



## STUDENT'S PERCEPTION TOWARDS WOMEN HEALTH IN A WELFARE STATE

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### Abstract:

Over the last so many years social scientists have been trying to evolve in the philosophy of a Welfare State. People across the segments of the society have debated on aspects of welfare state, among the considerations were the impact of socio-economic factors that affect women development. The present study highlights on the aspects of women development in a welfare state. The aspects of women development based on socio-economic status in a welfare state. The findings of the study revealed that welfare policies play a vital role in women development across the segments of socio-economic status as perceived by degree college students.

**Key words:** Socio-Economic Status, Welfare State, Women Development.

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### INTRODUCTION:

The 21st Century welfare state highlights in trying to reach to an equitable society that caters to the welfare of all irrespective on the basis of caste, gender, socio-economic status. The challenges of the public distribution system and the health facilities have falls found a widened gap in the development of the individual and society. The bridging of gap between the haves and have nots are far reaching ideologies that the government is catching pace to reach to thus providing with various avenues of employment and development schemes.

Women development has been aching issue from the times prevalent and efforts towards it seem like a mirage. There has been a constant rehaul of the policies and schemes but the same hasn't been able to reach the masses. This could be the thin line of

contact with the remotest woman and thus making the opportunities look bleak in achieving the same. Women development is a crusading factor in the development of a nation and the welfare of the state. In this regard the efforts need to be fuelled with more rigor to generate opportunities in fulfilling the need for women development.

### LITERATURE REVIEW:

**Olafsdottir, Sigrun(2007),** *Fundamental Causes of Health Disparities: Stratification, the Welfare State, and Health in the United States and Iceland, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, v48 n3 p239-253 Sep 2007,* state that the Research has established that those with higher social status have better health. Less is known about whether this relationship differs cross-nationally and whether it operates similarly across different institutional arrangements. To examine the relationship between



stratification and health, two Western, industrialized societies at opposite ends of an equal/unequal continuum are compared: the United States and Iceland.

**De Chenu, Linda; Daehlen, Dag; Tah, Jude(2016)** in the article, *A Critical Comparison of Welfare States and Their Relevance to People with an Intellectual Disability*, *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*, v20 n4 p397-415 compares the welfare services for adults with an intellectual disability in three European countries: England, Norway and Sweden. The purpose of the comparison is to develop an understanding of the welfare state and institutional contexts of the country-specific policies and to develop a critical analysis through a comparative method based on selected secondary literature.

**Jongbloed, Janine; Pullman, Ashley (2016)** in the article, *Well-Being in the Welfare State: The Redistributive Capacity of Education*, *European Journal of Education*, v51 n4 p564-586 Dec 2016, focuses on the macro-micro interaction between institutional arrangements and individual life outcomes, this article investigates how welfare régime types impact the association between education and well-being, as measured by satisfaction with life. Theorising with Esping-Andersen's ideal-typical welfare régime typology, we hypothesise that decommodified institutional arrangements reduce the association between education and well-being through compensatory social protections for at-risk individuals, while stratifying forces strengthen this association.

**Halvorsrud, Kristoffer (2017)** in the article *Student Dropout in Upper Secondary Education in Norway: A Challenge to the Principles of the*

*Welfare State?*, *London Review of Education*, v15 n2 p302-316 Jul 2017, presents a review of extant research on student dropout in Norway, originally undertaken as part of a systematic review. The article contextualizes the foundational principle of equality as championed by the welfare state and identifies the significance of dropout in upper secondary education in Norway. The article then assesses whether dropout has been sufficiently addressed, by exploring dropout measures that have been implemented and evaluated. It is argued that although equality of access to upper secondary education has been improved, the enduring significance of student dropout reveals concealed educational inequalities of "outcomes" in a social democratic "welfare state."

#### AREA AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The present study consisted of 536 degree college students located in Navi Mumbai, the students perception on aspects of women health was studied. The socio-economic status were based on Socio Economic status 1 (Annual Income below Rs 4,00,000) , Socio Economic status 2 (Annual Income between Rs 4,00,001 – Rs 8,00,000) , Socio Economic status 3 (Annual Income above Rs 8,00,001)

#### SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION:

The tools used for the present study are the following:

- Personal Data Sheet
- 4 Point Rating Scale on Women health as a factor towards welfare state

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

1. The study was limited to Degree college students of Navi Mumbai. The students of Mumbai and other parts were not covered under this study.



2. The findings may not be applicable to all over India as problems may vary from place to place and students of different sections of the society.

The present study highlights on the perception of degree college students on women health based on socio-economic factors towards a welfare state.

The statements for the study were :

Women Health
Health of women is important in equal opportunities for them in the society
Maternity leave given for women is a help in their employment
Welfare towards women varies in rural and urban places
Women should be given additional and free medical facilities
Education opportunities should be given for women
Switching gender roles give more importance to women in the society.
Regular health checkup for women is an indicator towards a welfare state
Safe environment for education and work encourages women to support in economic development
Work at home done by women is often undervalued
Women are cast only in the role of victim rather than equal partners
Welfare schemes for women should be increased
There is an urgent need for a detailed re-examination of health statistics for India.

**Findings of the study:**

Statements	SA -SES 1	A- SES 1	D- SES 1	SD- SES 1
Women Health	24.75	48.57	20.81	5.85

Statements	SA-SES 2	A-SES 2	D- SES 2	SD- SES 2
Women Health	27.45	45.61	19.03	4.82

Statements	A- SES 3	D- SES 3	SA- SES 3	SD- SES 3
Women Health	35.63	13.82	19.2	3.68

Out of the 536 respondents, 144 were from Socio Economic status 1 (Annual income below Rs 4,00,000) stated their perception on various aspects of Women Health as a factor of Health towards a Welfare State. Their responses varied from Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree on

aspects such as importance of Women’s health for equal opportunities in society, maternity and child care leave, free medical facilities, regular health check-up and welfare schemes can be investigated with concern. Welfare schemes, switching gender roles, safe environment for work and education,



status of women at home and work needs to be considered for being a Welfare state. Based on these aspects out of the 144 respondents **24.75** (percent) state they Strongly Agree, **48.57** (percent) state they Agree, **20.81** (percent) state that they Disagree, and **5.85** (percent) state that they Strongly disagree to the factors of women Health as an aspect of Health towards a Welfare State.

Out of the 536 respondents, **264 were from Socio Economic status 2 (Annual income between Rs 4,00,001 - Rs 8,00,000)** stated their perception on various aspects of Women Health as a factor of Health towards a Welfare State. Their responses varied from Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree on aspects such as importance of Women's health for equal opportunities in society, maternity and child care leave, free medical facilities, regular health check-up and welfare schemes can be investigated with concern. Welfare schemes, switching gender roles, safe environment for work and education, status of women at home and work needs to be considered for being a Welfare state. Based on these aspects out of the 268 respondents **27.45** (percent) state they Strongly Agree, **45.61** (percent) state they Agree, **19.03** (percent) state that they Disagree, and **4.82** (percent) state that they Strongly disagree to the factors of women Health as an aspect of Health towards a Welfare State.

Out of the 536 respondents, **128 were from Socio Economic status 3 (Annual income above Rs 8,00,001)** stated their perception on various aspects of Women Health as a factor of Health towards a Welfare State. Their responses varied from Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree on aspects such as importance of Women's health for

equal opportunities in society, maternity and child care leave, free medical facilities, regular health check-up and welfare schemes can be investigated with concern. Welfare schemes, switching gender roles, safe environment for work and education, status of women at home and work needs to be considered for being a Welfare state. Based on these aspects out of the 128 respondents **35.63** (percent) state they Strongly Agree, **13.82** (percent) state they Agree, **19.20** (percent) state that they Disagree, and **3.68** (percent) state that they Strongly disagree to the factors of women Health as an aspect of Health towards a Welfare State.

#### DISCUSSION:

Equal and fair access to health has been a core aspect of health care system in a Welfare State. The inequalities existing in a state gives a headway to the differences in Socio Economic status of the people, the higher SES leads to more improved facilities and benefits, whereas this goes on a reverse gear with the lower SES to a person needing the same care. The welfare of any nation focusses on the harmonious development of health improvement among its people. Health is not only the standard of living and lifestyle of people, but a range of social condition and resources that focuses on the people's state of health. Many studies highlights health inequality based on SES. The present study reveals the perception of its degree college students on health as an aspect towards welfare state based on diff. socio eco. status. There are few indications that determine the conflux of health and SES such as - your place of stay, your education, your employment / job, dependents in the family.

#### SUGGESTIONS:



- Opportunities for Women education, employment, entrepreneurship, loans should be enhanced and encouraged.
- Equal job opportunities and equal wages irrespective of gender, socio economic status, caste should be made mandatory.
- There should be free medical facilities provided for women, social security card should be provided to avail medical facilities free at Government hospitals and at subsidized rates in private hospitals and clinics.
- Welfare schemes for women and girls should be made easily available with less bureaucratic interference and paper work.

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