

# UP govt enabling and handholding women via Mission Shakti initiative

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Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world” – a former First Lady while stating this was also drawing attention of the world and governments towards ensuring their safety, dignity and self-reliance. Women are seen as the catalysts for development the world over and acknowledging this, the Uttar Pradesh government since 2017 has aimed at creating awareness about their rights and launched several programmes for enabling their growth and well-being.

Empowered women in UP, the beneficiaries of the government launched its “Mission Shakti” programme in 2020, are setting new examples and becoming partners in the creation of a strong and more equitable society. By increasing the use of health and other services they are ensuring the well-being of their children and families as well as their own. Seeking and getting support for their economic stability and that of their communities these women are making the governments more accountable to cater to their needs which is a matter of right as a human being.

The UP government through its Mahila Shakti Kendras in 75 districts has spread awareness to around 19 lakh women and daughters in the past year. A total of 37,406 activities were organised and along with this 12.76 lakh women have been linked to various welfare schemes of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Despite the pandemic over 1.85 lakh new beneficiaries have been added under the “Destitute Women Pension Scheme” (after the death of their husbands). The scheme has benefitted about 28 lakh women. The “Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangla Yojana” has added about 44,000 beneficiaries in first three months since March 2021 bringing the total to 7.58 lakh. Moreover, government schemes like Women Self Help Groups, Banking Correspondent (BC) Sakhis have shown the path of self-reliance while other schemes like “Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana” have lent support to the parents of the girl child.

In a first, the Yogi government has launched BC Sakhi scheme and recruited and trained 17,500 banking correspondents. Training of the remaining, out of 58,000 women selected to the post is underway. This initiative gives women an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process which impacts not just them but their families, communities and the nation eventually and gradually moving towards gender equity.

For the alleviation of rural poverty and creating more sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural women, the state government has also disbursed a Revolving Fund of Rs 15,000 per group to around 40,000 SHGs in the state through online transfer amounting to Rs 88.66 crore.

Besides this the government has various schemes benefitting individuals, families for education and training, construction labourers and their children, child safety etc. at the panchayat level. A government committed towards enabling and handholding its women to help them tap their reservoir of talent and potential is treading on the right path and needs to be acknowledged and appreciated.

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