

## Gender Equity Policy: Possibilities to promote the women and land agenda

•The policy will be guided by the following principle of Mahatma Gandhi:

"But I am uncompromising in the matter of women's rights. In my opinion she should labor under no legal disability not suffered by men. I should treat the daughters and sons on a footing of perfect equality. A daughter's share must be equal to that of a son"

WOMEN & LAND RIGHTS -NARI GAURAV NITI, THE POLICY COMMITMENTS

### SECTION 7.1

**ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**•Active effort to increase women’s control and ownership of land, property and other common property resources.

	<p>Mass campaigns on create awareness on: a. the implication of signature on 135-D notice for women. b. Need for possessing death certificate in case of husband’s death c. Need to possess/have knowledge of landed property records.</p>	<p>1. To make procedural changes so that daughters do not give away their rights to the brothers due to social pressure. Provisions as follows: <b>(revenue)</b> i) When a daughter inherits land, any application for giving away this right should be considered only after one year and after a counseling session with the Talati<sup>1</sup>. ii) In case the brother wishes to own land before one year, he has to purchase land at market rate from the sister and deposit money in her account. iii) If he does not purchase, he could take the land on lease with fees to be deposited in her account in advance, to be renewed every year until ten years and she can write off her right only after that.</p> <p>2. To automatically include names of married woman in the land title of husband with clear title, as joint partners. <b>(Legal)</b></p> <p>3. To make provision whereby a widow’s land can’t be transferred by force or will to others till she is alive. <b>(Revenue &amp; legal)</b></p>
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<sup>1</sup> Format for counseling attached in annex 1.

		<p>i) Any such transfer of widow's land requires Collector's permission, like the ones for tribal land.</p> <p>4.To issue separate <i>Khedut Khatavahi</i> after <i>varsai</i> to single women whose land comes under land fragmentation act. (Revenue)</p> <p>5. To waive stamp duty for purchase of land, exclusively in the name of women.</p> <p>6. To ask Talatis to send a gender-desegregated data of deaths registered in the village in the previous quarter vis-à-vis varsai entries done in the village.</p> <p>7. To give a high priority to completing pending Varsais through special varsai camps.</p> <p>8. To have at least one-third women signing as Panchs required completing the land documents. They could be heads of SHGs, formally elected women representatives or any woman representing committees promoted by Government at the village level.</p>
		<p>1.To reserve certain amount of land for landless / women.</p> <p>2.Getting gender desegregated data on land ownership of redistributed revenue wasteland by the government.</p> <p>3.To give priority to widows (land less, SC) in the applications for accessing land redistributed.</p>

□ Promote registration of land and property both in sole name of women as well as under joint ownership of wife and husband.

1. To waive registration fees for purchase of land not just for individual woman but also for collectives of women. (Revenue)

2. Names of deaths registered as well as names of varsais done in the previous quarter should be a regular agenda for the gram Sabhas.
3. As widows are socially restricted after the death of husband, the Revenue department official (Talatis) should proactively approach to give the death certificate of her husband to the widow.
4. Regular and specialized **“Swa Bhoomi: Women and Land”** camps should be held on monthly/quarterly basis for settling claims only of women as Widow, daughter, wife, mother, etc. These camps will handle daughter/widows’ varsai, joint titles for husband/wife, transferring land in the name of wife, etc., where:
  - a. A calendar is predefined for the varsai camps and let known to the villagers in advance.
  - b. A mass publicity is given before holding the camp in villages.
5. Felicitation of Talatis and Mamlatdars who complete 100% varsai entries in a village should be done in their areas.
6. GSLSA should hold legal awareness camps for women with focus on women’s land ownership.
7. GSLSA should give legal advise by being present in the ‘Swa Bhoomi: women and land’ camps to held women to do the varsai or to guide them to those who want to take up varsai matters.
8. Challenging and changing patriarchal lenses worn by the administrative set up on a large scale to orient them on the issue of “Significance and mechanism to ensure women’s land rights”.
9. Incentives are given to Talatis who encourage maximum number of land record on women’s name in a year.

### Common Property Resources

1. To give priority to land in the name of women/ SHG’s for revenue land redistributed for income generation purpose.

### SECTION 7.5

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**•Review all policies related to NRM that is management of land, soil, water, forest, mines and mineral resources to identify gender gaps and access of landless and marginalized to the benefits of the programmes.

2. Ensure greater developmental incentives to exclusive women landowners or joint landowners. Thereby reviews all the land based development schemes and include the provision of differential incentive if not included. This must be done on priority basis for land owning BPL families without delay.
3. New scheme should also be promoted encouraging women’s and ownership. Example of one scheme attached in annex 2<sup>2</sup>. (RDD & Tribal)

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<sup>2</sup> Example of scheme encouraging women’s land ownership –annex-2.

4. Set up a mechanism to ensure an ongoing dialogue with the Revenue Department at the State level every three months (gender cell/gender audit team/review and monitoring of GEP cell). Such a cell would assess the following: (W & Child, Revenue)
    - i. Progress on existing government orders on joint ownership of government redistributed land.
    - ii. Progress on simplifying legal procedures for varsais.
    - iii. To share best practices of getting land in the name of women.
    - iv. Impact assessment of campaigns/new programmes undertaken, if any.
    - v. Progress of district level varsai entries of widows and daughters.
  5. Review present legal procedures for land disputes especially affecting women land owners and resolve them through fast track court. For example like crime fast track court.
  6. Review present *Varsai* procedures and simplify them to make them more women friendly.
  7. Compilation of GRs related to women and land from different departments should be done. (Women and Child development dept)
  10. Review all land related data compilation and MIS procedures to incorporate gender-based data.
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**•The responsible departments: RD, N&WRD, F&ED I&MD**

In all lands where women are also cultivating, settlement survey should include women as occupants.