Indian Economy · GS - III

Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
12.5	~200 words

Answer Hint

Gender budgeting; gender equality; resource allocation; gender-disaggregated data; Gender Budget Statement; women-centric schemes; outcome monitoring

Model Answer

Introduction

Gender budgeting integrates a gender perspective into public expenditure and revenue policies. It helps assess whether government budgets address the different needs and disadvantages experienced by women and girls.

Requirements of Gender Budgeting

- **Gender-sensitive planning:** Identify gender gaps in education, health, nutrition, employment, safety and asset ownership.
- **Adequate resource allocation:** Provide sufficient funding for interventions that directly or indirectly benefit women.
- **Gender-disaggregated data:** Track beneficiaries, expenditure and outcomes by gender.
- **Departmental responsibility:** Integrate gender analysis into the budgets of relevant ministries and departments.
- **Outcome assessment:** Evaluate whether spending improves women's capabilities, opportunities and agency.

- **Participation:** Include women and civil society in identifying local priorities.

Status in India

India introduced a Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget in 2005–06. It classifies allocations with gender-relevant components, including schemes exclusively for women and schemes where women form a substantial proportion of beneficiaries. Several states have also adopted gender-budgeting practices.

However, challenges include limited gender analysis across departments, inadequate outcome tracking, inconsistent data and insufficient attention to women's unpaid care work and economic participation.

Way Forward

Strengthen gender-budget cells, establish measurable indicators, publish regular impact assessments and improve coordination between ministries. Budgets should address women's safety, healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, property rights and workforce participation.

Conclusion

Gender budgeting can translate constitutional equality into practical outcomes. Its success depends not merely on higher allocations but on transparent planning, effective implementation and measurable improvements in women's lives.

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