

**Role of Public Policies in Improving the Status of Women and Senior Citizens in
Karnataka**

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Abstract

Analysts look at the administration changes that have made strides the position of women and senior citizens in Karnataka in this article. The work of government approaches and activities in helping women and senior citizens, as well as how they influence Karnataka's capacity to keep up Economic objectives. Open approaches have been appeared to be fruitful apparatuses for raising the financial standing of those who are most in require, particularly in rustic districts. This ponder analyzes a run of government measures, such as monetary help programs, capacity-building activities, and administrative systems, that are expecting to make strides the status of these bunches. Through approach examination, it assesses how well open approaches progress operational capabilities, distinguishes usage challenges, and makes proposals for bettering the way government programs are planned and conveyed to maximize their affect on women and senior citizens. This article analyzes the ways in which Karnataka's government approaches and activities have profited women and senior citizens, moving forward their standing and cultivating community development. The execution holes, troubles, and accomplishments of these arrangements will be basically inspected in this inquire about. The conclusions of women and more seasoned people with respect to how well these programs have progressed their lives will moreover be inspected. The study's conclusions will allow partners and lawmakers imperative data they can utilize to make comprehensive, more fruitful arrangements that will advantage Karnataka's elderly populace and women.

Keywords: *Women, Senior Citizens, Public Policies, Karnataka.*

Introduction

India's population is expected to reach 152.2 crore people by 2036, with a slightly improved female rate of 48.8% compared to 48.5 percent in 2011. It is projected that the number of people under the age of 15 would decline between 2011

and 2036, most likely as a result of dwindling wealth. On the other hand, it is anticipated that the number of people aged 60 and beyond will increase significantly throughout this time. (PIB, 2024) According to the 2011 Census, the Karnataka female proficiency rate was approximately 70.08%, which appears to be an improvement but still lags behind the male proficiency rate of 82.47%. The goal of the state government is to increase female competency through various educational initiatives. (Census, 2011) This indicates the need for more efforts to achieve progress in sex adjustment, even if it is slightly higher than the national average of 940. Due to the traditional aspects of parenthood and family care, the societal role that has been promoted for women for generations has kept them confined to their homes. This has prevented women from participating in many educational programs. For women, improvement means creating opportunities and competencies that enable them to assert their financial, political, and social rights. It is believed that women's overall financial, political, and social standing will improve with the implementation of sex equity measures. Evidence from around the world has shown that improvements in women's status in social circles, such as business, health, and education, are linked to greater prosperity for the general public and more successful progress for entire states. Enhancing women's position as productive and legitimate members is therefore essential, not only for the advancement of women's and young women's status but also for the general social and economic advancement of the community.

In addition to women becoming more adept at caring for their aging populations, which started in the last century with developed nations, it is currently including developing nations as well. India is by no means an exception to this rule. The population structure has evolved over time and will continue to change in the future. In the upcoming years, the proportion of older adults in the population will increase (GoI, 2016). With the benefit of having a high statistical profit, India is one of the world's emerging economies. Simultaneously, the country's old population is growing, reaching 8.6% according to the 2011 decadal Census. Due to the rapid financial development facilitated by liberalization, India saw a number of societal changes in the 1990s and the decade that followed. Rapid advancements and modifications in work designs have created a number of difficulties for the nation's senior citizens. disparities in employment opportunities, inadequate pay, the need for

or intolerable housing, the need for social services, and problems with physical and mental health brought on by the changes in family structures and relationships brought about by liberalization.

Women Empowerment Programs of Karnataka State

To meet the unique demands and concerns of women, the Karnataka government has showcased a few social security schemes aimed at improving their financial security and general well-being. These initiatives check security, employment, education, and prosperity throughout several divisions. This is a list showing some of the most important Karnataka social security initiatives for women:

- ❖ Karnataka Mahila Abhivruddhi Yojane (KMAY) - 2014
- ❖ Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojane (IGMPY) - 2010
- ❖ Swadhar Greh Scheme – 2016
- ❖ Udyogini Scheme – 2015-16
- ❖ Kittur Rani Chennamma Award - 1994-1995
- ❖ Matrupoorna - 2017
- ❖ Stree Shakthi Programme - 2000
- ❖ Karnataka Mathrushree Scheme - 2018
- ❖ Bhagyalakshmi Scheme - 2006-07
- ❖ Stairya Nidhi Yojane - 2015-16
- ❖ Amrutha Swasahaya Kiru Uddime Yojana - 2023
- ❖ Gruha Lakshmi - 2024
- ❖ Shakti Scheme - 2024
- ❖ Shramashakti
- ❖ Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation - 1987

A different set of initiatives aimed at empowering women has been implemented in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. Financial freedom is one of the main pillars of Karnataka's women's empowerment. A few plans have been developed by the state government to support women's trade endeavors. For instance, the Udyogini Contrive provides planning and financial support to women who want to launch their own businesses. Many women have been forced to become self-

employed as a result of this move, which has increased their social mobility and financial stability.

Another essential component of women's reinforcement is education. The importance of girls' education has always been underlined by the Karnataka government. Understanding the importance of healthcare, the Karnataka government has implemented a number of initiatives to advance women's prosperity. Initiatives like the Amrutha Swasahaya Kiru Uddime Yojana provide financial support for the healthcare of mothers and children. These initiatives have significantly reduced the rates of maternal and infant mortality, guaranteeing women's and their children's prosperity and well-being.

Additionally, the state government has taken fundamental measures to guarantee the safety and security of women. The Stree Shakti Plot focuses on empowering women via mindfulness exercises and self-defense planning. The goal of this initiative is to provide women with the skills and confidence to protect themselves from bullying and violence. Karnataka has also established Women's Advancement Organizations around the state. By providing women with planning, support, and resource access, these groups play a crucial role in empowering women. They also provide as a platform for women to connect, exchange stories, and fight for their rights.

Despite significant advancements in 2024 thanks to the assistance of the Shakti Yojana and Gruha Lakshmi Yojana, difficulties still exist. Women's progress is still being destroyed by problems like gender-based violence, division, and the need to break free from opportunities. Addressing these issues calls for a multifaceted strategy that combines social mindfulness initiatives, legislative reforms, and ongoing research in women's fortification initiatives. Through a variety of workouts, Karnataka has achieved significant progress in improving women's hair. The state government has prevented women from being fully active members of society by focusing on economic opportunity, education, prosperity, and security. In any event, further work is needed to solve the remaining issues and guarantee true sex uniformity in Karnataka.

Karnataka State Programs to improve Senior Citizen status

To improve the quality of life for its senior population, the Karnataka government has taken important actions. The state acknowledges the significance of tackling the distinct obstacles encountered by the aging population. The government has implemented a number of initiatives and regulations to support elderly folks financially, medically, socially, and in terms of their general well-being. These are a few of the major Karnataka initiatives that have significantly improved the lot of senior persons.

Senior Citizen Welfare Fund

The "Senior Citizen Welfare Fund" is a fundamental effort. Seniors who participate in this program receive monthly pensions, guaranteeing them a steady income to cover their essential expenses. Financial aid is essential for senior citizens who might not have a steady source of income or savings. The government hopes to ease financial strains and foster a sense of security among the elderly by providing this assistance.

Day Care Centres

Karnataka has set up "Day Care Centers" all around the state to give senior persons a secure and encouraging environment. These facilities provide a range of services, such as social connections, leisure pursuits, and healthcare. The goal is to establish a community area where elderly people can socialize, participate in activities, and get medical care when necessary. The centers are essential in the fight against social isolation and loneliness, two problems that many older people encounter.

Concessional Passes

For elderly people to remain independent and mobile, transportation is essential. The "Concessional Passes" program lowers public transportation rates, enabling older people to travel more affordably and easily. Seniors can travel freely,

engage in social events, and obtain necessary services without facing financial hardships thanks to this legislation. Additionally, it motivates them to continue being involved and active in their communities.

Gruhalakshmi Scheme

Another noteworthy program that aims to give impoverished older women financial help and other amenities is the "Gruhalakshmi Scheme." This initiative acknowledges older women's vulnerability, particularly for those without adequate money or familial support. The program guarantees that these women can live with dignity and have access to essential services by providing financial assistance. In order to meet some of the most urgent requirements of older women, the program also offers housing assistance and healthcare.

Senior Citizens Helpline

Karnataka has set up a special "Senior Citizens Helpline" to handle the complaints and requirements of elderly persons. Elderly people can use this service to report problems, ask for help, and get information about different government services and initiatives. The helpline is an essential tool for making sure older adults can get timely and pertinent support, which will improve their general wellbeing.

Sakala Scholarship

The "Sakala Scholarship" program acknowledges the value of lifelong learning for older adults, as education is a lifetime endeavor. This program offers financial aid to senior citizens who want to continue their education. Seniors' mental health and intellectual engagement are enhanced by the program's encouragement of lifelong learning. Additionally, it gives them the ability to learn new things, which improves their quality of life.

The state's dedication to the welfare and dignity of its senior citizens is demonstrated by Karnataka's all-encompassing strategy for raising their status through these numerous programs and initiatives. These policies seek to establish a supportive

environment that enables senior adults to live independent and satisfying lives by attending to their financial, healthcare, social, and educational requirements. In order to promote a more inclusive and equal society for the aged, these initiatives must be continuously implemented and improved.

Conclusion

In Karnataka, public policies have been crucial in improving the status of women and older citizens, solving their particular difficulties, and advancing their general well-being. The state has given crucial support in the areas of financial aid, healthcare, education, and social interaction through programs including the Senior Citizen Welfare Fund, Mathrushree Scheme, Bhagyalakshmi Scheme, and the Stree Shakthi Programme. In order for women and older persons to live honorable and satisfying lives, these policies seek to establish an inclusive and equal society.

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