UNIT 14: GENDER BUDGETING

UNIT STRUCTURE

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14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to

- know the meaning of gender budgeting
- recognise the significance of gender budgeting
- know the history of gender budgeting
- understand about the stages involved in gender budgeting
- understand the Indian perspective of gender budgeting

14.2 INTRODUCTION

A nation can develop only when all the sections of the society receive equality opportunity. In order to bridge inequality between sexes, a nation needs to take effective steps. Therefore, a budget towards this end is necessary. A budget appears to be gender-neutral. But budgetary policies can have differential impacts on men and women because of the structural differences experienced by different sexes in relation to the economy. A gender-sensitive budget aims at examining budgetary resource allocations through a gender lens. It does not imply a separate budget for men and

women; rather it is a dissection of the government budget to establish its gender-specific impact and to translate gender commitments into budgetary commitments. In this unit we will learn about gender budgeting in detail.

14.3 MEANING OF GENDER BUDGETING

Gender budgeting refers to refining budgets and related policies with a view of promoting gender equality as an integral part of human rights. Gender budgeting makes the gender specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women. Gender budgeting thus identifies the gender specific implications of public finance - which is usually presented as gender-neutral - and, in particular, economic policies. Gender budgeting is therefore regarded as a core strategy for raising awareness and understanding of gender issues and the gender impacts of budgets and policies.

Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality. Public budgets are not merely economic tools, but summarise policies in monetary terms and express political priorities. Budgets, therefore, are not gender-neutral. They affect women and men in different ways, reflecting the uneven distribution of power within society in the form of economic disparities, different living conditions and ascribed social roles. Gender budgeting seeks to make the gender impact of budgets visible and to transform them into an instrument increasing gender equality. Gender budgeting basically involves all levels of government, national, regional and local. Gender budgeting thus involves all stages of the budgetary process and implies gender-sensitive analysis, assessment and restructuring of budgets. Instead of gender budget(ing) the terms like gender-responsive, or gender-sensitive budget may be used as synonyms. Gender budgeting does not mean a separate budget for women. It is not limited to budgetary allocations targeting equal opportunity policies or promoting women, but

encompasses the entire budget, revenues as well as expenditures. It is also important to stress that gender budgeting is an integral part of gender mainstreaming. If gender mainstreaming is to be effected in practice, then budgets must be examined together with policy. If the gap between policy and resource allocation, which has been revealed in almost all gender budget initiatives to date, is to be filled, then policy-making must be carried out in close collaboration. Gender budgeting, therefore, is not limited to particular policy areas, but all policy fields should be in principle In practice however, gender budgeting initiatives might start by limiting their scope to specific policy areas or measures in order to develop appropriate models and tools and to gain experience and expertise for large scale approaches. This has for instance been the case in Sweden, where a gender budgeting pilot project started in 2003, encompassing three policy areas. In 2004 the work left the project stage and became part of the routine work of the government, which launched the gender budgeting process in all its policy areas. An overall perspective on and analysis of relations between policy areas and the mutual effects of policy measures are an important component of gender budgeting. The following levels of analysis should be covered by gender budget initiatives: aggregate macro-economic strategies, the composition and structure of expenditures and revenues and the effectiveness of service delivery (Elson 2002). Analysis at all these levels should take the care economy into account. Neglected by orthodox economics, economy constitutes an integral part of the economy, alongside the profit-oriented market and the public services sectors. It refers to unpaid production and services in the private sphere of the family, neighborhood or local community, mainly based on women's unpaid work. Public budgets normally take into account only the monetary economy. As a result, unpaid care and services are excluded from the macro-economic framework of state budgets. Feminist economists and gender budget analysts such as Rhonda Sharp and Diane Elson have drawn attention to the "false economy" involved in neglecting the care economy. Cuts in public services, for example, lead to additional pressure on the care economy, which has to provide these

services instead, since the market economy either does not provide them or only at high cost. As a consequence, women in particular have to perform more unpaid work, resulting in reduced employment prospects and, in many cases, a lack of social security. Incorporating the care economy into economic policies in general and gender budgeting in particular therefore results in a much broader and more appropriate approach to welfare efficiency, costs and benefits than traditional economic concepts. Gender budgeting may be initiated by a variety of players inside or outside government. NGOs and independent researchers can often play an important role in taking the first steps towards gender budgeting, but without a positive governmental response leading to implementation, the impact of outside-government initiatives will necessarily be limited. This report is addressed to Council of Europe member states and its focus is therefore on inside-government initiatives.

14.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF GENDER BUDGETING

To reach political goals and to raise and spend scarce resources effectively and efficiently governments should take into account that women and men ,because of their unequal social positions and ascribed social roles, might have different wants and needs and that they might react differently to apparently gender-neutral measures.Gender budgeting ensures this specific gender awareness and is consequently an important step towards good economic governance.

Gender budgeting is a crucial tool for monitoring gender mainstreaming activities, because public budgets involve all policy areas. Gender budgets therefore"a mechanism for establishing whether a government's gender equality commitments translate into budgetary commitments" (Sharp/Broomhill 2002, 26). Gender budgeting can consequently be seen as an essential instrument for establishing gender mainstreaming within government policies and assigning clear responsibilities, making governments accountable for their gender policy commitments.Furthermore, gender budgeting increases the transparency

of, and participation in, the budget process.It aims at democratising budgetary processes as well as budget policy in general. Gender-responsive budget initiatives can contribute to the growing practice of public consultation on and participation in the preparation of budgets and in monitoring their outcomes and impact, particularly ensuring that women are not excluded from this process, thereby strengthening economic and financial governance by promoting transparency.

Since gender inequalities lead to major losses in social cohesion, economic efficiency and human development, gender budgeting can be regarded as an important strategy in the pursuit of equal citizenship and a fair distribution of resources, helping to redress inequalities and to reduce poverty. Gender-responsive budgets are therefore a tool for strengthening not only good economic and financial governance, but good governance in general.

14.5 BRIEF HISTORY OF GENDER BUDGETING

In 1984, Australia introduced the first gender budgeting initiative. Taking budgets as essential instruments for promoting gender equality, pioneering analysis of the impact of public budgets on gender relations was carried out. The Australian example was not only crucial in raising awareness, but its approach served as an important point of reference for later gender budgeting initiatives. Every year since 1989, the British Women's Budget Group (WBG), consisting of experts from universities,unions and NGOs, has published comments on the national budget. Their focus is on assessing taxes and transfers, but they also refer constantly to the importance of "engendering" economic policies. In 1993 the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom(WILPF) established a gender budgeting initiative in Canada. Based on an alternative concept of security, the initiative focused on welfare and defence expenditure. Despite the British and Canadian efforts, until recently most projects had been carried out in the southern hemisphere, often encouraged and supported by international organisations. One of the most prominent

examples is probably South Africa's Women's Budget Initiative, established after the first democratic election in 1995. But in Europe Britains gender budgeting initiative remained isolated until the end of the 1990s, when France started publishing the *"jaunebudgétaire"*, followed by other new gender budgeting initiatives emerging in several European countries. Gender budgeting now takes place in more than 40 countries all over the world. It is initiated and conducted in a wide variety of ways.

14.6 STAGES IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

Gender budgeting initiatives may be launched by players inside or outside governments. However, the potential for change in the budget process depends on government involvement. More specifically, involvement of the ministry of finance is crucial for any lasting effect. The initiative may come from government (either committed individuals within the Cabinet or the gender equality machinery), parliament, an external donor or civil society groups. It may be motivated by efficiency considerations and/or commitment to gender equality. All policy areas are relevant to gender budgeting, since they all affect gender relations. Nevertheless,depending on the level of political will, resources and expertise available,it may be necessary as a first step to focus on certain policy areas. Often the first step involves mapping the need for gender-disaggregated data and taking the necessary steps to acquire data for further gender analysis. In Belgium, for instance, the portfolios that would be focused on for more in-depth analysis were selected after a first information round in all departments of the federal administration. Two "flying" academic experts visited all departments and took stock of prior or ongoing initiatives, noted down the types of gender-disaggregated data, both quantitative and qualitative, that were available and accessible and gauged the eagerness of the department staff to be involved more fully in a gender budgeting exercise. Depending on national/regional/ local circumstances, gender budgeting initiatives should take all steps of the budgeting process into account and promote gender budgeting throughout the process, including planning, preparation,

implementation,audit and evaluation. Planning and preparation of the budget in general, this first stage of the budget process is led by the ministry of finance, although all ministries are involved. Gender budgeting initiatives must start by defining gender specific objectives and appropriate indicators for measuring the direct impact of planned policies. A gender aware medium-term economic policy framework, gender-aware policy appraisals and gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessments might be the appropriate tools for planning and preparing the budget. Defining a programme of budgetary gender objectives and indicators is an essential part of the planning and preparation stage.

- **Adoption of the budget**

The adoption of the budget is up to the parliament, which might exert influence, for example by requesting tools and methods for gender budgeting and gender-based assessment of parts or the whole of the budget.

- **Implementation of the budget**

The administration implements the budget according to law and general guidelines. However, implementationalways also involves decision making. Steps must be taken to ensure that these decision-making processes take gender equality - in accordance with gender-aware policy frameworks or gender-aware policy appraisals - into account. Implementation also involves lower-level authorities, both political and administrative, public agencies,NGOs and research agencies receiving public funds. Allocation of public money from central government should always be accompanied by instructions to ensure a beneficial gender impact.

- **Auditing of the budget**

Auditing of the budget generally involves the government and parliament.Current types of auditing mainly focus on efficiency. Gender budgeting means ensuring that the audit, when assessing efficiency and effectiveness, assesses them from a gender equality perspective based on gender-specific objectives and indicators set in the framework of gender budgeting initiatives and establishing gender awareness as an additional

auditing principle. Gender-aware budget statements might be a helpful tool for ensuring the application of a gender perspective throughout the audit.

- **Evaluation of the budget**

Evaluation can be defined as "careful retrospective assessment of the merit,worth, and value of administration, output, and outcome of government interventions, which is intended to play a role in future practical action situations" (Evert Vedung 1997). It is important to make gender and the effects on gender equality visible throughout the whole evaluation process. Evaluation refers in particular to assessing the gender impact of expenditures and revenues and to making the gender effects of the budget visible. The process of evaluation is not institutionalised in many countries. In order to ensure gender-aware evaluation, new institutional procedures should be introduced, possibly drawing on external expertise. Gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessment, public expenditure incidence analysis and tax incidence analysis are valuable tools of evaluation. Critical evaluation seems of the utmost importance since it provides the basis for further planning and preparation.

- **Rationale for Gender Budgeting**

Existing gender-neutrality of macro indicators ignores the feedback mechanism between gender-relations and macro economic policy. The assumption of labour force erogeneity in the treatment of the macro economy in the prevalent macroeconomic policy making is dubious. Integrating gender perspective into macroeconomic policy has dual dimensions: an equality dimension and an efficiency dimension. In the context of growing recognition that problems of inequality cannot be resolved by the trickle downeffects of macroeconomic policies, the concerns of gender-inequality needs to be built in to the macroeconomic policy framework. Apart from the basic principle of promoting equality among citizens, gender equality can benefit the economy through efficiency gains. From the efficiency consideration, what is important is the social rate of return of investment in women, and this can be greater than the corresponding rate for men. There is a growing awareness that gender

inequality is inefficient and costly to development. Empirical literature draws attention to these efficiency dimensions of integrating gender perspective into macroeconomic policies Men and women face different constraints, assume different socially determined responsibilities and consequently make different social preferences. Legacies of adverse intra-household gender relations inhibit women from playing their rightful role, contributing to the economy, and getting their due share of the economic benefits in many countries, particularly developing ones. Women therefore are affected by and respond to the budgetary policies differently from men.Disaggregation by gender is vital because there arc systemic differences between men and women in relation to the economy. The existing gender-neutral budgets ignore the gender specific impacts of budgetary policies. Generally, budgeting involves four components: (i) the budgetary allocation of resources to various heads, (ii) the actual Government outlays on various heads, (iii) an accounting of how resources arc utilised for a particular purpose (e.g. onadministrative overheads and wages and salaries, operation and maintenance, etc.). And (IV) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the resources utilised in delivering the intended results. Gender budgeting involves looking at all the four components from the point of view of women as beneficiaries. While many public goods and services like defense arcnot amenable to gender partitioning, many others have differential impact on the two sexes. For example, outlays for augmenting the supply of safe drinking water can benefit women more than men by cutting down on the time spent in fetching water from the river or ponds. The existing practice of budgeting docs not pay any special attention to the impact of budgets on women.

14.7 INDIAN PERSPECTIVE IN GENDER BUDGETING

In India, a special reference in the Budget Speech for 2000-01 pertaining to the access of women to national resources marks the dawn of gender-sensitive budgeting. Subsequently, Economic Survey (2000-2001) contained an entire section on 'gender inequality' for the first time. India's

commitment to gender equality makes the case for gender budgeting a compelling one. India became a signatory of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on July 30. 1980. CEDAW, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18. 1979, is comparable to an international bill of rights for women. India ratified the convention on July 9, 1993, subject to some reservations, including its right to implement articles in conformity with its policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent. Removal of inequalities in the opportunities and predicaments of identified groups of the population has been an important objective in the Indian Republic over the last fifty years. Gender equality is recognised as a part of the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Articles 14, 15, 16, 39, 42 and 51 of the Constitution arc relevant in this context. On February 19, 1999, the National Development Council, one of the highest policy making bodies in the country, adopted the empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups as agents of socio-economic change and development as a specific objective of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002). One of the strategies adopted for achieving this objective was to identify a "Women's component plan" to ensure that not less than 30 per cent of funds and benefits How to women from developmental sectors. In October 1996, the Planning Commission specifically directed Central Ministries and Departments, and the States to identify a "women's component" in the various schemes and programmes with which they are concerned to facilitate achieving the objective of empowering women during the Ninth Plan. Apart from the Women's Component Plan, which covers only the plan expenditure of the Government, and relates to women, the concept of Gender budgeting has gathered momentum for analysing the whole budgetary process through a gender lens. The Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in collaboration with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFHM) has taken the initiative of Gender Budgeting in India and a study was entrusted to the National Institute of Public Finance and

Policy (NIPFP). An entire section on 'gender inequality', which contained in the Economic Survey. 2000-2001 was based on the Interim Report on Gender Budgeting done by NIPFP. This report constitutes the final report of NIPFP assignment.A consensus was arrived at the UN Regional Conference on Gender Budgeting, 2001 in deepening the process of Gender Budgeting in India to the State level and also in extending the gender budgeting initiative to other countries in South Asia.A number of international meetings have been convened that have the potential for transforming the reality of women's lives. At many of these meetings Government of India has committed to taking action to improve the situation of women. The following are among the international commitments to which Government of India is party: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Government of India signed in 1980 and ratified on 9th July 1993. The Convention on the Rights of the Child that came into force in 1990 and was ratified by India in 1992. The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (1993) asserted that women's rights are human rights. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo (1994) placed women's rights and health at the centre of population and development strategies. At the Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing (1995), governments declared their determination "to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity". In the 1995 Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development governments declared their vision of a world "in which women and men have equal rights and opportunities in all stages of their lives". The UN Millennium Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit in September 2000.The Millennium Development Goals adopted by all Member States call for progress towards eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, gender equality and empowerment of women,maternal health, reduction in child mortality and universal primary education. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 13th December 2006. The Year 2015 declared by United Nations as the year of 'Global Action', for achieving a meaningful Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Gender Budgeting can contribute to the attainment of the Post-2015 Development Agenda by tracking public expenditure to leased and development policy commitments made nationally and internationally.

Women empowerment has become the agenda of almost all countries around the world. For this, a lot of initiatives have been made both at national and international level. In the midst of these initiatives,gender budgeting is a new methodological tool to mainstream women. Gender budgeting is a mechanism to empower women by mainstreaming the issue of gender within macroeconomics. It is important to note that this mainstreaming is done not only in quantitative terms that is flowing some resources towards women. Rather, it is a qualitative phenomenon as well, as it aims to understand gender issues by providing a gender lens to budgetary process and thus making the process gender sensitive. The paper first discusses what is gender budgeting and traces the trajectory of gender budgeting in India and then analyses the trends of gender budgeting of Ministry of Women and Child Development. Gender budgeting is a tool to empower women which incorporates a plethora of activities. In the discourse of mainstreaming and empowerment it has become a buzzword which has been defined differently. Rhonda Sharp defines it as "a variety of processes and tools aimed at facilitating an assessment of the gendered impacts of government budgets".The Council of Europe Informal Group of experts defines gender budgeting as "an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality". However, it does not call for a separate equal budget for women and men. Rather, it strives to make budget gender sensitive by adopting the various tools for gender mainstreaming. It is important to note that it is an equity promoting doctrine with the approach of mainstreaming and therefore, aims to empower women. Also, it enables to track the budget as it calls for monitoring, analysis, reformulating the budget. Thus equity, transparency, efficiency, and accountability are its cardinal

values. It is also worthwhile to point that it calls for participation ofstate, society and people.

India is one of the pioneering countries to institutionalize the gender budgeting within the Ministry of Finance. The process was initiated in multiple phases. The first reference can be madefrom the budget speech of Finance Minister in 2000-01. Then, NIPFP undertook a study on Gender Related Economic Policy Issues which led to inclusion of a chapter on 'gender inequality' in the Economic Survey of India, 2000-01. The second report in 2001 provided a methodology to divide the public expenditure into three categories. It led to the conclusion that there is a need to show separate expenditures meant primarily for women.Then, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) analysed the state budgets based on the NIPFP methodology. After this in 2004, an Expert Group on classification system of Government transactions' was constituted which recommended gender budgeting for effective targeting of public spending. It also called for setting up of a Gender Budgeting Directorate (GBD) in the Department ofExpenditure, Ministry of Finance. The report of the Expert Group was accepted which lead to formation of an inter-departmental committee in November 2004. The first meeting of this interdepartmental committee was held on 7th December 2004, where it called for opening Gender Budget Cells (GBCs) in all Ministries/ Departments. In 2004-05 the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) adopted "Budgeting for Gender Equity" as a mission statement. The union budget 2005-06 for the first time included a separate statement on gender sensitiveness of the budgetary allocations under 10 demands for Grants. Since 2005-06, the Expenditure Division of the Ministry of Finance has been issuing a note on Gender Budgeting as a part of the Budget Circular every year which is compiled and incorporated in the form of Statement 20 as a part of the Expenditure Budget Document, Volume 1. This Gender Budget Statement (GBS) comprises of two parts that is Part A and Part B. Part A reflects Women Specific schemes, i.e. those which have 100% allocation for women, while Part B reflects Pro Women schemes, i.e. those where at least 30%

of the allocation is for women. The trajectory evidently shows that the politic alapparatus has focused on the quantitative aspect in terms of channelizing some resources towards women. But the irony persists as the quantitative aspect is not well addressed and it needs a broader perspective. For this, governmental policies are examined through some policy initiatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development. Ministry is the nodal agency for carrying out the process and thus also provides capacity building and training programmes for the officials so that they could understand the issue ofgender and make the budgetary process gender sensitive.

Thus incidence of the benefits of public expenditure among different sections of the community grouped by income class or any other criteria is notoriously difficult to measure in precise quantitative terms. Considering the gender bias inherent in a male dominated society like India and the evidence from the trends in sex ratio shows how the bias is getting accentuated in many parts of India and the budgets of the government provided some idea of how much is earmarked specifically for the benefit of women. The suggestion is not to provide gender-wise break-up of all government expenditures, but that the expenditures meant primarily for women be shown separately so that they can be easily culled out from budget heads of social and economic services in which it is possible to segregate such expenditures. Budget 2001-02 and 2002-03 recommends the following priority actions for gender-sensitive budgeting.

- Collating gender disaggregated

A system should be set up to collect gender disaggregated data from relevant Departments to obtain the gender-wise relevant statistical database, targets and indicators.A gender audit of plans, policies and programmes of various Ministries with pro-women allocations should be conducted for evaluation of the progress.

- Segregation of provisions for women

Segregate the provisions for women in the composite programmes under education, health and rural development sectors, which target girls/women as the principal beneficiaries. This segregation of the provisions is important

to protect the provisions by placing restrictions on their appropriation for other purposes. It is necessary to ensure that the funds so earmarked arc spent on intended purposes. The point sought to be made is that if the expectations set forth in the Budget arc achieved,even partially, the end results are bound to be positive. The absence of such identification in the provisions and the related targets, on the contrary, greatly vitiates the implementation of the programmes, as is being observed over the years. Segregation of the provisions for the benefit of women and their implementation as such would significantly contribute to the ultimate empowerment of women.

- Consolidation of Programmes

It is doubtful that given the size of the country, its population and the magnitude of the problems, schemes with small provisions have much practical significance in the overall context, except perhaps for demonstrative or experimental reasons. Such schemes (with provision of Rs.10 crore or less) should be reviewed, merged or consolidated, tosecure a meaningful impact.

- Monitoring Output

The implementation of many of the schemes leaves a lot of scope for improvement. Many schemes suffer or fail to take off, even after provisions are made therefore, due to procedural delay in their finalisation and getting the appropriate approvals (like that of Expenditure finance Committee, etc.). The provisions arc reduced during the course of the year (say, in the revised estimates), and the final expenditure is still less. In many cases, particularly those coming under the social sector. Government budgetary support is provided by way of grants-in-aid to the implementing agencies. The grantees sometimes have their own priorities and instead of utilising the fund sreceived for earmarked purposes, spend them elsewhere. It is necessary to tighten the system and closely monitor implementation of each scheme, to secure a result-oriented direction all round, focusing on how much money has been allocated for schemes benefiting women can be counter-productive if the outcome of schemes departsub stantially from the

objectives that they were designed to serve.Though 9th Five Year Plan recommended introduction o f a separate heading for 'Women's component plan' in the budgets of the Ministries/ Departments, due to reasons best known to Government, this has not been implemented. In the entire 9th Plan period, it is found that no Ministry/Department of the Government had shown in their budget provision for 'W omen's component plan'. This greatly vitiated effort to effectively monitor the implementation of schemes particularly those in the composite programmes, which arc also designed to benefit women. This has happened in all cases where theprovision is made on a lump sum basis (as in the case, say, 'Lump provision for schemes in North-eastern areas and Sikkim').

14.8 REDRESSING CAPABILITY DEPRIVATION

In the context of the ongoing economic reforms, there is an urgent need to focus policies and target public expenditures for accelerating growth and poverty alleviation.The primary focus of Government intervention needs to be reoriented to redress the capability deprivation, from sections of the population. In Amartya Sen's framework of functioning's and capabilities, poverty is capability deprivation, and not only the absolute poverty threshold specified on per capita income or consumption expenditure basis. From this perspective, this whole exercise of gender budgeting in India came up with the reality that the disproportionate share of the burden of capability deprivation, especially in education, health and nutritional status, is borne by Indian women. Illiteracy and illhealth arc serious impediments in the path of economic and human development. More than half of Indian women is still illiterate. The adverse sex ratio of 933 per 1000 males embodied the discrimination against women in India at, or even before and after birth with respect to the lack of timely health-seeking checks, nutritional disadvantage and other perverse legacies of intra-household gender relations. What is important is to endow the vulnerable groups is the requisite capabilities in terms of education and health, and pay particular attention to areas such

as availability of water and fuel, and maintain law and order to provide a safe and secure environment for women to operate effectively.



CHECK YOUS PROGRESS

1.When was the United Nation Convention on the Right of Person & Disabilities adopted?

2. When the India did became a signatory of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against women (CEDAW)?

3. When was CEDAW adopted by United Nation?

4. Full form of MWCD

5. Full form of GBS



14.9 LET US SUM UP

- Gender budgeting stress reprioritization rather than an increase in overall public expenditure and in particular, the reorientation of programmes within sectors rather than changes in the overall amounts allocated to particular sectors.
- Moreover, one of the key thrusts o f a gender-sensitive budget is to ensure a greater visibility of the care economy' 'in fiscal policy measures and its inclusion in a system of satellite accounts into the National Accounts System.
- In other words, gender budgeting manifests a conspicuous gender lens to budgetary resource allocation; with a greater visibility of women's unpaid work and its inclusion in a system of satellite accounts into the National AccountsSystem.Existing gender-neutrality of macro indicators ignores the feedback mechanism between gender relations and macroeconomic policy.
- The assumption of labour force erogeneity in the treatment of the care economy in the prevalent macroeconomic policy making is dubious.

- Integrating gender perspective into macroeconomic policy has dual dimensions: an equality dimension and an efficiency dimension.
- In the context of growing recognition that problems of inequality cannot be resolved by the trickle down effects of macroeconomic policies, the concern of gender-inequality needs to be built in to the macroeconomic policy framework.
- Apart from the basic principle of promoting equality among citizens, gender equality can benefit the economy through efficiency gains.
- From the efficiency consideration, what is important is the social rate of return of investment in women, and in eases, this can be greater than the corresponding rate for men.
- There is a growing awareness that gender inequality is inefficient and costly to development.
- Empirical literature draws attention to these efficiency dimensions of integrating gender perspective into macroeconomic policies.



14.10 FURTHER READING

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