CHAPTER 8

Making The 'Invisible' Visible: A Policy Centric Approach to Corroborate Emancipation of Muslim Women in Mainstream

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Abstract

No nation can prosper if its women and minorities remain on periphery. Government report indicates that condition of Muslim women is precarious in terms of literacy, finance, jobs, and political emancipation.[1] Muslims are the biggest minority group in India and the proportion of Muslim women in India is higher than the proportion of women in many Islamic nations. However, Muslim women lack sufficient authority to take advantage of growth and the constitutionally granted basic rights compared to women of other faiths. Also, it is anticipated that Muslim women in India have the potential to propel development, if exclusively patronized by the state on lines of SCs, STs and OBCs.[2]

Being minority within minority and the victim of multiple biases, it is a fact that Muslim women in India are less powerful and have a worse social standing than men and women from other faiths. Contrary to this, Indian Muslim women are keen to ameliorate their conditions and make a mark in national development but clearly lacks subtle state patronization and only garner government attention on trivial issues like 'Triple Talaq' or 'Hijab'.

This paper, being policy oriented in nature will zero in on multifaceted challenges faced by largest neglected minority and the steps to be ensured at policy level to empower them. Linking

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[1] Sachar Committee Report (2006) states that conditions of Indian Muslims are below that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe.

[ii] Although Muslims constitute 14% of the Indian population, they only comprise 2.5% of the Indian bureaucracy. Ironically the report notes that the gap between Muslims and other Socio Religious Categories (SRCs) increases as the level of education increases, and that unemployment rates among Muslim graduates is the highest among SRCs both among the poor and the non-poor. The Committee did it study on Muslims as a holistic group and hardly offers insight into data collected from gender centric perspective.

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this situation and take subtle steps at policy level to address this concern. Understanding that Indian Muslim women is not a monolithic identity, therefore a unidimensional perspective will not work. A multidimensional and multifaceted approach is to be integrated within the policy framework to address this problem. This study, being policy centric to the core, has attempted to incorporate subtle frameworks in this regard by constructing inferences from authentic data collected by government and various research agencies as well as integrating elements of ground realities in a holistic manner.

Limitations of the Study

Since the stated issue is an ambitious domain of study and employs considerable time and financial resources, therefore the policy-based recommendations are largely framed on account of secondary sources. To design vital policy points, the researchers draw inferences chiefly based on political, economic, social, and educational database compared to another intrinsic variable.

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