaming gender development and ensuring equal representation of women in political and economic decision-making. This paper outlines gender-budgeting norms for resource allocations as an essential prerequisite for India to achieve progress towards the SDG-5 on gender equality. Based on a review of the principles of financial devolution and central government budget documents, it is apparent that gender-sensitive concerns remain a neglected aspect of India's fiscal policy. Gender budgeting should receive adequate focus and be accorded high priority by the 15th Finance Commission of India.

Research gap

A review of the significant literature clearly reveals that the studies that have been done and the specific areas that have been covered. Similarly, this review illuminates the fact that the subject and issues relating to 'Gender Budgeting', remains a potential area for researchers. While several existing studies at national and international level have focused on government policies, gender discrimination, public expenditure and budgetary policies, agriculture policy, resource allocation, gender budgeting in disaster management, gender budgeting and MDGs etc. still it remains a relatively neglected field and there is not much literature on it, both in quantity and scope.

Need and Objectives for the present study

The present study is a survey based study relating to the Gender Budgeting in the Vadodara District. It also takes into account the interface between the gender budgeting schemes and the beneficiaries of the schemes highlighting the role of government. The people for whom such policies are formulated, most of the time they are not aware of the

public policy relating to it. So, one cannot deny the fact that the government schemes on gender budgeting are of vital importance to the beneficiaries.

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To study the origin and status of gender budgeting in India in general and Vadodara in particular.
2. To find out the extent of awareness regarding gender budgeting initiatives launched by the Government of Gujarat among the respondents of Vadodara.
3. To explore the local government initiatives in line with state government and central government policies on gender budgeting.

Research Methodology

The quality of any research work depends, to great extent, on the research methodology followed during the research work. Present research followed scientific research methodology process. Considering the objective of the study it has been decided to follow primary survey method. For the purpose of sampling, 10 villages from Vadodara district were selected at random and from each village 20 families were selected at random. Thus total sample of 200 household was considered in order to understand the perception of female about benefits of schemes and programme designed for women empowerment. In order to know the perception of village Sarpanch about gender budgeting the Sarpanchs for each selected village were also interviewed.

For the collection of primary data structured questionnaire has been prepared. Questionnaire covered various questions related to demographic profile and socioeconomic profile women selected for the purpose of study. It also includes information related to awareness about women empowerment schemes, benefits and perception about the schemes. For collection of data from the sarpanch, in-depth interview method has been followed.

The secondary data was collected from Census Reports, Five-year Plan Documents, Union Budget Documents, Economic Surveys, Annual Reports of Department of Women and Child Development, Socio- Economic Survey for Gujarat State and other local government reports. Earlier to 2006-07, The Department of Women and Child Development was a Department under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, in the year 2005-06, it got a separate entity of a full fledged Ministry.

Primary data collected during the research work were analyzed with the help of statistical software SPSS and MS Excel. Various statistical tools were applied for the purpose of analysis. Graphical methods were also employed for data presentation.

This study focuses on the period in initiation of gender budgeting in India, in Gujarat and targets the gender budgeting in Vadodara before and after 2014-15. [The initiation of *OneIndia* in Gujarat]

Level of Awareness about Women Empowerment Schemes

Economists worldwide have acknowledged the significance of assessing the impact of government policies on women and the need to

ascertain the extent of progress made in terms of key socio-economic indicators as a measure of real development.

Utilization of various government schemes by the population has never been assessed in India. Awareness of these schemes plays a crucial role in their utilization. The first aim of any government is to make people aware of various government schemes. There are many beneficial schemes but people, especially those living in the back of beyond, are not aware of these and cannot avail any of benefit. A government scheme will not be successful unless people are benefitted.

Sources of Awareness		
Source	Number of Respondents	Percentage
News Paper	102	51.00%
Friend/Relatives	99	49.50%
Panchayat	12	6.00%
Government officials	22	11.00%
Television	115	57.50%
Any other	47	23.50%

1. Television is the main source of information about schemes for women development

2. Nearly 57 percent respondents have reported that they got the information from television

Nearly 51 percent have said that they get the information through news paper while 59.50 percent have reported that they got the information about schemes from friends and relatives.

Awareness

Descriptive Statistics: Awareness about Schemes			
Scheme/Programme	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	200	1.6500	.79414
One Stop Centre Scheme	200	2.9150	.38538
Women Helpline Scheme	200	2.1000	.89105
UJJAWALA	200	2.0000	.87397
Working Women Hostel	198	2.8838	.39237
SWADHAR Greh	198	2.9495	.24156
NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR	199	2.6382	.68146
Rajya Mahila Samman	198	2.9141	.36006
Zila Mahila Samman	198	2.9040	.38484
Mahila police Volunteers	199	2.8291	.50348
Mahila E-Haat	198	2.9394	.27844
Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	199	2.5427	.67190
NIRBHAYA	200	2.2850	2.30223
Women Helpline (WH)	200	1.9700	.83220

The level of awareness is higher for the schemes like

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
2. Women Helpline Scheme
3. UJJAWALA
4. Women Helpline (WH)

As indicated by low mean value The level of awareness is very low in the case of schemes like One Stop Centre Scheme

1. SWADHAR Greh
2. Rajya Mahila Samman
3. Zila Mahila Samman
4. Mahila E-Haat

As indicated by highest mean value

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is most popular schemes as indicated by lowest mean value while SWADHAR Greh is least popular scheme as indicated by highest mean value.

Benefits of Government schemes

Benefit of Government Scheme		
Schemes	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	3	1.50%
UJJAWALA	14	7.00%
Mahila E-Haat	1	0.50%

1. The benefit of the schemes have not reached to target population

2. Women included in the survey have taken benefit of only three schemes out of total 14 schemes included in the survey

3. 1.5 percent have taken benefit of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao schemes

4. Only seven percent have benefited from UJJAWALA

Perception about Schemes

Descriptive Statistics: Perception about Schemes			
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	160	1.5938	.52959
One Stop Centre Scheme	200	.3100	.78548
Women Helpline Scheme	98	1.9286	.48162
UJJAWALA	101	1.9901	.59152
Working Women Hostel	28	2.1429	.44840
SWADHAR Greh	23	2.2609	.54082
NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR	53	2.3396	.58650
Rajya Mahila Samman	27	2.1852	.48334
Zila Mahila Samman	27	2.1852	.48334
Mahila police Volunteers	30	2.2333	.50401
Mahila E-Haat	24	2.2917	.46431
Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	66	2.2576	.56325
NIRBHAYA	108	2.0556	.57735
Women Helpline (WH)	116	1.8534	.64947

Women are of the opinion that

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme
4. Women Helpline (WH)

Are good as indicated by lowest mean value

The schemes like

1. SWADHAR Greh
2. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR

3. Mahila E-Haat

4. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Are very poor as indicated by highest mean value Among total 14 schemes include in the study, One Stop Centre Scheme is reported as best schemes as indicated by highest mean value while NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR is reported as most poor schemes as indicated by lowest mean score.

Do you think your social condition has improved due to schemes

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Improved	36	18.0	18.0	18.0
Somewhat improved	101	50.5	50.5	68.5
Not Improved	63	31.5	31.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

1. Only 18 percent women are of the opinion that social conditions of women has improved due to schemes
2. 32 percent have reported that social conditions have not improved

Do you think your Economic condition has improved due to schemes

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Improved	16	8.0	8.0	8.0
Somewhat improved	104	52.0	52.0	60.0
Not Improved	80	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

1. Only 8 percent women are of the opinion that economic conditions are women have improved due to schemes
2. Nearly 40 percent have reported that economic conditions of women have not improved.

Suggestions and Policy Recommendations

1. Making Gender Budgeting Work
2. Gender Budgeting v/s Good Budgeting
3. The Role of Finance Ministry
4. Making Gender Budgeting a Realistic Approach
5. Need for Introducing Women friendly Public Schemes
6. Sectoral and Timely Analysis to know how it is impacting women

Conclusions

Gender budgeting is a ongoing continuous process and not just one time activity. It calls for continuous actions on the part of government and needs to be applied at all levels and stages of the policy procedure. Gender Budget is an effective tool which can be instrumental in transforming the women and girls situation in the society by reducing their vulnerability.

The present study is carried out to make an analysis of gender budgeting in Vadodara District in Gujarat State. Analysis of budget from the viewpoint of gender is of a recent origin. Gender budgeting does not refer to a separate budget for men or for women but it translates the gender commitments into budgetary commitments. Union government of India, for the first time included a statement on gender budgeting in budget 2005-06. Gender budgeting is widely accepted as a powerful tool for empowerment of women. Gender budgeting has started in Gujarat from the year 2014.

Although there is awareness of women empowerment schemes among women and her family but, their utilization has scope for significant improvement. Focus is needed for improvising the level of awareness among the target group. Some schemes are popular whereas there are certain schemes about which they are totally ignorant. The outcome is witnessed in the form non-utilization of these schemes, which if availed would contribute in their social and economic upliftment. Gender budgeting may be complex but it is necessary for

these actions to take place to increase gender responsiveness of the central government. India as a nation is taking the steps to achieve gender equality but there is still a long way to go.

References

- A.P. Rashid. [2016]. "Gender Responsive Budgeting: A case study on Kerala". https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303222806_Gender_Responsive_Budgeting_A_case_study_on_Kerala
- Barik. N. [2011], "Rural Development: Women By-Passed", Orissa Review
- Budlender D, Sharp. R and Allen K [1998] "How to Do a Gender-sensitive Budget Analysis", Australian Agency for International Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, 1998 - Business & Economics
- Chakraborty, L [2004], "Gender Responsive Budgeting and Fiscal Decentralization in India: A Preliminary Appraisal", Report prepared for UNIFEM, South Asia.
- Goyal. A. [2005], "Women Empowerment through Gender Budgeting: A Review in the Indian Context", Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human
- Moser C.O.N [1989], "Gender planning in the third world: Meeting practical and strategic gender needs", World Development:Elsevier, Volume 17, Issue 11, November 1989
- Parvati. P, Jhamb. B., Shrivastava and Rehman [2012], "Recognizing Gender Biases, Rethinking Budgets", Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, CBGA
- Patel.V [2017], "Gender Responsive Budget Expectations", Maharashtra Economic Development Council Monthly Economic Digest, VOL. XLVII No. 1, December, 2017
- Rajneesh, S [2008]. "Gender Budgeting to Gender Mainstreaming", Indian Journal of public Administration", Vol. LIV, No.4
- Rudra S. [2018], "Social Choice and Political Economy of Health", Vol. 53, Issue No. 28, 14 Jul, 2018.
- World Bank [2017], "World Development Indicators database", Washington, DC: World Bank