

WELFARE OF OBC AND WOMEN IN INDIA

1. Welfare of OBC (Other Backward Classes)

A. Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 15(4):** Enables the state to make special provisions for advancement of socially and educationally backward classes.
- **Article 16(4):** Provides for reservation in public employment for OBCs.
- **Mandal Commission (1980):** Recommended 27% reservation in government jobs and higher education for OBCs (implemented in 1992).

B. Key Bodies for OBC Welfare

1. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** – Nodal ministry for OBC welfare.
2. **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** – Established under Article 338B, identifies and safeguards the interests of OBCs.
3. **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** – Provides loans, skill development, and entrepreneurship support.

C. Important Schemes

- **Post-Matric and Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBC students**
- **Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans**
- **Skill Development Training Programs**
- **Hostel facilities and vocational training for OBC youth**

2. Welfare of Women

A. Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 15(3):** Permits the state to make special provisions for women and children.
- **Article 39(a) and (d):** Directs the state to ensure equal pay for equal work and adequate means of livelihood for women.
- **Article 51A(e):** Fundamental duty to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

B. Nodal Ministry

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** – Implements national policies and programs for women empowerment and protection.

C. Key Programs and Schemes

1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** – Promotes survival, protection, and education of the girl child.
2. **One Stop Centre Scheme** – Provides integrated support for women affected by violence.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** – Maternity benefit program.
4. **Mahila E-Haat and Mahila Shakti Kendras** – Promotes women's entrepreneurship and empowerment.
5. **Ujjawala Scheme** – For rehabilitation of trafficked women.
6. **Working Women Hostel Scheme** – Safe accommodation for working women.

D. Legal Safeguards

- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**
- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013**
- **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**
- **Equal Remuneration Act, 1976**

Conclusion:

The Indian government has developed a robust institutional and policy framework for the welfare of **OBCs and women**, addressing issues of **social justice, education, employment, safety, and empowerment**. Continued policy innovation and effective implementation are crucial for ensuring **inclusive development**.