



# UNIT 4



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DECADE

- The Conference, along with the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) proclaimed by the General Assembly five months later at the urging of the Conference, launched a new era in global efforts to promote the advancement of women by opening a worldwide dialogue on gender equality.
- At this conference, three objectives were identified in relation to equality, peace and development for the Decade:
  - \*Full gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination;
  - \*The integration and full participation of women in development;
  - \*An increased contribution by women towards strengthening world peace

- The Conference urged Governments to formulate national strategies, targets and priorities. It led to the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), both of which were later merged, along with two other UN entities, in 2010, to form UN Women. At the 1975 conference, women played a highly visible role.
- There are 133 delegations from Member States, 113 were headed by women. Women also organized the International Women's Year Tribune, which attracted some 4,000 participants, and a parallel forum of non-governmental organizations that signalled the opening up of the United Nations to non-governmental organizations, which enable women's voices to be heard in the organization's policy-making process.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

- In **1975**, recognized as International Women's Year, the United Nations General Assembly began celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day.
- By 2014, it was celebrated in more than 100 countries, and had been made an official holiday in more than 25.
- In **1910**, **Clara Zetkin**, the leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany tabled the idea of an International Women's Day at the second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen.
- The proposal received a great support from over one hundred women representing 17 countries. IWD 2022 saw the campaign theme of **#BreakTheBias** forged by millions worldwide.

- A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The reason to choose ‘**purple**’ as a focused color for the Women's Day theme is because of its historical significance.
- In 1908, the United Kingdom's Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) first used **purple** alongside **green** and **white**.
- In 2022, the color for the women’s day is ‘**green**’. International Women's Day (IWD), originally called International Working Women's Day is marked on the 8th of March every year.
- It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women.
- The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, 2022 (IWD 2022) is, “**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**”, recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.
- March 8, 1946, that feminists in Italy chose the **mimosa flower** as a symbol of strength, sensibility and sensitivity for Women's Day.
- <https://youtu.be/twHGZ8Y6cps> - History of international women’s day.

# NATIONAL POLICY FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- The National Policy on Empowerment of Women adopted in 2001 states that " All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidence.

The policies are;

- a) Strict enforcement of relevant legal provisions and speedy redressal of grievances with special focus on violence and gender related atrocities.
- b) Measures to prevent and punish sexual harassment at work place and protection of women workers in the organized / unorganized sector.

c) Crime against women - their incidence, prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution to be reviewed regularly at all Crime Review fora at the Central, State and District levels.

d) Women's Cells in Police Stations, Women Police Stations, Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Family Counseling Centres, Legal Aid and Nyaya Panchayats to be strengthened and expanded to eliminate VAW and atrocities against women.

The Policy also provides that "Women's Cells in Police Stations, Women Police Stations, Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Counseling Centers, Legal Aid Centers and Nyaya Panchayats will be strengthened and expanded to eliminate violence and atrocities against women".

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) had prepared a draft National Policy for Women in 2016 for articulating a vision for the Empowerment of Women. Previously, the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (NPEW) was formulated in 2001.

# Implementation of Policy:

- In translating the policy framework, **specific, achievable and effective strategies** for implementation will be required to be made at the national, state and local government level, in PSUs, corporates, businesses, trade unions, NGOs and community-based organizations.
- To ensure the rights of women and to promote gender equality, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral gender institutional architecture will be strengthened and streamlined at the national, state and local levels.
- At the national level, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will act as a **nodal agency** for working towards the realisation of constitutional and international commitments to gender equality and social justice.



- An **inter-ministerial Action plan** will be formulated with action points with respect to the policy prescriptions in the Policy document, where definitive targets, milestones activities, timelines (short term, medium term & long term) and outcome indicators will be given along with the Ministries/ departments responsible for implementing the actions.
- An **inter-ministerial committee** will be set up to periodically monitor the achievements and progress made under the action plan.

# Priority Areas :

The draft policy addresses the diverse needs of women through identified priority areas, which include:

- Health including food security and nutrition
- Education
- Economy (includes Poverty, Raising visibility, Agriculture, Industry, Labour and Employment (Skill Development, Entrepreneurship), service sector, Science and Technology)
- Governance and Decision-Making
- Violence Against Women
- Enabling Environment (includes Housing and Shelter, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Media, Sports, Social Security, Infrastructure)
- Environment and Climate Change

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT YEAR 2001

- The year of 2001 was observed as the year of women's empowerment. During the year, a
- landmark document has been adopted, ' the National Policy for the empowerment of women.
- \*Some questions that are related to National Policy for the empowerment of women:
  - 1)What is the policy of women in 2001?
    - The Government of India had adopted the National Policy for Empowerment of Women on 20th March, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women
  - 2)Which country declared the year 2001 as the year of women empowerment?
    - The Indian Government
    - The year 2001 is declared as “Women's Empowerment Year” by the Indian Government. As part of the Women's Empowerment Year, the Department of

3)What are the recommendations of National Policy for empowerment of women 2001?

The National Policy on Empowerment of Women adopted in 2001 states that " All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidences

The Main Objective that are declared in National policy for the empowerment of women 2001 are:

- 1.Five Stree Shakti Puruskars,
- 2.To honor and recognize the achievements of individual women.
- 3.The Government has also decided to give annual awards to selected 'Anganwadi' workers on the basis of exemplary performance.

The Policy also provides that "Women's Cells in Police Stations, Women Police Stations, Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Counseling Centers, Legal Aid Centers and Nyaya Panchayats will be strengthened and expanded to eliminate violence and atrocities against women"

## ROLE OF GOVERNMENT :

- The Department of Women and Child Development has been implementing special programmes for the holistic development and empowerment of women with major focus to improve their socio-economic status. There has been policy shifts from time to time based on the shifts in emphasis.
- The year 2001 was declared as “Women’s Empowerment Year” to bring greater focus on the programmes for women.

YouTube link:

[https://youtu.be/ybVsiv\\_IGKc](https://youtu.be/ybVsiv_IGKc)

# GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- Gender mainstreaming requires both integrating a gender perspective to the content of the different policies, and addressing the issue of representation of women and men in the given policy area.
- Mainstreaming gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.
- Both dimensions - gender representation and gender responsive content - need to be taken into consideration in all phases of the policy-making process.

- Integrating the gender perspective in a policy means that equality between women and men, as the overarching principle, should be taken into consideration in all decisions, in each phase of the policy-making process, by all the actors involved.
- The gender mainstreaming cycle presented here can be adjusted to different public policy/programming processes. The chart below refers to the specific stages of the cycle and the necessary elements that need to be given attention within each stage. Specific gender mainstreaming methods and tools that should be used within each of the cycle stages are also included. Some methods and tools, such as consulting with stakeholders or providing gender equality training to the actors involved, can be useful in more than one stage. Moreover, it is important to remember that when dealing with data they should be sex-disaggregated.
- Gender mainstreaming is not a policy goal in itself, but a means to achieve gender equality. Equality between women and men is recognised by the EU as a fundamental right, a common value of the EU, and a necessary condition for the achievement of the EU objectives of growth, employment and social cohesion.