

UNIT – V

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1. Conflicts between Work and Domestic Commitments: Women's family obligations also bar them from becoming successful entrepreneurs "Having primary responsibility for children, home and older dependent family members, few women can devote all their time and energies to their business".
2. Gaps in education: While women are making major strides in educational attainment at primary and secondary levels, they often lack the combination of education, vocational and technical skills, and work experience needed to support the development of highly productive businesses.
3. . Lack of Finance: Access to finance is one of the most common challenges that women entrepreneurs face . Women Entrepreneurship in India impeded by lack of personal identification, lack of property in their own name and the need for their husband's countersignature on many documents.
4. Lack of Family Support: Sometimes the family may make the women feel guilty of neglecting household duties in her pursuit of business obligations. Cultural traditions may hold back a woman from venturing into her own business.
5. Lack of Faith in the Woman's Capability: The financial institutions are skeptical about the entrepreneurial abilities of women. The bankers put unrealistic and unreasonable securities to get loan to women entrepreneurs. According to a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, "despite evidence that woman's loans repayment rates are higher than man's, women still face more difficulties in obtaining credit".
6. Low Management Skills: Another argument is that women entrepreneurs have low-level management skills. They have to depend on office stalls and others to get things done, especially, the marketing and sales side of business. Marketing means mobility and confidence in dealing with the external world, both of which women have been discouraged from developing by social conditioning.
7. Lack of Latest Knowledge of Technology: Women entrepreneur has lack of knowledge about latest technological changes & training. They are ignorant of new technologies and availability of raw material and low level negotiation, bargaining. Recommendations More financial assistance should be given to small• women entrepreneur at lower interest rates without stress on collateral security.

1. INTRODUCTION Development of Women Studies Centres in Indian Universities & Colleges is meant to help India achieve her UN Sustainable Development Goal of Promoting Equality & Empowerment of Women. Gender Equality, Empowerment of women and addressing diverse needs of women requires enabling communities, enabling policies and enabling programmes of the government. Women Studies Centres have special focus on most marginalized /disadvantaged women in the society. These include women from Schedule Caste and Tribes, women with disabilities, women living in unsafe environments, exploited

sex workers, women living in conflict areas, Women in conflict with law, Homeless, destitute & abandoned women, uneducated & unskilled single women, elderly & sick women etc. A Women study centre must pursue a comprehensive, critical and balanced understanding of India's socio economic realities & governance. Its essential components include: i. Women's contribution to society & social processes ii. Women's perception of their own lives, the broader social reality and their struggles and aspirations

2. THE SCHEME a. Vision: To empower women in India to live with dignity so that they can contribute as valued partners in sustainable development of the self, families and the nation. b. Mission: To support efforts of the state to create an environment for women that is inclusive, free from violence and discrimination and one that promotes social and economic empowerment of women by creating awareness amongst women about their rights. c. Eligibility criteria The Government Aided Universities and Colleges recognized under section 2(f) & 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. 3. FOCUS AREAS OF WOMEN STUDIES i. Build new knowledge on Women in National and Global Perspectives ii. Build Curriculum in Women Studies to meet the diverse needs of Indian women with focus to develop inclusive society. iii. Suggest methods to build a conducive environment for women to take up positions of leadership in diverse sectors. iv. Conduct evidence based research on 'Women and Economic Development'. v. Strengthen existing knowledge and build new knowledge on 'Women in Indian Perspective' (to address current and future challenges). vi. Conduct research on Women's contribution to Science and Technology & suggest methodology to enhance it. vii. Suggest methods to promote inclusion of women in development of all sectors including disadvantaged women, women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. viii. Measures to strengthen Urban/Rural linkage and slum development.

4 SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Teaching i. Women's studies centres shall conduct Foundation Course/ Short-term Courses in Women's Studies for all undergraduate students in all universities, professional and technical institutions. Emphasis should be given on the development of online courses for wider outreach. ii. Curriculum Development: to incorporate women's dimension into courses in different disciplines. iii. Workshops to plan restructuring of courses and syllabus formation.

4.2 Research i. WSCs shall take measures to build the research capabilities of their faculty. This shall include data mining, review of literature, action research method, feminist research methods (i.e. oral history/ life history methods), statistical analysis, writing and research papers. ii. WSCs shall undertake field action research studies in following areas: a. Generation of primary data using various government and non-government schemes/ surveys. b. Conducting studies to develop indicators relevant to Indian context on Women Empowerment and Leadership. c. Gender gap analysis (Gender gap includes issues concerning women, men and transgender in different states of India). d. Best practices on inclusion of women in economic and social development with specific reference to Sustainable development goals. e. Evaluation of development projects to document the contemporary challenges for the inclusion of women and their impact on their lives. 5 f. Public Policy analysis of existing legislation, schemes

4.3 Training i. Workshops on the process and challenges in implementation of guidelines. ii. Workshops on innovative/feminist research methodology. iii. Workshops on inclusion of

issues concerning women in various disciplines at UG/PG in different Universities. iv. Workshops on community as change agents. The duration of the workshop shall be minimum of one day.

4.4 Extension Greatest importance needs to be attached to extension work, as a learning and developmental instrument, for the benefit of the Community, students and teachers. A few such extension activities are (i) non-formal education, (ii) awareness raising through exhibitions, posters, films, songs, plays etc, (iii) spreading among women a knowledge of their legal and developmental rights, (iv) publicizing women's problems and situation by organizing media publicity through film festivals/screenings, documentary/short-films, (v) working closely with voluntary organizations, WSCs of various colleges, N.S.S. etc. Collaboration with departments of adult and continuing education and extension, wherever feasible, will enrich such activities.

4.5 Publication Documentation, Dissemination and Library Collection, translation of outstanding papers/research reports into Indian Language Production of Reference and Teaching Materials and publications in Nature and Intellectual Journals. All the publication including