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Q2

Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS III · 12 marks · Government Budgeting

Government Budgeting.

Core demand of the question

- State why women's empowerment needs gender budgeting
- **List requirements:** sex-disaggregated data, statement in the Budget, outcome targets, and audit
- Give the status of gender budgeting in India since 2005-06, including the **Gender Budget Statement**

Revision summary

Gender budgeting tags and tracks public money so women actually benefit from general and specific schemes.

Requirements are sex-disaggregated data, a **Gender Budget Statement**, trained cells, outcome targets and audit.

India began a Union **Gender Budget Statement** in 2005-06; States have followed unevenly.

Part B allocations are often notional and beneficiary data remain weak.

Empowerment will follow when outcomes, not only rupee annexes, are audited.

Introduction

Gender budgeting is not a separate purse for women. It is a way of planning, spending and auditing the **Union and State budgets** so that policies close gaps in work, health, safety and assets. Women's empowerment needs this tool because a gender-blind budget can look large on paper and still miss girls' schools, maternity beds, childcare and land titles.

Body

Why empowerment needs gender budgeting

- Women face **unequal unpaid care, weaker asset rights and labour-market barriers**. Ordinary line ministries will not correct these unless money is tagged and tracked.
- Schemes for roads, power, skills and farming affect women differently; gender budgeting forces each department to ask **who benefits**.
- Legal rights (equal pay, maternity, protection from violence) stay hollow without **budgeted staff, shelters and courts**.
- **Empowerment is also** voice in fiscal choice: a **Gender Budget Statement** makes the claim visible to Parliament and the public.

Requirements

- **Sex-disaggregated data** on beneficiaries, wages, land, credit, health and crime, so allocations are not guesswork.
- A published **Gender Budget Statement** that splits spending into women-specific schemes (Part A) and pro-women shares of general schemes (Part B).
- **Gender cells** in ministries and States, with trained budget officers, not a one-time annex.
- **Outcome targets:** enrolment, institutional deliveries, women's labour-force participation, credit to women, and conviction in violence cases - not only rupee outlays.
- **Audit and mid-year correction** by the Comptroller and Auditor General and parliamentary committees so the statement is not a brochure.
- Coordination with **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, maternity schemes, **National Rural Livelihoods Mission** self-help groups, and the **Nirbhaya** fund so gender lines talk to each other.

Status in India

- India introduced a **Gender Budget Statement (Statement 20)** with the Union Budget **2005-06**, after a 2004-05 pilot in a few departments.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry; many Union ministries now report Part A and Part B figures.
- Several States (Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and others) adopted State gender budgets, with uneven depth.
- **Gaps remain:** Part B shares are often **notional**, data on actual women beneficiaries are thin, and large infrastructure votes are weakly gendered.
- Women's share of formal credit, land titles and regular public employment still lags, which shows that a statement is not yet a full **gender-responsive budget cycle**.
- Recent Union efforts (Sukanya Samridhi, maternity benefit, Ujjwala in 2016, stand-up loans for women) sit beside the statement but still need **outcome audit**.

Flow diagram

Women empowerment -> Gender budgeting
Gender budgeting -> Sex disaggregated data
Gender budgeting -> Gender Budget Statement
Gender budgeting -> Outcome targets
Gender budgeting -> Audit
Gender Budget Statement -> Union 2005-06
Outcome targets -> Real gap closure

Conclusion

Women's empowerment needs gender budgeting because money, not only law, decides whether rights reach the household. India has the statement, the nodal ministry and many State pilots. The next step is reliable sex-wise data, honest Part B shares, and audit of outcomes, not only of annexes.

Facts & figures

Gender Budget Statement

Union Budget Statement 20, introduced 2005-06: Part A women-specific schemes, Part B pro-women share of general schemes.

MWCD

Ministry of Women and Child Development: nodal ministry for gender budgeting in the Union government.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

2015 campaign-plus-scheme on the child sex ratio, education and protection of the girl child.

Nirbhaya Fund

Union fund after 2012 for women's safety projects, often slow to convert from allocation to expenditure.

NRLM SHGs

National Rural Livelihoods Mission self-help groups: a large channel of women's financial inclusion and livelihoods.

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