

Empowering Women through Mission Shakti Program in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) : A Review

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ABSTRACT

For any society to flourish and achieve prosperity, safety, security and dignity of women are of paramount importance, therefore, it is crucial to create an inclusive society where women and girls have equal access to resources and opportunities, enabling them to participate and contribute in social, economic and political development of that society as a whole. Mission Shakti has set a new landmark in ensuring safety, dignity and self-reliance in the women of Uttar Pradesh. Through Mission Shakti, the state government has taken the right step towards empowering women and girls and addressing issues related to their rights, legal provisions and limited awareness about government schemes and policies.

Key Words : Empowerment, Mission Shakti, Women

The constitution of India has granted equal right to men and women in terms of freedom and opportunity, but in today's era women face multiple hurdles. Safety and security of the women is the major problem. According to The National Crime Records Bureau 7.3 percent rise in crime against women in 2019 as compare to 2018. A total of 4,05,861 cases of crime against women were registered during 2019 over 2018 (3,78,236 cases). The Majority of cases under crime against women under IPC were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (30.9 per cent) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (21.8 per cent), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (17.9 per cent) and 'Rape' (7.9 per cent). The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4 in 2019 in comparison with 58.8 in 2018.

Uttar Pradesh recorded 3065 cases of rape in 2019 while Rajasthan topped the list with 5997 cases. UP registered 34 cases of rape with murder or gang rape with murder whereas Maharashtra went on the top of list with 47 such cases. Sharing the data of Uttar Pradesh on his Twitter page, the ADG prosecution highlighted

those 1,772 cases out of 3,065 registered cases of rapes cropped up because of making false pretext of marriage. In 317 cases family members indulged in it whereas 785 cases committed by criminals, friends or neighbours and in 191 cases accused are unknown.

Due to huge hike in crime, on October 2020, the UP government launched the 'Mission Shakti' programme to create awareness about women empowerment in the state with the objective to provide safety, security and empowered women with skills and training so each woman stands on own feet. The first phase of this programme started from Shardiya Navratri to Chaitra Navaratri in April 2021. This programme is started phase wise and recently fourth phase of this programme is running.

Major Objectives of mission shakti Programme are

- The program aims to raise awareness.
- Establish a secure environment.
- Provide workshops and training programs to transform the lives of women
- Create an inclusive and empowered society for women.

- The program also focuses on the rights of children, sexual crime against women and girls, and adoption of orphaned girls.
- The objectives of the program include providing immediate and comprehensive care, support, and assistance to women.

Phase wise work done during mission shakti programme in Uttar Pradesh

{First Phase}

- **Briefed women about schemes on self-reliance:** an effort to help women become 'Atmanirbhar', the state government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), under the Mission Shakti campaign, organised several events in the state's capital, Lucknow. These events, which were attended by hundreds of women, helped the government create awareness and share information about welfare schemes including the One District, One Product (ODOP) Margin Money Scheme, Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, ODOP Toolkit Scheme, Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana, a training scheme for SCs/STs and OBCs and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme.
- **Provided self-defence training programmes:** In March 2021, under the Mission Shakti campaign, female students in 40,000 upper primary schools in the state were trained in the art of self-defence. The initiative was aimed to help young girls become self-dependent by becoming physically and mentally strong.
- **Fast-tracked trials and prosecution of the accused:** the state government directed all district Police Chiefs to not only curb crime against girls and women, but also fast-track trials and prosecution of the accused in court cases; this boosted prosecution rate in the state.
- **Held 'Jan Sunwai' to resolve women issues:** In February 2021, the government organised *Jan Sunwai*, a public hearing event in the PWD guest house in Rae Bareilly. The event was presided by the State Women Commission member Anju Prajapati and was aimed to redress the grievances of women victims. In January 2021, the Women Welfare

Department organised a '*nari chaupal*' in Barabanki district, where women were sensitised about female foeticide and gender discrimination.

Second Phase of Mission Shakti to Commenced from April 2021:

In the second phase of the 'Mission Shakti' programme, technological advancements are likely to be leveraged to help prevent crime against women and lower the reaction time for enforcement agencies to reach and help women in an emergency. Moreover, the state government implemented the following initiatives:

- Sanctioned Rs. 309 crore (US\$ 41 million) for Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Noida, Agra and Prayagraj to boost security installations, surveillance and set up dedicated control rooms
- Commanded divisional commissioners in seven districts—Aligarh, Bareilly, Jhansi, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Kanpur and Meerut—to prepare a safety plan for women
- Women policemen were provided 100 pink two-wheeler patrols and 10 four-wheeler pink patrols for monitoring schools, colleges and markets
- Announced construction of 'Pink' toilets, with proper lighting for dark stretches. Under the 'Safe City' project in Lucknow, the government is constructing 74 pink toilets, of which 18 are ready as of March 08, 2021. In addition, 3,625 dark spots were identified, wherein electric poles have been installed in 660 spots and the remaining 2,965 spots were expected to be covered by March 2021
- Upgraded the women power line '1090' and is working to increase the capacity of women power lines. Further, integrated the women power line with UP-112 cyber forensics facility and data analytics centres
- Announced monitoring of hotspots through CCTV cameras, drones and control rooms to install panic buttons, CCTV cameras and GPL in city buses by December 2021

Third phase of mission shakti programme:

The third phase of 'Mission Shakti' with an aim to promote safety, respect and self-reliance for women. The main objective that are scheduled to be implemented in this phases are the launch of 'Mission Shakti Kaksha' (classrooms) at all the 59,000 gram panchayat bhawans

(village panchayat buildings), formation of one lakh women self-help groups, linking of 1.73 new beneficiaries to destitute women pension scheme, safe city project in divisional headquarters and Gautam Buddha Nagar, posting of women police personnel as beat police officers, construction of pink toilets (for women) in 1,286 police stations, special recruitment for women battalions of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) on 2,982 posts, deployment of women sub-inspectors in urban areas, setting up of creche in all police lines and construction of health club in women's colleges.

Launch of the third phase of Mission Shakti Online transfer of grant money to 1.55 lakh eligible girls under Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana

Foundation stone laid for the campus of Veerangana Avantibai Women Police Battalion in Badayun 75 women honored for doing excellent work in two phases of Mission Shakti Chief Minister has developed the state, law and order, playing a leading role in healing and empowering women

Fourth phase:

On October 14, 2023, in Lucknow launched the fourth phase of Mission Shakti, focused on promoting women's self-reliance, safety and respect. The programme started with flagging off a Women Empowerment Rally. The rally passed several locations in the capital before concluding at the 1090 Intersection.

Impact of mission shakti in Uttar Pradesh:

Mission Shakti programme which eyes at curbing crimes against women and ensuring their safety, respect and self-reliance gained prominence. Uttar Pradesh Govt. planned many events under 'Mission Shakti' to sensitise women about the widow pension scheme, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Janani Suraksha Yojana, CM Kanya Sumangala Yojana, CM Samuhik Vivah Yojana, CM Bal Sewa Yojana and other schemes initiated by the Union and State government.

Uttar Pradesh first state to provide banking facilities in every village of the state through BC Sakhi. Women of Uttar Pradesh got maximum benefit in Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Swamitva Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan and Mudra Loan Yojana. Women today with changed thinking through self-help groups contribute to the development of the economy by being strong and self-reliant and taking forward our daughters. The main objective of this

programme is to make the women capable and self-reliant and fulfilling of this purpose a handicraft production company is being formed for the development of women artisans in district Badayun for Zari-Zardozi handicrafts, which will help the handicraft artisans to connect with the market by producing high-quality products.

The State Government recruited 1.5 lakh youth in police in which 20 percent of seats were earmarked for women The State Government committed to curbing crimes related to women and girls and communicate with the victims Established and formed more than 10,000 women beat for effective action on their problem, in which women police officers/personnel were appointed,

To ensuring the purpose of safety U.P. Govt. launched 3 Women PAC Battalions in Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Badayun In the first and second phase of Mission Shakti, in more than 1,537 police stations and 350 tehsils women police booth established, in which arrangements have been made for hearing of women's problems Mission Shakti Abhiyan with the cooperation of all, women dignity, women safety and will prove to be a milestone in the direction of women's self-reliance.

Women are progressing in every walk of life and as per the vision of new India, women are being made self-reliant by connecting them with the process of respect and development, with a safe and fear-free environment. Today, women are contributing to the development of the economy by becoming empowered and self-supporting through self-help groups. Nowadays society with changed thinking and are raising their daughters, so women themselves should come forward to end the social evils. Mission Shakti Abhiyan set a milestone in the direction of women's dignity, women's safety and women's self-reliance with the cooperation of all.

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