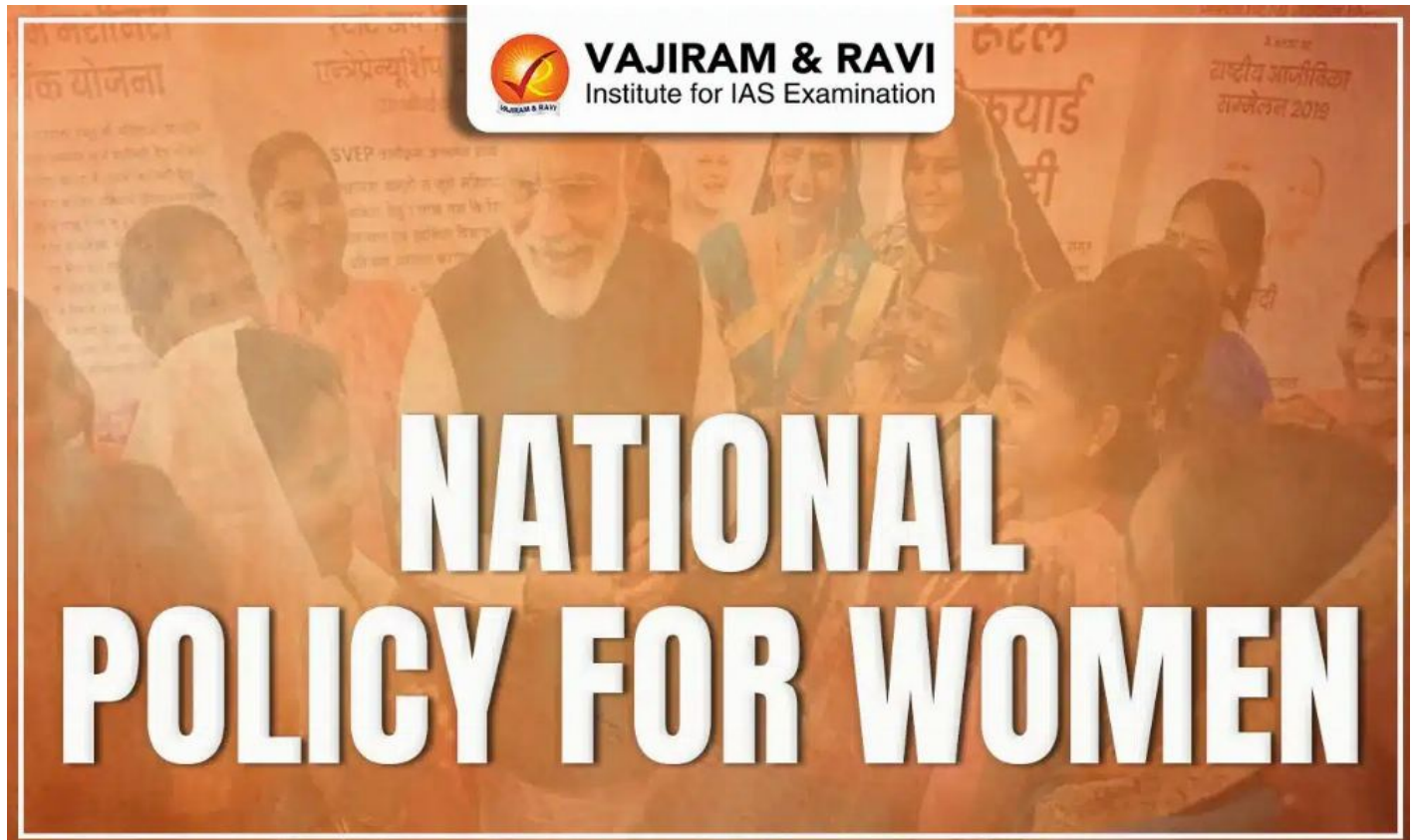


National Policy for Women, Objectives, Priority Area, Implementation

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The National Policy for Women was introduced by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Government of India in May 2016, but has not yet been adopted officially. The NPW Policy aims to address issues in gender equality and promote women empowerment by removing long-standing social, economic, and legal barriers faced by women, while ensuring equality and empowerment across all age groups. The policy addresses the issues from health and education to employment, digital inclusion, and protection from violence.

National Policy for Women

The National Policy for Women is an updated policy framework of the earlier National Policy for Empowerment of Women (2001) by including emerging issues such as cyber safety, skill development, financial inclusion, climate vulnerability, and targeted support for widows, single women, migrant women, and women in conflict-affected regions. It is crucially aligned with the Constitution, **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), and national priorities to promote social justice, dignity, and equal opportunities.

National Policy for Women Objectives

The National Policy for Women aims to strengthen social, economic, and political empowerment. It aims to focus on:

- Providing stronger legal protection, equal access to resources, and gender-responsive governance.
- Expanding economic opportunities through skills, technology, and entrepreneurship development.
- Improving the access to quality healthcare, nutrition, and reproductive rights.
- Ensure equal access to property, financial services, and digital resources.
- Promote leadership roles for women in governance, institutions, and workforce.

National Policy for Women Priority Area

The major area of priority for the National Policy for Women include mostly related to the challenges faced by the women in India.including improvement of health, access to education, strengthening safety measures and legal supports, promoting skill development, and supporting employment generation, etc. Major Priority Areas are::

1. Health, Food Security, Nutrition, and reproductive rights
2. Education, skill development, and digital literacy
3. Economic empowerment and access to financial resources
4. Participation in governance and political decision-making
5. Safety, security, and gender-based violence prevention
6. Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks
7. Housing, sanitation, drinking water, and basic services
8. Enabling a clean environment and tackling issues related to climate change.

National Policy for Women Implementation

The implementation of National Policy for Women is managed through a combined approach of Central Ministries, State Governments, District Authorities, and Institutions. The policy coordinates with the schemes and policies such as **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, **Poshan Abhiyaan**, Mahila Police Volunteers, Ujjawala Scheme (for violence survivors), and Digital India initiatives. Institutions like NCRB and NFHS provide indicators for measuring and tracking the progress. Partnerships with NGOs, private sector, panchayats, and academic institutions are also key to successful implementation.

National Policy for Women Challenges

A number of structural and emerging challenges affect the success of National Policy for Women:

1. **Low Workforce Participation:** Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) remains low at 41.7% in 2023-24 (PLFS) despite improvement from previous years. Social norms, unpaid care work, and lack of childcare facilities restrict women's workforce entry and progression.
2. **High Gender-Based Violence:** According to NCRB Crime in India 2023, more than 4.48 lakh cases of crimes against women were recorded, with domestic violence, harassment, and sexual assault forming major categories. While under-reporting of the cases remains a severe challenge.
3. **Health and Nutrition Gaps:** The NFHS-5 (2019-21) shows high levels of anemia among women (57% in Age 15-49) indicating persistent health inequalities. Access to reproductive healthcare is uneven across

states.

4. **Digital and Financial Divide:** The National Family Health Survey and India Internet Report 2023 indicate that only one-third of women in rural India use mobile internet. This digital divide restricts access to online services, banking, and learning platforms.
5. **Education and Skill Barriers:** Higher education enrolment for women has improved to 49% (AISHE 2023), but women still dominate low-paying fields and face barriers in STEM, technical training, and leadership roles. Skill gaps limit upward economic mobility.

National Policy for Women UPSC

However the Policy was framed in 2016 but has not been officially adopted. The National Policy for Women plays a crucial role in shaping India's long-term gender development strategy by addressing health, education, safety, economic empowerment, and digital inclusion. Despite improvements, recent national data shows significant gaps: a 41.7% LFPR, 57% anemia rate, 4.48 lakh crime cases, and a persistent digital divide. By strengthening gender budgeting, monitoring, skilling, and institutional support mechanisms, the policy can accelerate progress toward equality. With targeted investments and coordinated implementation, the National Policy for Women is expected to improve women's participation, safety, and social well-being significantly.

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