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# **GENDER BUDGETING: ALLOCATION IN THE FAVOUR OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN ECONOMY**

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**Abstract:** Budget, as defined in public finance, refers to a plan of intended expenditure out of government's revenue, directed to meet the needs of a nation as a whole for development, having predefined objectives of growth, stability, equality, and efficiency. For equality also refers to equal opportunity for both men and women which promotes stability at both micro-level and macro-level economics; where the word "economics" itself originally meant "managing household", further the efficiency in the measurement of unpaid labour of women in monetary terms will lead to growth of not only the gross domestic product of a nation, but also will account for the contribution of female in an economy. Gender Budgeting is specifying, the impact of allocation of resources from a gender-specific viewpoint, it is in no case having an independent budget for female. The present research review strives to identify the reasons and ways in which gender budgeting can achieve a decrease in gender divergence and promote recognition for women's work in social institutions, contributing towards the advancement of a developing nation.

**Keywords:** Budget, Development, Economy, Equality, Gender, Nation.

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**Introduction:** The UN women definition states that Gender Responsive budgeting is not exclusive to increase expenditure on women but to identify the contribution of women in revenue collection and allocation of public goods to have gender equality and women's empowerment [1] The Ministry of Women and Child Development, India states that it a tool to make sure that benefits of development are enjoyed by both men and women. The underlying assumption here is that resource allocation is skewed towards men therefore the approach followed is towards entitling welfare to women. The latent issue of recognizing gender based contribution to revenue of the state and the nation is yet to be considered. [2] Therefore, requiring a descriptive analysis which communicates a precise perception.

**General Genesis of Gender Budget:** Studies on gender budgeting point out that it is subjective in nature which is modelled as per the requirements of the country while Australia was the first country to introduce the Gender Responsive budget in 1983 by the name of "Women's Budget Statement" [5]. Much as the Indian constitution restricts discrimination in any form the NITI Ayog is well confident of its "trickle-down theory" In India "Gender Budget" was introduced in the year 2005 as a separate statement with ten demands for grant [6], with a forward-looking perspective of introducing it to all departments.

**Formulation of Gender Budget:** The tenth five year plan of government of India targets reduction of gender gap in focus of literacy and wage gap, including that since majority of women, were working in agriculture sector this sector demands more attention, acknowledging the need of gender-disaggregated on beneficiaries [7] it is the absence of this data that makes it difficult to evaluate gender budgeting till date. Whereas the identified tools for analysis are gender-aware policy, gender Disaggregated data on beneficiaries, gender disaggregated public expenditure, tax incidences, and analysis of the impact of the budget over a time, an economic policy based on gender awareness and a gender budget statement [8]. The tenth plan had a dual scheme of "Women component plan" and "Gender Budgeting" to promote equality and to make sure women receive the benefits of Public expenditure [9]. Further, it was in 2010, that, then planning commission of India recognized how world over countries have adopted the fiscal policy of gender budgeting to combat inequality of genders and Women component plan contradicts the gender budgeting hence replacing it with Ministry of Women and Child Development [10]. Unfortunately, it was not able to look forth the traditional biases of putting all the policies under one head, overlooking the fact that gender expenditure aims at an inclusive growth. The gender budgeting

statement; a part of expenditure budget it contains details of 100% allocation for women and 30% women-specific programmes.

**The Budget Review:** The gender neutrality in budget ignores the gender-specific requirements, therefore, it was proposed by various scholars and international bodies to include a gender lens to the budgetary system. For the union budget 2018-19 in India has been evaluated not to throw much light on gender specificity backed by the support of various states on grounds of new policy formulation like goods and services tax and the demonetization of currency. As per the Marine Fisheries Census, India 88 percent of fisherfolk processing activity involves women and, in the company of 47 percent men 57 percent women were engaged in fish seeds collection. Also, 89 percent engagement in peeling was that of women. [3] Current budgetary allocation to fisheries and animal husbandry stands ten thousand crores yet it was identified in Orissa and Tamil these women are illiterate, exploited by government officials, local dominant caste and lack of implementation of policy. Also, they faced all the discriminations there gender invites [4] India is the third largest contributor of fisheries in the world having a five percent share, however, the budget is silent on specifying gender targeted expenditure in this sector. The actual allocation of funds is given below.

**Budgetary Provision for the Women and Child Development Ministry**  
(in crores)

Source: Union Budget, Gender Budget, India 2018-19

Ministry of Women and Child Development		Budgetary Estimate (2018)	Revised Estimate (2018)	Change
1.	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh	1.00	1.00	Constant
2.	Gender Budgeting and Research, Publication and Monitoring	...	...	None
3.	Ujjawala	50.00	35.00	(-) 15
4.	National Mission for Empowerment of Women	70.00	64.00	(-) 6
5.	Swadhar Greh	100.00	75.00	(-) 25
6.	Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)	40.00	4.50	(-) 35.5
7.	Working Women Hostel	50.00	30.00	(-) 20
8.	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	200.00	186.04	(-) 13.96
9.	Women Helpline	10.00	10.00	Constant
10.	Central Social Welfare Board	71.28	83.38	(+) 12.1
11.	National Commission for Women	25.60	25.60	Constant
12.	Scheme for Adolescent Girls	460.00	460.00	Constant
13.	Maternity Benefit Programme	2700.00	2594.55	(-) 105.45
14.	One Stop Centre	90.00	90.00	Constant
15.	Other Scheme Funded from Nirbhaya Fund	400.00	400.00	Constant
16.	Mahila Police Volunteer	...	...	None
17.	Gender Budgeting	2.00	2.00	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>4269.88</b>	<b>4061.07</b>	<b>(-) 208.81</b>

It is evident that the revised estimates showcased a decline in most of the women-centric schemes. In the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for 2019, the budgetary estimate stands at 0.01 which is 0.99 less than what it was estimated in 2018. However, there was an absence of estimate for gender budget research has been allocated 8.29 Cr in the budgetary estimate of 2019. The Ujjwal scheme which provides gas connections

to the poor witnessed a decrement of 15 Cr. has now being assigned 60 cr. It is much debated that this scheme does not cover a provision of providing gas cylinders, therefore having a mere gas connection will not make the poor people homes smoke free or help the women of the nation. The national mission for empowerment of women budgetary estimation for this year is 267.30 Cr. The support to training and employment Scheme has a budgetary estimate of 5 Cr this year which was 50 Cr. For 2018. Where working women hostel scheme saw a decrease of 20 Cr. This year the allocation is of 60 Cr which is 10 Cr. more than the previous year. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme will receive 280 Cr. The critics analyzed this and held the view that there is a definite positive relationship between per capita public expenditure on health and education in India, while that of per capita expenditure on education on gender development index was insignificant in India [11] for education alone cannot combat the social construct. The maternity benefit scheme estimate was 2400 Cr which is below the prior budgetary as well as revised estimates. The scheme of adolescent girls will be allocated 40 Cr. more making it an allocation of 500 Cr. with one-stop center getting an increment of 15.10 Cr. The Nirbhaya fund is allocated 359.09 Cr with Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme getting 7 Cr.

The goals [12] of gender budget are to -

1. To bring about gender perspective in budget and realization in policy formulation
2. Accountability of the Government for responsibility taken of Gender Equality
3. Modification of Budget and policy as per requirements of Gender Equality

Identifying three dimensions of gender-disaggregated data in inputs, outputs, and outcomes, while increasing equity in indicators the gender budget perspective is to be considered in the formulation of performance criteria. Identifying three dimensions of gender disaggregated data in inputs, outputs and outcomes, while increasing equity in indicators the gender budget perspective is to be considered in formulation of performance criteria.

**Conclusion:** The assumption that prevails at micro-level is the infinite elasticity of women unpaid household labour. The macro-level fiscal policy targets to achieve the economic value of women's work. The gender perspective introduced in India requires government macro-level policies to make after considering the micro level realities. The most crucial factor is the unavailability of the sex-disaggregated data which is a pre-requisite of gender budgeting and also the resource allocation mismatches with the allocation of the policy. It was discovered the lack of policy for the elderly women, and provision for women restroom in police center is under-allocated in the current year. If men and women are able to participate equally in the decision making from grassroots level to macro policy formulation a fresh avenue can be explored to increase gender equality.

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