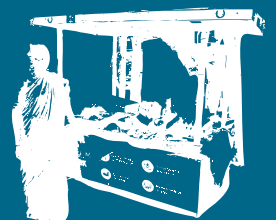
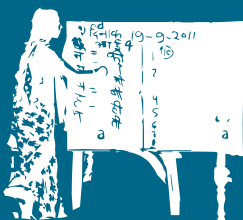


# POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN INDIA

## METHODOLOGY NOTE





# ABOUT THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN INDIA SERIES

Over the years, states in India have put in place several schemes and programmes that either directly, or indirectly, target women and girls and address a range of outcomes. These outcomes are linked to various critical dimensions needed for advancing gender equality and lead to social, political and economic empowerment of women. Some of the aspects that have been prioritized so far in India for women and girls, include better livelihood and employment opportunities; financial and digital inclusion; improving health and nutrition outcomes by ensuring food security and maternity entitlements; increasing school enrolment and skill building through several vocational training programmes; preventing and ending violence against women and girls; and finally programmes that improve their access to basic amenities like water, sanitation, housing, electricity, clean fuel, and childcare facilities. The union and state governments in India have been working towards ensuring that such policies and programmes are designed using a gender lens and that allocated budgets are outcome-focused. However, for most policies and programmes, there has been an absence of a rigorous, evidence-informed debate

on what works for women and girls and is effective in improving key outcomes for them.

While information about policies, schemes and programmes targeting women and girls exists across various government platforms and publicly available repositories, there have been few concerted efforts to synthesize and map them. This has been particularly challenging when it comes to individual states and union territories, where no such focused mapping exists.

The IWWAGE ***Policies and Programmes for Women and Girls in India*** series presents a mapping of the policies and programmes that exist at the state level and are targeted at women and girls, and indicate the state's intention of addressing one or more key outcomes to advance gender equality. Through this series IWWAGE, aims to consolidate the information, and highlight evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programmes meant to do so, but also identify gaps where no such rigorous evidence exists.

# METHODOLOGY

The aim of the mapping is two-fold. At one level, it attempts to categorize all policies that have been put in place by a state government in India to advance outcomes for women and girls in one or multiple domains. For example, a conditional cash transfer (CCT) to enroll girls in school, and prevent drop outs until they turn 18 years old, has two intended effects. It may increase school enrolment for girls, particularly in secondary school; and it may help prevent the practice of early marriage. A CCT such as the above can be mapped both into the category/domain of education schemes, as well as those intended at addressing gender discriminatory norms and practices.

In addition, the mapping captures other critical information, such as, the year of inception of the scheme; the type of intervention or policy instrument it uses (e.g. conditional or unconditional cash transfers or in-kind transfers; or cash grants given to develop household infrastructure); what are the first order (primary) and secondary outcomes; the scale of implementation; implementing agency; and budgetary allocation for the scheme and fund utilization.

What makes this exercise unique though is that it captures whatever evidence exists, on these schemes or indirectly relevant to these schemes, drawing on existing evaluations. The types of studies included comprise evaluations that were either done ex-post or a gap assessment before the programme was announced. In some cases, these studies were qualitative in nature.

The IWWAGE mapping exercise relies primarily on secondary sources of information to identify all schemes, policies and programmes that Indian states have designed and implemented for women and girls. These sources include:

1. State government and relevant department websites;
2. Union Ministry of Women and Child Development's website, including annual reports;
3. Annual reports available on other nodal union ministry websites, such as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Social Welfare;
4. National Repository of Information for Women, managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development;
5. State Economic Surveys;
6. Annual budget and expenditure reports by state governments published on the State Department of

Finance website, or available through media reports, or on external websites; and

## 7. Media reports.

Since a lot of information and data exists on the subject, some inclusion and exclusion criteria were defined to limit the range of the mapping exercise. Specifically:

1. The mapping exercise only includes those policies and programmes that were in existence as of March 2020 and have not been discontinued.
2. It also includes those policies and programmes that may have been announced and where a budget has been allocated, but may not necessarily have been implemented when the mapping exercise was carried out. For these programmes, the data shown in the mapping exercise is limited.
3. The scheme or policy should directly or indirectly target women and girls. For example, policies aimed at improving public and household infrastructure may not necessarily directly target women and girls, but can affect key outcomes such health and nutrition, and reduce time spent on unpaid work.
4. These policies and programmes may or may not address other key intersectionalities that inhibit gender equality, such as caste or household income profile, through their design and targeting criteria.
5. The first intent of the policy or programme may be to address a primary outcome linked to advancing gender equality, but it may also affect secondary outcomes. For example, a policy or programme under the social protection domain may also have effects on key outcomes linked to education. Even so, all such policies were included.
6. IWWAGE serves as a Centre of Excellence on Women's Empowerment Collectives (CEWEC) in India and is generating and collating evidence and data, as well as testing solutions to understand what works to improve these collectives, so they serve as mediums for socio-economic empowerment of women and girls. To aid this work, the mapping also includes centrally-sponsored schemes targeted at women's collectives such as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). Even if centrally-sponsored, the aim of this mapping exercise is to highlight any state-level variations in how NRLM has been implemented across states.

# DEFINING THE DOMAINS

Once all policies and programmes to be mapped were listed using the criteria described above, an iterative approach was used to categorize them into specific domains. This was determined based on the design of the scheme or policy and its intended primary outcome. The table below defines each domain and the types of policies and schemes that would be included in each.

<b>Social justice</b>	Intended for women and girls from marginalised and vulnerable sections of society, in particular women and girls belonging to scheduled castes and tribes, or other backward classes.
<b>Social protection</b>	Policy measures intended to help individuals and families, especially poor and vulnerable cope with crises and shocks, accident and emergency support. This domain includes measures for particularly vulnerable groups such as older women and widows; as well as schemes to provide food security and maternity entitlements for poor women.
<b>Health</b>	Includes those policies and programmes that support the sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and other health and wellbeing outcomes for women and girls.
<b>Education</b>	Supporting education and learning outcomes for girls and ensuring their retention in schools.
<b>Skill development</b>	Skilling and vocational programmes for women and adolescent girls. Policies may also provide support for job seekers.
<b>Gender discriminatory norms and practices</b>	Preventing early marriage, sex selective terminations, and programmes aimed at ending gender disparities and harmful social and cultural norms and practices.
<b>Women's empowerment collectives</b>	Policies and programmes targeted at supporting women's collectives, as well as farm and non-farm enterprises, through a range of measures such as offering financial support, increasing supply and market linkages, supporting enterprise development, or advancing social and agency related outcomes, among others.
<b>Gender based violence</b>	Preventing and ending intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women and girls in private and public spaces.
<b>Household infrastructure</b>	Schemes aimed to reduce time spent on unpaid work by women and girls, by improving household infrastructure, providing support to poor households to increase time savings, and increasing access to public infrastructure.
<b>Financial and digital inclusion</b>	Increasing access and affordability of financial products and services and digital technologies.
<b>Ownership of property and assets</b>	Policies and programmes to improve women's access to property and land rights.
<b>Job quotas</b>	Reservations for women and girls for certain types of employment and/or sectors.
<b>Institutional Support</b>	These include, but are not limited to, providing rehabilitation support, housing, food and basic amenities for women and girls. It may also cover state provisions for providing transportation and childcare facilities.



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