

## Uttar Pradesh Women Policy 2006: A Vision for the Future

### Objectives:

- Changing social attitudes towards women making them more gender sensitive.
- Promoting/ensuring effective protection of women's rights.
- Ensuring women's need for security.
- Ensuring women's participation in all decision making processes and strengthening their capacities to negotiate
- Enhancing women's self-esteem and dignity.
- Building women's capacity to access social and development resources.
- Ensuring women's participation in economic activities through proactive policy.
- Ensuring women presence in all walks of life.
- To take steps to combat violence and atrocities against women.

### Steps taken

- Gender budgeting exercise initiated in 2005-06 as an effective policy instrument.
- 3 Tier Panchayats to have 33% reservation for women and clear directions to discuss women related issues in meetings.
- State commission for women established.
- 20% seats for women in services reserved.
- 50% women reservation in Shiksha Mitra.
- 40% women beneficiaries in SGSY.
- 50% women reservation in BTC courses.
- Mothers name to be mandatory included in enrollment in educational institutions.
- Only women workers to cook mid day meal.
- Women SHG's promoted in Swashakti Swayamsiddha, SJGS, UPDASP & NABARD to enhance women's credit and thrift and linkage with income generation programmes.
- Mahila dairy cooperatives formed in Mahila dairy project reaching out to 55000 women.
- Health insurance for women in SHG's provided.
- Enterprise and skill up gradation training provided by the small scale industries department and Khadi Gram Udyog Vibhag.
- Destitute and widow pension and money to encourage remarriage.
- Working women hostels, protection and short stay homes set up.
- Women given priority in allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana.
- Sexual Harassment at work place clause has been added to the UP State Employee conduct rules.
- Reduction of stamp duty for women.
- Kanya Vidya Dhan Yojana included for encouraging girls education.
- Girls Secondary Schools in 426 unserved blocks set up through supporting schools management.
- School Chalo Abhiyan to encourage girls enrollment.
- Sexual harassment at work place complaint committees set up in all departments.
- 11 Mahila thanas & 14 family counselling cells and family courts set up.
- Land pattas of cultivable land to be given to joint names of wife and husband, to widows, adult unmarried daughters women who are orphaned divorced women and to women agricultural workers.
- Derogatory terms like 'VIDHWA' not to be used for women who have lost their spouses.
- CHILDLINE service in Lucknow, Agra & Varanasi to be extended to all zones.
- District Dowry prohibition officer appointed in all districts.
- Jan Shree Bima Yojana for workers in the unorganized sector.
- Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya as residential schools for girls of unserved communities.
- Separate toilets for girls in school.
- NPEG for elementary education in 746 blocks.
- Shelter homes for destitute and elderly women under SWADHAR scheme specially in Mathura, Vrindavan and other religious cities.

The policy States that the responsibility of its implementation lies primarily with the department of women and child welfare. The policy purposes to specifically address the following issues:

- Gender discrimination in family and outside, child marriage, trafficking, female foeticide are critical issues to be dealt with community participation.
- Position of girl child specially adolescent girl with reference to building self confidence and controlling violence.
- Education for all sensitizing the entire education processes with reference to gender with CSO participation.
- Capacity building and training for women's self reliance to career.
- Emphasis on IT & entrepreneurship in women's trainings.
- Holistic approach to women's health including nutrition and reproductive health.
- Reducing MMR is a priority as are safe-deliveries. HIV/AIDS awareness and preventive strategies to be worked at
- Media to be utilized for transforming negative social attitude towards women.
- Ensuring women's rights over land. Training women in newer technologies and ensuring reduction of drudgery.
- Developing clear indicator for GDI inclusive of IMR, MMR Sex ratio women's participation in decision making.
- Easy credit for women.
- Encourage SHG's and bank linkage procedures to be simplified.
- Women to be trained in book keeping and other necessary legal procedures and marketing.
- Attempt to assess women's domestic work in monetary terms and add it to GNP.
- Care for women convicts and speedy trials.
- Reduction in property tax owned by women.
- relaxation of age limit for married women in government service.
- Name of mother to be included in all Government documents.
- Homes to be improved.
- Adoption laws to be simplified.
- Setting up of a women's empowerment centre in all districts where under a single roof there is provision for legal aid, counselling, training, Thana legal aid, NGO support and help line along with residential short stay homes.
- Women in difficult circumstances and female headed households to be given priority.
- Ashram Sadans to be formed for destitute and old women.
- Disabled women to be supported through training and market linkages.
- Special protection for mentally challenged with caring foster care homes.
- Sensitive treatment of child abuse cases.
- Crèches and working women hostels to support working women.
- Family counselling sells in all family and district courts with gender sensitized trained counsellors.
- Sensitization of all officials involving CSO's.
- Recognizing special needs of women victims of dowry torture and violence.
- Priority to single women in allotment of land and housing.
- Court fee to be reduced in the case of maintenance, property, violence and divorce.
- Resolution to be ensured in 6 months.
- Mahila Desk in every thana.
- 20% women to be recruited in police.
- Victims of violence to be specially secured specially those who have suffered in communal and caste violence.
- Greater security in transport and night shifts for women.
- Ensuring human rights for immigrant women workers through giving identity cards.
- Gender segregated data to be collected at the State level.
- An apex body to be constituted to monitor implement and coordinate programmes for women empowerment