

Part – IX: Marginalised and Vulnerable Women

Indian women reflect a pluralistic India, one in which practices and discrimination thrive based on class, religion, caste and ethnicity.

Despite the fact that the idea of ‘intersectionality’ is gaining ground in discourse and understanding, when it comes to implementation of many policies, laws and schemes, approach is still piecemeal. In state and civil society interventions, most marginalised women fall through the cracks.

Marginalised and vulnerable women includes

1. Women impacted by violence, such as:

- Domestic Violence
- Rape Victims
- Women in trafficking
- Witch branded women
- Acid attack Victims

2. Women impacted by internal displacement, disaster and migration

- Either due to economic reasons
- Conflict, i.e. Refugee women
- Women impacted by natural or manmade disasters.

3. Women and Labour

- Domestic labour
- Bonded labour
- Destitute women, who are homeless

4. Women in Agriculture

- Landless women
- Marginal farmers

5. Women and Health

- Suffering from HIV/AIDS

- Suffering from life threatening diseases
- Elderly women
- Women with disability

6. Slum Dwellers

7. Women Prisoners and Ex-prisoners

8. Women belonging to Ethnic and Socially Vulnerable Communities like:

- Ethnic and Religious Minorities (Jain, Muslim, etc)
- Socially Backward Communities (SC, ST, OBC).

9. Single Women

- Adolescent Girls
- Widows
- Women whose husband are missing due to conflict
- Migrant women
- Divorce
- Unmarried
- Unwed Mothers

10. Homeless or destitute Women

This list is not exhaustive and all-inclusive, this it is more important to map and identify these women in need.

The health and nutrition status of these women is a matter of great concern and health care services and facilities are not easily accessible to them. These women are seen to experience high levels of violence at home and outside. When it comes to customary practices and personal laws, they are far from being equal to their male counterparts. These laws and practices are infact actively used against them.

Thus, the need of empowerment of these women becomes the most prior one.

(For Gender Responsive Budgeting visit Part - X)