

A Report

**Workshop on
Gender Concerns in Food Security
26 – 27 February 2007**

Organized by

**Ford Foundation Chair for
Women and Sustainable Food security**

**M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Chennai**

Funded by

The Ministry of Women and Child Development

Report of the Workshop on Gender concerns in Food Security

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About the Workshop

The workshop sought to bring the contemporary gender equity concerns of development into the realm of higher education. This report of the workshop mainly targets the faculty members and students of higher education. A short two day workshop can only highlight a few issues of concern to the development policy. A large number of other issues that are relevant for inclusion in the curriculum could not be addressed in this workshop. However, this work shop is the very first step in creating an awareness and enthusiasm about the contemporary women's issues in development. The University Grants Commission as well as the Ministry of Women and child development are interested in spreading the awareness of gender issues and including the relevant topics into the curriculum. We have approached both the organizations for funding and we were successful in getting the grant from the Ministry of Women and child welfare. We are thankful to them for the grant.

The spadework for the workshop started almost a year ago. Various social science departments and nutrition and home science departments of the colleges in the city of Chennai were contacted and the current content of the syllabus was assessed for the women related topics. Special and optional papers offered by some colleges on women's/gender studies were also assessed for the content.

The women study centres in some colleges and the Social work departments of many colleges in Tamil Nadu are involved in outreach Activities. However the lessons learnt from the outreach Programmes did not seem to percolate into the curriculum of the rest of the academic departments. On the other hand the contemporary gender related policy perspectives, debates and discussions are not known to the people working in the field. The social science curriculum for under graduates and post graduates does not include topics that give them the knowledge of contemporary gender concerns and food security issues in many colleges. All the colleges do not make an effort to include gender related topics. Some of the nutrition departments do not consider gender disaggregated out look as important.

At the same time it is heartening to know that some of the autonomous women's colleges have already introduced some gender related topics. Some autonomous co-education colleges in the city offer an optional paper on Gender studies in the first year to all disciplines. Gender related topics are also taught as a part of History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Human rights, Social work, Tamil literature and English Literature. The content is mostly theoretical and very few topics relate food security concerns of women in India. A majority of private colleges, government colleges, non autonomous colleges, seem to totally ignore this gender aspect in the curriculum.

The review of the current syllabus convinced us of the need to create awareness about the contemporary issues. Another encouraging factor was the enthusiasm shown by many faculty members as well as the students to learn more about the contemporary issues. This enthusiasm prompted us to make a beginning and to organize a workshop. We chose the topics which are not a part of the syllabus in many colleges.

The main reason for targeting institutions of higher education is the need to hand down the existing knowledge to the younger generation, so that there will be informed debate discussion, descent or ascent on these issues. The onus of handing down the knowledge to the younger generation is on the teaching community. It is important to improve the understanding of the changing gender scenario and to study the implications to public policy.

As organizers we tried our best to bring speakers who would systematically elaborate the development issues of concern to women in the frame work of Food security. Food security has three major components. Food availability is a function of food production, the sustainability of which depends upon of natural resource endowments and natural disasters. Food access is a function of purchasing power arising out of livelihood security and Food absorption, which is a function of nutritious food intake, health care of children and adults, so that the mortality rates decline over time. The focus of the workshop was on the gender inequity and concerns of women in all these aspect related food security.

The Objectives of the Workshop were

- To make the teachers and students of higher education aware of the gender concerns and food security concerns of today's India.
- To generate sufficient interest among the staff and the students of higher education, so that food security issues related to women are included in the curriculum of higher education.
- To initiate discussion on various issues and encourage informed debate on gender concerns in food security on the eve of the Eleventh Plan.

Expected out come:

- A better understanding of the urgent basic gender concerns and implications to public policy among all the participants

Workshop Proceedings in Brief

The two-day workshop was organized on Gender Concerns in Food security by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation on 26th and 27th of February 2007. Ford Foundation Chair for Women and Sustainable Food Security of M. S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSRF) was responsible for the organization of the seminar. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India funded the Workshop. The workshop sought to bring gender equity concerns of development into the realm of higher education. This report of the workshop mainly targets the participants, the faculty members and students of higher education. A short two day workshop can only highlight a few issues of concern to the development policy. A large number of other issues that are relevant for inclusion in the curriculum could not be addressed in this workshop. However, this workshop is the very first step in creating an awareness and enthusiasm about the contemporary women's issues in development.

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Resource Persons and Participants

There were 15 Resource persons including the chairs of the sessions from all over India. Most of them are researchers and eminent personalities who have headed various committees and commission to influence public policy related to women. Some of them were also activists with grass root level experience. Some are eminent administrators with who have successfully implemented government programmes. They all had several years of experience of research and exposure to gender issues. The profile of the resources persons is given in the Appendix. The participants consisted of 44 lecturers from the disciplines of Economics, Sociology, Social work, Women's studies, Human rights, Home Science and Nutrition. There were two lecturers from Sciences and four from Management. Forty students also participated in the workshop. The students are from the levels of Ph. D, M. Phil and Post-graduation, mostly from the disciplines of Economics, Women's Studies and Nutrition. Six students were from Management. There were about 18 other participants some of them are experts in the field of Economics, Food Security, Nutrition, Gender and Natural Resource Management and journalism. Mr. Ignatius Xavier Joseph a painter was inspired by the work shop idea and painted a special painting on the occasion to depict the current role of women. The painting was unveiled by Dr. C. K. Gariyali, on this occasion. The Workshop was split up into four technical sessions, with an eminent chair person and three distinguished speakers. In the first session there were only two speakers as the inaugural session also had two main speakers.

The remarkable aspect of the work shop is the complementary nature of the speeches. Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, touched up on all the aspects of women's concerns and set the tone for the workshop in his inaugural address. The distinguished chief guest Dr. Chandra Gariyali with years of experience of practically dealing with important women's Programmes stressed the need for federating to take the self-help groups women's movement forward. The chairpersons of various sessions Dr. Devaki Jain, Dr. Sheela Rani Chunkat, Dr. V. Arunachalam, and Dr. Shanti Ghosh were all experts in their own right and conducted the sessions very efficiently by introducing the themes of the sessions, adding relevant information and then finally summing up the sessions.

The distinguished speakers such as Ms. Mina Swaminathan, Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, Ms. Tara Gandhi, Dr. Indira Hirway, Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Dr. Mini Mathew, Dr. Sara Ahmed, Dr. Sumi Krishna, Dr. Smita Gupta, Dr. Geetha Kutty and Dr. Swarna Rajgopal are all well aware of the women's concerns in food security at various levels. Their speeches complemented each other and effectively conveyed the message of the workshop to the audience- the faculty members and students of higher education.

The audience appreciated this unique opportunity of listening to the experts in the field provided to them. They actively participated in the discussions following the presentations. The feed back at the end of the sessions by the participants is the mark of success of the workshop. A number of colleges both autonomous as well as those affiliated to the Madras University expressed their desire to have a compulsory paper on Gender concerns so that the students become aware of the situation. Just as a paper on environment is made compulsory, the University makes a paper on the gender studies or women's studies compulsory. The workshop was a great success in two aspects. First the complementary nature of the presentations made the content of the work shop rich and brought out a better understanding of the issues. Secondly it achieved the objective of creating sufficient awareness among the participants and their enthusiasm in considering the inclusion of some of the topics in their curriculum.

Report of the Inaugural Session

Inaugural Session started at 10.00 am on February 26, 2007. **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan**, Chairman, MSSRF, delivered the Inaugural Address. **Dr. C.K. Gariyali**, Secretary to the Governor, Government of Tamil Nadu, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr M. Velayutham, Executive Director, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, (MSSRF) welcomed the chief guest, speakers, participants and the press. Dr. Swarna S Vepa, Programme Director and Ford Foundation Chair for Women and Sustainable Food Security, MSSRF, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The chief guest Dr. C.K. Gariyali and Prof. M. S. Swaminathan and resource persons were specially thanked for finding time to attend the work shop and address the gathering. The college faculty, students and other participants were thanked for their overwhelming response to the workshop. She thanked the Ministry of Women and Child welfare for funding the work shop.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in his inaugural address stressed that National Action and Policy Research Network on Women and Food Security is needed to deal with "all the links of the food chain including the four Cs that women play a role in - conservation, cultivation, consumption and commercialization. Dr. Swaminathan said it was important to adopt a women-centric approach in well-funded schemes such as the National Horticulture Mission, Bharat Nirman and the National Rural Health Mission. "There should be focus on women's contributions as well as their needs", he said. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan lamented that though investigations conducted in selected states in India show that more than 60% of agriculture operations are performed by women, the fact that they are more woman farmers is simply not reflected in any government record or Programme. While women account for 34 per cent of principal agricultural workers and 89 per cent of subsidiary workers, they were often deprived of tools such as land ownership, credit and market linkages and livelihood alternatives.

Dr. Swaminathan said the scope of work should be expanded under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. From the current guarantee of "unskilled work, the concept of work, in the case of women, should be widened to include activities such as

running crèches, noon meal schemes, immunization Programmes and family planning services," he said.

He said the country has come a long way from the time when he insisted on inclusion of a chapter on women in the sixth plan document, which was initially opposed on the grounds that there weren't enough schemes for a chapter to the level of accepting gender audit and gender budgeting. The most important step according to him was one third reservation of Panchayat seats for women. He stressed the need of legal literacy to the women Panchayat leaders.

Dr. C.K. Gariyali, Secretary to the Governor, pointed to Panchayat-level federations (PLFs) of self-help groups as an example of the participatory approach needed in governance and the framing of guidelines. "When 500 women get together, even the men take notice. Women have a say in Panchayat-level decisions," she said. "There are one thousand active PLFs in the State who play a key role in decision-making in every sphere, from better health services to biodiversity protection. Dr. Gariyali said Tamil Nadu was using a group approach to deal with women farmers not having access to credit because they did not hold titles to the land. "We are trying to provide credit to women's self help groups. They have a good reputation in the south," she said.

Prof. M. S. Swaminathan's speech

Thirumathi Chandra Gariyali and distinguished participants - I welcome all of you and add my words of welcome to those of Dr. Velayutham. We are particularly grateful to several of the leaders in this area, who are here with us. There is Dr. Shanti Ghosh whom I have known probably for 50 years or so. Dr. Devaki Jain who is an internationally accepted leader in this area is here. She has been honoured in many countries. Dr. Indira Hirway and Dr. Aasha Kapoor Mehta, who have just very successfully chaired the 11th plan working group and sub group on woman, food security and agriculture, have come. Ms. Sumi Krishna has been an old friend of this centre involved in almost all gender studies. I am happy to see Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan and many others who are going to

join us. I am particularly happy that so many colleges are represented and the professors and students are here.

The Ford Foundation Chair on Woman and Food Security was established at this Foundation in 2002 by Dr. Susan Berresford, President of the Ford Foundation on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Ford Foundation's presence in India. Jawaharlal Nehru invited Ford Foundation to open their office in India; and that was then first office outside the United States. The Ford Foundation India Office, and on the occasion of its 50th anniversary established several Golden Jubilee Chairs – one on Woman and sustainable food security was established at this Foundation. And we are happy to have Dr. Swarna Vepa as the first occupant of this important chair and she has worked hard in putting together this particular meeting.

We have eminent experts here and hence I will confine my remarks to a few issues which may be of interest particularly to the young scholars who are present in large number.

The Gender specific needs

The available statistical data show the growing importance of women as principal and subsidiary workers in agriculture. Their number is growing. The multiple-burden on a woman's time is also well known. They have the economic burden of earning, the biological reproductive joy of child bearing, the responsibility for home keeping and care giving to the family members. There are other kinds of burdens such as voluntary work, community work etc., on woman's time.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) provides employment of the last resort. It only provides a minimum wage. Unfortunately the Act itself specifies only unskilled work; We have been fighting for the concept of work to be enlarged in the context of NREGA, particularly in the case of women to include activities like running crèches, child care centres, preparation of noon meal in schools and immunisation of children, provision of family planning services and so on. The sooner it is done the more effective this programme would be as far as women are concerned.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has suggested a separate **Gram Mahila Fund** in the Panchayats -about 2 or 3 lakhs a year to meet gender specific needs such as a toilet etc. The Tamil Nadu government has given Rs.5 lakhs to every Panchayat, without any particular specification as to the use. We have requested in a recent meeting of Panchayati Raj leaders at Coimbatore to allocate at least half of the money for meeting gender specific needs in the Panchayat area.

NCF found that more than a crore of Kisan credit cards have been issued; but they have not kept gender disaggregated data. On questioning, NABARD officials felt that one or two percent of the Kisan Credit cards might have gone to women. They said that since women do not have (Pattas) title to land, the kisan credit cards are not issued to Women. Title to land therefore is a fundamental issue.

Recognition of Women as Farmers

In a recent 2006 survey report on “Status of Women farmers in Uttar Pradesh” brought out by NGO’s supported by Oxfam, the farmer is defined and assumed to be an adult male who has the right to the produce of the farm. Women are not classified as farmers. It is an interesting and somewhat depressing report I must say, but it is a well documented report in terms of issues. Investigations conducted in selected States in India show that more than 60% of agriculture operations are performed by women, yet the fact that they are more woman farmers is simply not reflected in any government record or programme.

The word feminisation of agriculture started being used since this Beijing Conference on Women held in 1995 where Dr. Devaki Jain was one of the honoured keynote speakers. Feminisation of agriculture is now growing at a fast pace in our country although precise data are not available. It is greater in the hills. In Uttarakand and in Jharkhand we find growing feminisation because of the out-migration of the men.

If farm ecology and economics go wrong, nothing else will go right in agriculture. The cost return structure of farming is becoming adverse. Hence men go out leaving

women in charge of the agricultural operations; but the problem there is that they do not have title to land. Hence they do not get credit. In many meetings in Uttarakhand, women farmers reported that they have been left to fend for themselves. Tribal women are even worse off. They are mostly dependent for their livelihood on the conservation and cultivation of a wide range of millets, tubers, medicinal plants, what we call life-saving crops, as well as non-timber forest products.

The National Policy on Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers in October 2006 has given a very comprehensive definition on farmers. But upfront, we indicated that for the purpose of this policy the term farmer will refer to both men and women, unlike in the Uttar Pradesh report that I mentioned earlier. The definition of farmer also includes agriculture labourers, landless labourers.

Many of the industrialists and rich people are today suggesting to the poor farmers to sell their land and quit farming. They want to setup Land Banks. If this policy goes on, there will be 50 crores of landless labour in our country! On the other hand people with say even one plot of land will have some steady income and better household nutrition security. Even a small plot of land helps you to grow coconut, jackfruit, banana, tapioca and so on. There is a boom today in the real estate sector and land prices are going up. Those who quit farming should have an entry point in some other sector. Otherwise there will be social chaos. Exit and entry policies must be developed in an integrated manner.

The term 'farmer' should refer to both men and women, and should include landless agriculture labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, small and marginal and sub-marginal cultivators and also fishermen and fisherwoman, those rearing livestock and poultry, pastoralists, small plantation owners as well as rural and tribal families engaged in a wide variety of farming related occupations, such as apiculture, sericulture, lac culture vermiculture and so on. The term farmer should include tribal families. Tribal families engage sometimes in shifting cultivation and in the collection and use of non-timber fodder product. We have also included farm and home science graduates as farmers provided of course they take to farming, because they will be educated farmers who can

bring a technological upgrading of farm operations. Home science graduates earning their livelihoods from crop and animal husbandry, fisheries and agro-forestry will have their rightful place in the world of farmers and farming.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

Fortunately in our country, some positive steps have been taken in the area of political empowerment of women. The most important step has been the one-third reservation of the membership in panchayats for women. We do hope that this will some extend up to parliament. Every session of Parliament is stalling this particular amendment, but some day or other it would come. But then we have 1.1 million women members of panchayats all over the country and several recent Acts have given additional responsibilities to Panchayats. Biodiversity Act for example vests the power of deciding issues like prices infirmed consent and benefit sharing with the Panchayats. The Biodiversity Act particularly mentions that the grass-root tier is the Panchayat. Rural and tribal communities are not aware of these powers. As women play a key role in biodiversity conservation and enhancement, they should be aware of these legal rights under the Biodiversity Act.

Women in Development: Engendering the National Programmes

The woman and development chapters in the 5-year plan documents are important, since they indicate the evolution of public policy and invest decisions. For the first time, when I was Acting Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in April 1980 it was decided to include in the VI Plan (1980-85) a chapter on Women and Development. Since then it has now continued in all the plan documents. Now there is a gender audit and gender budget. Mr. Chidambaram talks about gender budgeting – gender disaggregation of the resource allocation. Plan after Plan, this exercise has been given some teeth. What is needed is a very large number of well funded programmes.

The National Horticulture Mission has an outlay of Rs.20,000 crores for vegetables, fruits and flowers. The immediate task is to engender the National Horticulture Mission and the medicinal plants programme because that is where the traditional role of woman has been

very important. Therefore we have to ensure that the National Horticulture Mission gives women their rightful place.

Bharat Nirman – the New Deal for Rural India has an allocation of about 1,75,000 crores. Over one crore hectares are to be brought under irrigation. There is also the National Rural Health Mission. What is important is to ensure that these large projects are all engendered. They should look into the special needs as well as special expertise of women, in terms of their potential to contribute. Very large plans on the ground, which ought to be engendered, remain gender insensitive. The Rural Health Mission is a very important Programme from the point of view of introducing a woman – centric approach. There are provisions to do so. More recently the Department of Information Technology has sanctioned 100,000 rural common service centres, which provide the infrastructure for information and technology, like computers, printers, Internet connection and so on. Many woman students can run these centres. Through these centres you can engender the knowledge and information dissemination programmes.

Recognition of Women as biodiversity conservers

Imparting legal literacy with reference to the provisions of the Plant Variety Protection and Farmer's Rights Acts and the Biodiversity Act is important. Both these Acts provide funds for recognising the role of primary conservers.

Recently, for the first time, the first **Genome Saviour Awards** were given for biodiversity conservation. We are happy that one of the five groups recognised from different parts of the country, was from the Koraput District where we work. The tribal people and the tribal women were earlier recognised at the Sustainable Development Summit at Johannesburg through the *Equator Initiative Award*. They have been silent workers; they have been conserving for public good at personal cost- not many of us will do that. They have been conserving large number of land races of rice varieties. These kinds of recognition are important, because unless you recognise the value of the work they have done and that the society is grateful to them, there will not be any encouragement for continuing these conservation traditions. All of us in life require some

encouragement. These people have worked too long without any encouragement. Recognition to the unsung warriors of the food security systems is long over due.

Capacity building

In all the schemes we have to ensure right from the beginning that women play an equal part. There are a large number of self-help groups. Today self-help group has become one method of woman's empowerment and also group empowerment. Farms are becoming smaller and smaller in size. About 80% of our farmers operate 1 hectare that is 2.5 acres or below. All these people will benefit from group-cooperation - self-help groups. They need not be only for woman - after all gender means both men and women. Food and local level food security systems are important. Woman managed community food security systems have been promoted from this Centre. Community gene-seed-grain-water banks help to link conservation, cultivation, consumption and commerce in a mutually reinforcing manner.

What is important in the case of rural women is to reduce the number of hours of work. They are over worked and underfed. We should help to reduce the number of hours of work and add value to each hour of work. In other words, shift their work from unskilled to skilled work. That transition has to come.

Nutrition and HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, Food-cum-Drug based approach

We have had a couple of discussions on HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis, the new pandemics which are emerging. India now after South Africa is most hit by HIV AIDS. We had a meeting between India and South Africa experts to compare notes. One aspect, which came out very clearly is the need for a nutrition cum drug based approach. Antiretroviral treatment alone will not help, because many of those affected are physically need. In the case of tuberculosis also, one has to take the drug over a long period of time. For Leprosy and tuberculosis, it is not just one shot treatment. It is spread over a long period and hence it is important that there is a combined nutrition cum health approach.

Unfortunately since the Food Ministry is different from the Ministry of Health this is not being done. With these kinds of linkages, you will get much higher synergy and positive impact on the patient.

Action and Policy Research Network for Women in Agriculture

A longitudinal study of the specific public policy and programme needs of women working in agriculture is necessary. Such a national network, action and policy network should deal with all links in the food chain that is conservation of resources, cultivation, and consumption and commercialization. All the four Cs should be looked into. The role of women as conservers, cultivators and breeders will have to be given explicit recognition.

The National Action and Policy Research Network for Women in Agriculture should take into consideration the availability of food which is a function of production, access to food which is a function of purchasing power or jobs, and absorption of food which deals with non-food factors like environmental hygiene, clean drinking water. Clean drinking water is now becoming a great luxury.

Similarly the network has to deal with the prevalence and control of all three forms of hunger, endemic hunger, hidden hunger and transient hunger. Chronic protein-energy malnourishment occurs largely because of lack of purchasing power. Foetal and maternal malnutrition leading to low birth weight children is one of the great dangers to our country in terms of the emerging knowledge society. The cruellest form of inequity is to deny the child at birth itself an opportunity for its innate brain development. The genetic potential for brain development is hampered as a result of endemic hunger and hidden hunger. Hidden hunger is getting very serious, iron deficiency anaemia and iodine, zinc deficiencies and so on. Transient hunger occurs during droughts and floods and during national calamities. Transient hunger is seen even in places such as Thane, not far from Mumbai. The NDTV in the programme “Republic of Hunger” has shown a series of pictures of under-nutrition in Thane.

Such a National network of Action and Policy research, if it emerges, has to be on a Hub and Spokes model covering all major agro-ecosystems.

One has to look at the problems of women and men farmers, in a disaggregated manner in coastal semiarid and arid area as well as in Andaman and Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep group of islands.

Finally let me say one of the most powerful tools is knowledge and information empowerment of people. We have established a, a National Virtual Academy, named after Jamsetji Tata. This particular Academy brings together all the available tools -- for example the Internet, the cable TV, the community radio, or the FM radio, the cell phone and the local newspapers. The Internet-cell phone combination is a very powerful one. Fisher folks for example can now identify with the cell phone where the fish are. The GPS data, which is fed into the phone, enables them to do so. It is an enormous new opportunity. The Fellows of this Academy, now numbering over a thousand, are ordinary village women and men, who have mastered the applications of ICT in development.

Vidarbha Suicide Widows

I started with the Uttar Pradesh report, which is very depressing. I shall also end on a sad note. There is increasing number of farmer suicides in our country. The widowed women are left behind without any support. Many of those who committed suicides are cotton farmers, who have taken to light risk technologies. If technology fails they don't have the coping capacity. The government programmes do not benefit the poor people who bear the brunt of the failure of technology. They are not designed to ameliorate their conditions.

In the past there were joint family systems which provided some insulation. If one member of the family is in distress the others supported. Now it has broken down. Therefore when we deal with gender concerns and food security it is also important to start realising the growing economic difficulties faced by the food producers. We can not have food security without the availability of food. What the women in the agrarian

distress hotspots need is both psychological and livelihood support. We have therefore started in Vidarbha a Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana for the power of empowering women farmers with technology, training, techno-infrastructure and trade linkages. Through VKCs we can also issue them an **Entitlements Passbook** which will empower them with information on all projects and support systems available to them.

1. Report of the First Session on Macro Economic Implications of Gender Discrimination

The Workshop was split up into 4 technical sessions. The first technical session was titled “**Macro Economic Implications of Gender Discrimination**”. This session was chaired by Dr. Devaki Jain, Trustee, Singamma Srinivasan Foundation, Bangalore. Dr Indira Hirway, Executive Director and Professor of Economics, Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmadabad made a presentation on “Underestimation of women’s contribution to National Income – Implications to Gender Justice”. Dr Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi spoke on “Gender Budgeting and its Implications to Gender Equity”.

Dr. Devaki Jain: Theme Presentation

Dr. Devaki Jain started the first session on macro economic implications of gender concerns on an introspective note. She said that the current trade led macro economic growth discourse in India is preoccupied with the fiscal issues. High level of GDP growth coexists with mal nourishment, deprivation and near collapse of agriculture, the life line of India. India is taking an un-dignified growth path. Women have their traditional formal and informal knowledge and lived experience. They also have a resolve to struggle for the protection of India’s agriculture, natural resources and human resources. However there is no recognition for this knowledge and the struggle. She believes that women’s knowledge if recognized and utilized could change the growth path of India to a dignified one.

Women are known as practical practitioners, at the village level. Women take pride in achieving change for the better at the grass-root level. However it is equally important to bring about a change at the macro level. Hence Dr. Devaki Jain feels that it is time for women to move on and enter the male intellectual space and change the Macro economic thinking. Only when women supply the nicely chiselled knowledge, in terms of data, analysis and reasoning that they are heard. The intellectual history of the women in the United Nations and Development, shows how women have been able supply such knowledge and influence the national and international policy. Dr. Devaki Jain’s new

formulation was that campaigning and public action is a necessary but not sufficient condition to change the mindset of those, who construct theories of growth without looking at the connection between growth and its impact of exclusion.

Dr. Devaki Jain lamented about the appalling lack of analysis and recognition of the weak link between growth and the informal economy, agriculture and labour welfare in the Eleventh Plan approach document. She also elaborated how the approach paper paid lip service to women's issues in the earlier part of the paper but totally neglected all the concerns of women except deteriorating infantile sex ratio in its action plan. All the countries in world are floundering on macro economic theory and policy. Women's reasoned knowledge has to transform the way growth theories and macroeconomic policies are being designed. She said in this context the Women economists' group being formed in the planning Commission is significant.

Thus essentially the theme presentation of Devaki Jain stressed the popular sentiment of feminist economists that the present Macro economic theories and policies do not address women's concerns. However Dr. Devaki Jain went one step ahead and indicated that the most crucial neglect in the Indian context is the struggle of rural women on whose backs agriculture is sustained today. She also pointed out that the Government is unable to comprehend the adverse impacts of economic growth on women in agriculture. Both Indira Hirway and Aasha Kapur Mehta made presentations essentially to elaborate the nature of neglect of women's concerns by the macro policies.

Dr. Indira Hirway – Underestimation of Women's Contribution to National Income: Implications to Gender Justice

Dr. Indira Hirway, in her presentation titled Macro economic Implications of Gender discrimination clearly brought out the gender discrimination that occurs due to the underestimation of women's contribution to national Income and non recognition of women's unpaid household work. Dr. Indira Hirway's presentation was a systematic attempt to bring out the implications of underestimation of women's contribution to National Income.

She began her presentation by defining National Income. National income is defined as value of total production of goods and services produced, or total income accrued to different factors of production, or total consumption and total saving in the economy. The exact coverage of national income is governed by the production boundary of the UN System of National Accounts. There is an international body, known as United Nations System of National Income (UNSNA). They define production boundary and all national governments are expected to follow this production boundary for the coverage of national income. Activities under UNSNA, are broadly divided into three categories – first the activities covered under production boundary, which become a part of the National Income, second, the activities covered under general production boundary, where activities are related to production of goods and services are included. Particularly services are included and these are activities which are not a part of national income but which contribute to national well-being. There are a third type of activities under Personal services, i.e. activities that can not be delegated to others such as sleeping reading etc., which are not included in the national Income. Except the unpaid domestic service, the present United Nations System of National Accounting covers both goods and services produced for the market as well as for self consumption. The only exclusion since 1993 was unpaid domestic services. This is popularly known as care economy. They are excluded from the purview of National Income Accounting. The argument for the exclusion was that they had limited repercussion on the rest of the economy. Another argument was that since the domestic services are not produced for the market, it is difficult to impute meaningful values to them.

The contribution of women's work is underestimated in the National Income. The production not included in the national income is that arising out of illegal activities and unauthorized activities and the production of the informal sector and subsistence sector. The underestimation of women's contribution to GDP arises out of the underestimation of the workers and production in informal sector and subsistence, where many women are engaged. Indira Hirway then went on to explain how this underestimation occurs. Non response, non registration leading non identification of some of the enterprises in the

informal sector is very common. It also happens due to the seasonal nature of some enterprise. They are missed out in the usual Census and occasional surveys. There is a large scope for underestimation of production as well as the workers in these enterprises as it is not recognized by the people engaged in them. Supplementing the census and occasional survey information with mixed surveys of labour and enterprises, economic census, and time use surveys would reduce this underestimation. The under estimation in subsistence sector occurs mostly due to under valuation of the production and the work and income. Here again time use survey can greatly improve the estimates of both workers and production.

She also elaborated the problems of discrimination arising out of excluding unpaid domestic services. There are several arguments put forward including the difficulty of valuing unpaid household services. It is argued that unpaid domestic services, which are discarded by UN SNA system as a part of national income should not be valued at all. However unpaid household services such as cleaning cooking, teaching, taking care of the children, the elderly, and the sick are not completely out side the market economy in the strict sense. These very services are interchangeable with services available in the market. Business cycles affect the volume of unpaid domestic services. During the boom period, when unemployment is low, people pay for these services and get it done by the market. During depressions when unemployment is high people revert back to the home services. There are two methods of valuing the unpaid domestic work. Output method has more advantages over input method. The total economy concept includes both paid and unpaid work. Unless both the parts of the economy are taken in to consideration it is not possible to measure the over all welfare to the People.

Both underestimations of National Income arising out of subsistence and informal sectors and non inclusion of unpaid household services, brings in gender discrimination. Since women predominantly work in the under estimated sectors their work remains invisible and their contribution to national well-being is not recognized adequately. Hence women's concerns and constraints remain invisible and are not addressed. Women receive less than the fair share of public resources for improving productivity and growth.

Women are excluded from social protection as they are not even recognized as workers. Women get discriminated in cases of divorce, insurance and labour protection, if their work is not valued or underestimated.

Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta: Gender Budgeting and its Implications to Gender Equity

Dr Aasha Kapur Mehta the second speaker in the session has taken off from where Dr. Indira Hirway had left to highlight the gender discrimination in public expenditure and public policy. In her presentation titled “**Gender Budgeting and Gender Equity**” She began by defining gender budgeting and went on to elaborate her research on micro studies to guide macro policies. Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta’s presentation provides gender sensitive perspective for budgeting. Her in-depth case studies from micro perspective provide valuable inputs for sensitizing the Planning making Budget allocations in the areas most needed. She chose two areas of utmost importance to women -- Care with special reference to HIV Aids and gender concerns in agriculture to show what needs to be done to make public policy more gender sensitive. She elaborated the case of HIV aids among the poverty group in great detail.

As explained by Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta, the Union Budget is not just an annual statement of receipts and expenditures; it is an instrument for fulfilling the obligations of the State, it is a political statement of the priorities and asset by government in resource allocation. It reflects the values of our country, who it values, whose work it values, who it rewards, and who and what work it doesn’t. Gender budgets are not separate budgets for women or men. Policies have different outcomes for men and women. Gender budgets disaggregate main stream budgets, based on their impact on women and men. The purpose of the gender budgeting is to improve access of women to public resources and to mainstream gender concerns.

Some of the mile stones of gender Budgeting in India may be of relevance here to understand the context of Aasha Kapur Mehta’s presentation. India adopted the women’s Component Plan approach for gender sensitive resource allocation in the Ninth Plan

(1997-2002). The tenth Plan reinforced the commitment to gender budgeting. There was a commitment to study the gender differential impacts of the plan to translate gender commitments as budgetary commitments. However as has been mentioned by Aasha Kapur Mehta, there is vast difference between the intentions and plan pronouncements and the ground realities. Having made the commitment to gender just budget allocations, reviewing the performance of the tenth plan, the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan noted that the reality is that women still remain largely untouched by Gender-just and gender sensitive budgets as well as the Women's Component Plan.

The first formal exercise in gender budgeting at the national level was done by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) when they analyzed the union Budget. The report of the NIPFP categorizes the expenditure under three categories. Women specific allocations specifically targeted to women and girls; pro women allocations which are composite expenditure of schemes with women component; and mainstream public expenditure that have gender differential impacts. The study highlighted the low proportion of women related allocations in the union budget, and the tendency for the revised budgets to allocate even less. The poor performance of the budgets in respect of allocations and gender insensitivity became abundantly clear. For example direct allocations specially targeted to women and girls under various ministries in the union Budget in 2003-04 amounted to 0.84 of the total expenditure. The share of pro-women allocations declined from 3.89 % in 1995-96 to 2.19 in 2003-04. Main stream public expenditure has very little impact on women. ¹

Ministry of finance had constituted an expert group on classification system of government transactions. The government accepted the recommendations of the expert committee and constituted an inter-departmental committee of the Ministry of finance, Ministry of women and child development and the planning Commission. Following their recommendation all the departments were asked to have a gender budgeting cell. Eighteen departments were asked to reflect scheme-wise physical targets and expenditure benefiting women in their performance budget in 2004-05. One of the relevant

¹ Ashok Lahiri, Lekha Chakraborty and P.N. Bhattacharya, "Gender budgeting in India".

recommendations was to undertake micro studies to analyze the impacts of government schemes and to identify the needs for reprioritizing the budget expenditure. . A number of studies were undertaken by several agencies and academic institutions. Some of them were initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

In this context, Aasha Kapur Mehta's micro case study illustrates the areas into which the plan expenditure has to go. She pointed out that we have been promised 3% of aggregate resources to health and it hasn't happened. She chose health care in the context of HIV aids to illustrate this point. It was a lucid narration of the plight of three women in HIV affected families and lack of public care. She takes HIV-AIDS as one case just to bring to our notice the gap, the huge gap, between what is needed and what is done, to understand the purpose of Gender Budgeting.

As per the current statistics the expenditure on health is declining as percentage of the total expenditure. The gap in morbidity between women and men is also increasing. In the poverty groups women's burden as care givers is on the increase. Care in the context of health involves huge range of services and activities that include physical care, clinical care, emotional care, financial care, and nutritional care. Care has many dimensions. Physical care can be given even at the hospital or at home. The major burden of care giving at home falls on women. Nutritional care is extremely important for HIV positive patients. Unfortunately, information regarding cheap sources of nutritious food is often not even known. Financial care is critical. When infections become frequent the person suffering from HIV Aids will no longer be able to work. Income decreases very suddenly either due to the in ability to work or when the status is discovered and the person loses his or her job. On the one hand you lose income and on the other hand medical bills go up Assets however meagre are sold in distress; the family is very often left shelter-less. Now assuming that there is a cure, family members run from one doctor to another, whether herbal, ayurvedic or allopathic; when all sources of funds are exhausted the housewives who had never worked outside the home before often takes casual work such as sweeping and swabbing floors, to earn some money to feed the children. Making a living, taking

care of children and paying for medicine and adherence to treatment so as not to acquire drug resistance become a problem.

And the question is what does the budget and what does the plan allocations spent every year do for people who need help? What they need actually is facilitation and getting access to information regarding medication, adherence to treatment monitoring and testing, to reduce the possibility of incorrect diagnosis, prescription and drug resistance. What they need is access to drug, such as antiretroviral agents (ARV) and better nutrition. It needs government attention. Patients start treatment on private clinic even though they can't afford it; when they stop the treatment, drug resistance can set in. Official standards are needed with regard to ARV drug that need to be maintained. Information about HIV-AIDS, in terms of occasional illness, symptoms, exposure, prevention, testing facilities for determining status, follow up tests, treatment, importance of nutrition, importance of clean drinking water need to be publicized on a massive scale. After a person is started on ART, CD-4 counts change and monitoring this is important though expensive. Representatives of Positive Peoples Networks should be present when patients are started on ARV, so that they can patiently explain the importance of regularity in taking medicines, adherence to schedule, of drinking boiled water etc to avoid diarrhoea.

Training and infrastructure needs of health care providers are important. Latest developments in medicine at all levels need to be identified and met with. Doctors must be made aware of the latest developments in medicine so that they do not prescribe outdated medicines. District hospitals must have an ambulance and functional x-ray, sonography, Electro Cardio Gram and CD-4 count measuring machines that are maintained and available for 24 hours each day. In government hospitals the list of scheduled drugs need to be changed to include the latest antibiotics that can be used depending on the discretion of the doctor. Funds must be allocated urgently to providing access to pre and post test counselling, information on nutrition and medical care, treatment with antiretroviral agents and hygiene, clean drinking water and sanitation. Provision of accurate information regarding the treatment, care and costs will go a long way towards reducing exploitation and unnecessary expenditure. Information about the

treatment regimes for anaemia, malaria, TB, HIV, and other illnesses are needed as this leads to debilitation and loss of income plus expenditure on medication. She stressed the need for Government facilitation in the following areas in respect of HIV Aids.

- Facilitation in getting access to information regarding medication, adherence, monitoring and testing
- To reduce the possibility of incorrect diagnosis, prescription and drug resistance.
- Access to drugs such as ARV and continuity of access to it
- Awareness about the drug resistance in HIV aid Patients who start the treatment in private clinics even though they cannot afford it and stop it latter
- Maintenance of Official standards with respect to the ARV drugs
- Monitor and Regulate Private care providers

2. Report of the Second Session on Gender Concerns in Food Production Sustainability and Access to Natural Resources

Dr. V. Arunachalam, Adviser, MSSRF, chaired this session. Dr. Sara Ahmed, an Independent Researcher and Consultant on Gender and Water Governance based in Ahmadabad made a presentation on “Gender Concerns in Water Management”. Dr Sumi Krishna, an Independent Researcher based in Bangalore spoke on “Gender, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management”. Ms Tara Gandhi, Advisor, National Virtual Academy, MSSRF, presented a paper on “Foods from Natural Ecosystems – Rural Women’s need to Ecological Security”

Dr. V. Arunachalam: Theme Presentation

Dr. V. Arunachalam, who chaired the session made introductory remarks on the role of women in Natural Resource management, with particular reference to his experience of Biodiversity conservation in the Koraput District of Orissa. Jaypore tract of Orissa was the home of rice and it had many varieties of rice. Their cultivation has been slowly dwindling down over time. Large Varieties of rice are used by the tribal people, in their religious rituals. As fewer and fewer rituals are followed, fewer and fewer varieties are widely cultivated. When we begin conservation we had to talk to tribal women and tribal families to collect a few varieties of seeds which are very different from what we normally get. We started our work with social helpers who permeated into the tribal social circles and retrieved varieties of seeds for conservation. When we started women did not participate in our efforts instantaneously. Probably the social background of tribal people was the cause of some sort of hesitation in participating in biodiversity conservation efforts. After five years of our conservation work, many women now enthusiastically participate in bio diversity conservation. An aromatic traditional rice variety called “Kala Jeera”- (a sticky rice variety with strong aroma) has been conserved by us through cultivation and commercialization efforts of MSSRF. Eventually, the women involved in the conservation received international acclaim by receiving awards such as Equator initiative award. What is essential to mention here is the way the gender relations and gender equations changed visibly in the community due to the participatory

approach adopted by us for biodiversity conservation. Now tribal women in our project area take very active part in conservation through cultivation and commercial selling.

Dr. Sara Ahmed – Gender Concerns in Water Management

Dr. Sara Ahmed started by pointing out that water is a political marker of competing development paradigms of large dams or river linking vis-à-vis community based, decentralized water management. It is an economic marker of power that comes through commoditization or ‘pricing’ of water vis-à-vis the human right to water and water for livelihoods. It is a cultural marker of social stratification that postulate norms on purity and ‘pollution’ to mark who has access to which water source in a community.

The topic is women’s participation in community water management. Let us start by asking why is gender a water concern? To most of us who are gender specialists, the word gender does not just mean men and women and the relationship between them. Gender encompasses a much larger social context of diversity, equity, social inclusion, Poverty and so on. On gender issues in water managements, we have been hearing in various international forums that both women and men need to be involved in participatory water management and that they should have an equal voice in managing resources and that in particular the role of women needs to be strengthened. You hear this in the context of Millennium developmental goals, in the context of United Nations Economic and Social council’s (UNECOSOC) Right to water, Integrated water resource management and Gender approaches such as Gender in Water alliance (GWA) and Gender Water partnerships (GWP).

The entire decade of seventies and eighties concentrated on Women in the household and the domestic water needs. The UN water and sanitation decade focused on involving women in the projects that basically address safe water needs and access to sanitation, because women were seen responsible for household needs, for looking after children and so on. Women were latter seen as ‘privileged water managers with extension of household work to community domain, consisting of unpaid and underpaid labour with little decision-making role. This approach does not challenge the gender equity in access

to resources. Only in the nineties in the wake of the economic and sectoral reforms in India, we started talking about institutional restructuring, decentralization and community participation. The state has changed its role from providers of water to facilitators of meeting water demand. The governments adopted the principle that users need to pay and contribute towards operation and management. What the Government is saying is that “we’re responsible for bringing water to your village, whether it is through a pipeline or developing a local water resource, you manage the rest of it and you establish and you decide how you contribute.

The Gujarat Government is seen as a pioneer in successfully forging the public –private partnerships and partnerships between the State and the society. It is popularly known as the public private partnership models. The case in point is the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project in south coastal Gujarat, funded by a Dutch company. The whole idea was to recover the cost and build local capacity to manage local water resources. One of the mandatory functions of the Panchayats is providing water and sanitation. Panchayats form sub committees to manage these functions. The subcommittee is called Paani Samithi in Gujarat. Building partnerships between the state and communities is difficult. NGOs will have to act as the facilitating organizations. It is because the government is always seen by people to have a top down approach with large amount of money spent on construction of dams and large sums misappropriated due to Corruption. Communities were never consulted. Hence bureaucracy is seen with suspicion. On the other hand, government water engineers view participatory approach as time consuming, populist. Suddenly one cannot expect bureaucrats to work with a community. Pani samitis need technical skills and capacity building for management. What we found in our evaluation of water management Programme is that there is a need for a strong gender sensitive implementing agencies and facilitating NGO to make things happen. Such NGOs were able to help manage decentralized water alternatives with strong women’s participation and participation of vulnerable groups, able to negotiating space for voices of powerless to be heard, able to contest techno-centrism, recognize women’s and community’s role in monitoring contractors, construction by community and so on.

In the above mentioned project in Gujarat, a policy advocacy network on the ‘Right to water and sanitation for all’ called “Pravah” has been built with more than a 100 member NGOs in the state. Over the last two years it has been able to influence the communities and make them participate in the management. It takes a while to chip away some of the strong bureaucratic structures. Today in addition to the facilitating state-community partnership, the NGO network has also become the people's learning centre on water and sanitation. Changing hearts, minds of people and winning confidence is very difficult and takes time and concerted effort.

The other set of concerns are around the water for agriculture. Agriculture is the largest consumer of water in India - almost 75 - 80% of water goes to the agriculture sector. A lot of wastage occurs in this sector. A lot less work is done around gender concerns in irrigation water. Since 1990s we have been talking about participatory irrigation management approaches with farmers and most of these participatory approaches. Unfortunately, participatory irrigation management only looks at farmers and those who own land. Not only are the women left out of these associations but also the landless dalits, small and marginal farmers, adivasis and so on. There are several issues of concern for women farmers such as the timing and delivery of water, need for labour, water share during scarcity, lack of link between land rights and water rights.

In this context, the work of Agakhan Rural Support Programme (AKSP) in Gujarat is laudable. For almost a decade or so, they have been trying to engender their irrigation intervention and they have done this in several steps. The first was to win the support of adivasi men for the involvement of women. It has been done through participatory rural appraisals on gender role analysis and decision-making processes in agriculture. They also gave nominal membership of women in general body and executive committee of Water Users Associations, without voting rights. In all these processes of engaging men and women and enlisting support for participatory management, there is a need for a strong leadership on the top, whether it is male or female. One of the most critical factors that make the NGO's fail in the long run is their inability to build a strong, sustainable second line of leadership. AKSP has shown that given a chance, the Women members are

more efficient in collecting irrigation dues, resolving conflicts, framing rules, and preventing water wastage. However, the women members lack executive powers as they do not own land. Joint membership from households is now being encouraged in many water user associations of Maharashtra.

There is a large network on land rights in India, which has till now kept the question of water rights (acceptability) separate. I do not think you can talk about lands rights as separate from the water rights. We understand the need for separating water rights from land ownership, but not necessarily water rights from the whole question of land user rights. Unfortunately the land rights network has not taken the issue of water on board right now.

A gender approach recognizes that, diverse water needs and priorities of men and women even within the same household arise from their different tasks and roles. Differences in access to and 'control' over water resources- public /private /common, are mediated by class, caste, faith, age and other relations of power underlying institutions such as community, households, state, market, Gender roles do change in a dynamic and contested manner. Water has never been a 'free good' for the poor, particularly women, who bear a disproportionate burden with respect to their access to and 'control' over water resources

Despite the encouraging work by NGOs the gender gap persists. Millennium Development Goals set targets for water and sanitation and the focus is on coverage rather than on access or equity. Growing privatization of water has a donor driven agenda and discounts needs of the poor and the women. Rhetoric of enhancing women's participation in decentralized water management continues, yet water policy remains gender blind. It treats women as a homogenous category, looks at the household as a unit and overlooks contextual factors in which participation is embedded.

Gender mainstreaming is seen as a 'technical' problem. Gender main streaming is somehow all about framework, manuals and do it well and do it right and that of practices

and so on. We have all fallen into this trap and many people are now stepping back and reconsidering the strategy. They are considering how we can realistically take on the concern for water for drinking and water for livelihood. All of us, activists, academics, all working in the sector, haven't yet been able to define very clearly on what is that minimum water assurance that people need. There is massive inequity in water usage between communities between people residing in different locations.

When one starts looking at river basins and watersheds one realizes how complex water issues are. In the context of “Palar” River basin the conflict arose due to environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods. Declining agricultural production, over exploitation of Groundwater for sale to Chennai water tankers, Industrial contamination of available water, Sand-mining that exposes the river bed, affecting water supplies, are all serious issues affecting livelihoods. To resolve the conflict between the sand and water contractors, polluting industries on one hand and the local population on the other, village committees have been formed and federated at the block level and the district level. This facilitates the stake holder’s dialogue for conflict resolution. A large number of women from village communities are involved in these committees and dialogues and media meetings. Finally it is important to join the wider policy networks that reach the water concerns of the people to a larger forum that could influence national and international policy.

Dr. Sumi Krishna – Gender, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

Both the terms Bio-diversity and Gender came into prominence in the 1990s. Both the terms “Gender” and “Biodiversity” include a number of contextualized issues. In the Indian Context there are two approaches to women and environment, and women and nature, whether at the policy level, or at the academic level or in the general context of public discourse. The first is the conventional approach in which there is a simple inclusion of women. Women are included in natural resource conservation or natural resource management. The positive aspect is that it brings a number of women who were excluded earlier into a frame work of natural resource conservation and management.

The second is celebrity approach, in which the linkage of women with nature is romanticized. This is a way of romanticizing women's work (drudgery). Both the conventional approach and celebrity approach are based on the traditional sexual division of labour. These approaches are the ones being questioned these days as not being just and equal. The biological diversity of India has been recorded since the pre colonial periods, through a number of surveys such as botanical survey, zoological survey and geological survey. There are institutions dealing with fisheries, livestock and plants. They are technical Institutions and they did not study the social aspect of the diversity. Even the land mark report on *Status of Women* (1975) dealt with women's work but not with aspects related to Natural Resources, such as fodder and firewood collection.

Gender in biodiversity management

Only after the biological diversity Convention of the United Nations in 1992 that the gender dimensions of biodiversity has been studied. Systematic field ethnography of the gender dimensions of biodiversity started only in late nineties. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation studied gender dimensions of Biodiversity. People say that women know a lot about biodiversity. But it is important to contextualize the knowledge and document what women know.

This brings us to the culturally and traditionally defined gender roles. Gender role differentiation is context-specific. It is often said that women do not plough land; women do not chop wood; and women do not row the boats; However all this changes when necessity arises. The culture also provides women and men with space for movement into each others roles in disaster situations such as drought, male migration and tsunami.

It is well documented that women have the knowledge of biodiversity and conservation. Women are adept at using bio-resources for healing and medicine. They have knowledge of multiple-uses of wild foods. They play an important role in conserving agro biodiversity through multiple cropping systems, and in preventing genetic erosion through preserving local varieties. They also contribute to value addition (breeding and genetic enhancement) through seed selection. It is because they are involved in

agricultural production. Women's knowledge of seeds, wild plants their medicinal properties and so on is due to the gender roles traditionally assigned to women in their communities. These traditional roles of women are very patriarchal. For example customary worship of particular species by girls and women is a means of patriarchal socialization. Whether it is worship of a particular species, or about the sacred groves which are praised as a very rich Indian conservation ethics, sacredness rests on inequitable gender relations. So, there is need to rethink the sacred in conservation practice.

Women's ecological knowledge base is significant but documentation of this is fragmentary and episodic; Women's contribution to conservation practice is high in communities, classes that do not practice gender seclusion. There is now recognition that women play key roles in preserving diversity, that women provide labour, Knowledge, expertise that are essential to conservation. But policies and Programmes do not question the gendered division of labour and responsibilities. In agriculturally developed areas, where market penetration is greater, women are less involved in conservation activities. Both traditional and modern knowledge of biodiversity is gendered. The formal biodiversity management system is deeply patriarchal (at global and national levels).

Interventions that involve women do so, through 'house-wifing' of natural resource-related roles and skills. They reinforce tradition and subordination rather than challenge gender role differentiation. The approach of the policy and Programmes is to simply put women where they work better than men. Getting the work done becomes more important than the use of women's knowledge and bringing in gender equity. The aim of the Programme is involvement of women to achieve a forest related or agriculture related or biodiversity related objective and not gender equity. For example the older women in the northeast possesses the knowledge of bio diversity conservation and management but they busy working in the fields putting in hard labour to make both ends meet, as the men and younger women migrate or move out of agriculture.

Joint Forest management (JFM) has been looked upon as one of the success stories of the government and people working together. Emphasis on Women's involvement in Joint Forest Management (JFM) increased in the eighties when the externally funded projects came into India. Unlike the earlier generation Programmes, gender terminology increased but Women's participation declined. Even if the membership on JFM committees increased their role as advisories declined. Many evaluation studies show that while women are included in the JFM Committees, most of the meetings are held without women's participation. Women are not even informed about the meeting. The JFM rules permit such instances. At the policy planning and programme levels JFM has not been able to institutionalise gender concerns. Instead there is hidden belief that women's participation in JFM committees weakens the management system. Bringing women's voices into JFM requires developing inter disciplinary approaches and encouraging dialogue among different practitioners.

The water-shed development in the nineties became water-shed plus. There was this much larger Programme talking about participatory approaches and so on. Again the studies have clearly shown that although some benefits have accrued ecological and economic, they have very low female participation.

This is true of the whole irrigation sector. Participatory irrigation management is no doubt decentralized and participatory but it is broadly the picture is of exclusion of non land-owners dalits, and women. And it is not just a traditional exclusion. The traditional systems are gendered but even new systems created from public money are also carrying forward these forms of exclusion. The classic example is the of water user associations in Andhra Pradesh that are dominated by the land owning class. Class caste and gender determine decision making and control.

The focus of the Livelihood Programmes in the recent times is not on environmental sustainability or the livelihood /income sustainability, but only on the productivity increase. Livestock rearing is the one of the important livelihoods of rural people. There is a clear division of labour in the livestock sector. Women take care of the animals and

the veterinary care is in the hands of men. In recent times the modern veterinary care has completely collapsed and villagers turned to traditional healers. They are all men and they do not pass on the knowledge to the daughters and the sons left the profession. In this context ANTHRA an NGO, worked with these groups and was able to get the fathers, who wanted to preserve the knowledge because pass on to the daughters. Now there are younger women, who are both taking care of animals, as well as providing the veterinary care.

There are some important issues and challenge to be addressed. First challenge is that power equations of men and women are embedded in the traditional roles, in management systems, and in landscapes. Harmonious landscapes are ecologically balanced ones. They are maintained with traditional knowledge as in the case of irrigated high altitude rice cultivation of Arunachal Pradesh. Yet the gender roles are highly inequitable. The men look after the forest and irrigation channels on the hill slopes that bring water to the rice fields, while the entire back breaking work of rice production and fish production is done by women. They are harmonious because they have been there for so long unchallenged. With modern impacts labour intensive roles are given to the elderly women in the villages. The second point is marginalization of biodiversity and Natural Resource Management knowledge and expertise. Our disciplinary, professional biases some time prevent recognition and blending of different knowledge systems. It is not possible to preserve the knowledge without preserving the environment in which it is situated. We realize the importance of preserving the biodiversity and natural resource management knowledge, but we fail to preserve the environment.

For example how is it possible to preserve the sustainable environment of the region with the centuries old knowledge of local breeds and of cattle, when the very sustainability is threatened by bringing in cattle varieties, which are unsuitable to the local conditions in the name of poverty alleviation and productivity enhancement? This is another example where, the world Bank funded Programme recommended Murrah buffaloes in place of local breeds and it was resisted by the women, who know that the feed and water requirements of the new breeds are not suited to the local conditions. Yet loans were

given only for Murrah buffaloes and not for the local cattle. At the end of the unfortunate episode of this forced scheme, all the buffaloes died leaving the people with huge loans and deepened poverty. One of the problems here is that our own disciplinary biases prevent us from recognizing these different kinds of knowledge.

Another example of positive intervention of preserving and enhancing the traditional knowledge as well as breaking the traditional barriers of caste and class and gender is that of Madhubani paintings. Traditionally only farm women and fisher women used paint on the pictures on the walls. They had several traditional restrictions on which caste could use what colours and who could paint landscapes and who are allowed paint human figures and so on. A government intervention during sixties facilitated the painting on cloth and canvass instead of walls to provide livelihoods to the people hit by drought. The moment the medium of the painting changed and it was profitable, all the caste and gender barriers slowly dissipated and every one painted and now the painting industry is flourishing. This was one of a fortuitous intervention that changed gender, caste, traditional role and provided a new kind of income

The third point is the reinforcement of gender gaps, traditional inequities through new institutional structures such as water user's societies and new legal regimes. Erosion of communitarian system of access, and promoting rights vested with individuals, increases gender inequity. There is a tussle between the elected local political bodies such as Panchayats and the decentralized natural resource management systems such as user associations. Decentralization without democratization only reinforces existing inequities including gender in equity.

Ms. Tara Gandhi – Foods from Natural Ecosystems: Rural Women's need to Ecological Security

Coming from a background of conservation, the speaker started off with a brief explanation of foods from natural ecosystems placing it in the context of the need of the rural woman for ecological security. The speaker started with a very significant quote by Amartya Sen, "No one has as much stake in the natural environment as the poor". Foods

from natural ecosystems refer to wild, uncultivated foods produced by natural ecosystems, which occur naturally with no human intervention. And they are often lifesaving, giving the rural woman the assurance of a good meal for her family and for herself, whatever may be the other challenges that she may have to face. Therefore, access to these wild food resources in and around the village is of tremendous importance. Each of these foods harbours their own unique biodiversity of flora and fauna that is adapted to that particular habitat, including numerous edible species that are nutritious to human beings, making it very culture specific. Floral diversity and presence of medicinal and wild edible plant diversity ensures the food and health security of the tribal and marginalized community to a great extent. Not only food, but they are largely self-sufficient for their daily meal from forest and local resources and depend on outsiders only for kerosene and salt.

Precious heritage is being seriously eroded by commercial exploitation, by business and industries, and whether it is our forests that are being denuded for timber and mining, or our seas that are being over fished by bottom trawlers, or our rivers and lakes that are becoming the dumping ground for polluting and toxic waste; this situation is, a cause of great concern. When degradation of a natural landscape sets in, then a woman has to go much further in search of the same quantity of the food that she is looking for. And in addition she normally combines it with fuel wood collection and fodder. This, hence, becomes a gender issue.

Documenting local or traditional knowledge and encouraging continuity in the People's Biodiversity Register, Participatory Rural Appraisal to locate availability of wild foods in the village surroundings, Eco- restoration of degraded areas using appropriate species and natural regeneration methods, Joint Forest management and Confining livestock to prevent overgrazing were cited as some of the methods of managing natural landscapes to ensure the continued availability of wild edibles.

Information and Communication Technology could also be made very useful by use of generating Databases on wild foods, creating links with universities and scientific

institutions, construct knowledge centres with locale specific information, engender capacity –building and empowerment programs for women and have functional literacy on management practices, establish methodologies for storage and processing and restoration techniques, and finally by sharing of knowledge.

3. Report of the Third session on “Gender Concerns in Food Access and Livelihood Access

Dr. Sheela Rani Chunkath, Special Commissioner, Survey and Settlements, Government of Tamilnadu chaired the session. Dr Smita Gupta, a Fellow at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi spoke on “Gender Concerns in Employment in India”. Dr. P.S. Geetha Kutty, Associate Professor and Project Coordinator, Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, made a presentation on “Access to Technology, Skills and Management”. Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, Director, Chaitanya – The Policy Consultancy, Chennai made a presentation on “Gender Concerns in Disasters and Rehabilitation”.

Dr. Sheela Rani Chunkath – Theme Presentation

The speaker started off by talking about inaccessibility of technology by women with a small anecdote from her recent visit to Ooty. She had noticed a young boy riding a ladies cycle, and with some prodding, found out, that the cycle indeed belonged to the boy’s sister, which she had received as part of the campaign literacy, where the government gave free cycles to women to increase their mobility and accessibility, hence, emancipating them. What this hit home for her is the fact that, time and again, anything that is given to the women eventually gets appropriated, very often, by men themselves.

The government is actively trying to get more women to access technology. However the digital divide that has come along with globalisation has become too ingrained. Greens or green vegetables, which used to be sold by women from a basket on their heads a long time ago, is now being sold by men in tricycles. Meaning that, technology has replaced one small livelihood, because women are not trained to drive the cycle or the tricycle or they did not have enough money to access, or credit to access a tricycle. That livelihood or retail trade has been taken away from them. With every technological input, more and more women are pushed out of their business.

The speaker also quoted a conversation she had had with the director of the IIT, where she had wondered why is it that fewer girls get into the IITs. It is certainly not a case where girls are less intelligent. They found the answer in the difficulty of girls in

attending coaching classes after school hours. Coaching classes that finish late at night encumber the route to IIT for these girls, as their safety in returning late at night, alone, comes into question. With globalisation having come in, cities have become unsafe for women and they live in perpetual fear of rape, molestation or theft, after dark. It is also largely societal constraints that limit women's access and not the broader patriarchal framework.

In most cultures, the practice of feeding or ingestion also is such that the men eat first, and they eat the better, more nutritious part of the meal that has been cooked. The women not only eat last and the least, but also eat the least nutritious part of the meal. Even if they have livelihood, even if they have employment, the kind of social structures that enables food distribution mitigate the access women have.

Dr. Smita Gupta - Gender concerns in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes in India

According to Dr. Smita Gupta there are three distinct approaches to National Rural employment guarantee Scheme. The leftist Keynesian approach believes that it is a necessary programme and it can create effective demand in the economy as the money in the hands of the poor is spent on consumer goods and food. Hence it is a necessity and that it is feasible programme. There is a liberal approach which believes that it is necessary because it is poverty alleviating. But they see it as social safety net, as the human face of globalisation if you like or as an anti-poverty measure. They doubt the feasibility because they think that it may lead to large allocation and leads to fiscal deficits. The third approach is that it is neither necessary nor feasible. It is not desirable for the money is better spent on infrastructure. It is better spent on human capital formation. It is better spent on the targeted schemes for the poorest of the poor. So it is not desirable and nor is it feasible, because there is no money in the system. There are no resources in the system and therefore it is neither desirable nor feasible. Due to the controversy over it though it is politically desirable the act has been passed without any commitment to it. It was sufficiently diluted the Act, so that it became ineffective in employment generation and poverty alleviation, though it is claimed to be a bottom-up

demand driven decentralised scheme, that guarantees 100 days of employment to all those who want it.

Work Participation Ratios is much lower for women. Labour Force Participation Ratio is higher for women. Proportion of marginal women workers is far higher than men. Dependence on agricultural work is high. More working women are engaged in agricultural labour than men. Female literacy is far lower.

Definition of a household for the purpose of employment is on the basis of common kitchen. About 43% have joint families with common kitchen. Hence only a few members get employment. Average household size is six. Number of eligible workers per household is about 3.8 which means that if there is 100 days of work per household one person gets roughly 23 days per year. Now what is 23 days in a year? It is actually nothing. So the definition of a household has become a very, very major factor in actually refusing the entitlement that people have. This reduces per capita entitlements of people in the national employment guarantee scheme. It violates the National Operational Guidelines and State Schemes. It also disenfranchises female headed households and widowed separated and estranged married daughters in natal and marital homes. It excludes semi-dependent adult unmarried children.

The NREGS also has restrictions on Eligibility by age, number of registered workers per households, proof of local residence such as ration card or voter Identification. Often they refuse to recognize divorced, widowed, or separated women in natal and maternal homes as separate nuclear households. Many households do not get recognition if the male member (the head of the household) has migrated. Absence during registrations due to seasonal migration of the family makes them lose the benefit of employment. Some are unaware of the registration and no one is considered after the registration is closed. Inability to 'pay' for photograph, etc. makes them remain unregistered.

There are problems even after the registration is done for National rural employment guarantee programme. There is a long waiting period for the job cards. Job cards are not

issued for people in some instance for weeks together. When you don't have individual cards, when you have only household cards, you can continue to ignore all the nuclear families and all the female headed households who live in joint families. The other issue which I want to raise here is the individual cards issue in which Tamil Nadu has done extremely well. Tamil Nadu is one of the few states, apart from Maharashtra and especially in Nagapattinam, which also has, I must say, an exceptionally good collector. The issuing of individual cards means that all women are covered. They all have their cards in their hands. Decision of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to issue individual cards is welcome step, which must be emulated. It gives women independence and strengthens their status, a sense of citizenship, of rights, adding to their self-confidence in accessing work and livelihood as well as their intra-household position.

Non-payment of Minimum Wages and Other Wage Related Issues

Workers are earning no more than 40 to 60 per cent of minimum wage, ranging from Rs.16 to Rs.40 per day under NREGA due to unrealistically high work norms under productivity linked piece rates. Inadequate identification of the component tasks; No differentiation for the elderly, women and ecology; Administrative inadequacies in task specification, soil identification, lift and lead provision, measurement, both in terms of procedures and adequacy of staff lead to under payment and low wages. Since low availability of remunerative work results in distress wage rates and underemployment or disguised unemployment besides open unemployment, the levels of both real wages and employment should be high to make any significant dent on poverty. Low wage work just about keeps people alive, but in abject poverty. Tamil Nadu and Orissa have increased wage rate and revised the schedule of rates substantially, Maharashtra has raised wage rate, West Bengal has a small revision in Bankura and Birbhum.

Late wage payment is a problem. There are instances of payment to group leader and not individual are recorded. A few cases of payment at residence of workers instead of public payment are also noticed. Post Office payments are not desirable as it involves cash only; Absence of muster rolls at worksites is common. Only 'kutchra' musters are kept. Shift to

cash payment only is detrimental to food security, esp. in the absence of an effective universal Public Distribution System.

The mode of wage payment is advised to be cash or grain or both. It also had some important gender consequences. Food security has always been the propelling force behind public works and famine relief, with a significant grain component in the total wage. One of the main arguments in favour of the NREGA was that it would provide sustainable food security. The Food For Work Programme and the SGRY met the food security requirements of a section of the rural population to some extent. Now, replaced by NREGS in selected districts in which there is no food component.

The objective of the NREGS was generation of purchasing power. Incentive to food production from the creation of rural infrastructure like irrigation and roads, land and soil management, etc. and payment of a part of the wages in food grain. Cash payments are especially disastrous for women. Women, have the primary responsibility for feeding the family, want at least part payment in kind, the poor quality of grain and leakages notwithstanding. However, the price at which the quantity is calculated is also important. This should be at the lower 'below poverty line prices' and not at the 'above poverty line' prices. The Central government opposed this as too expensive and cumbersome and having potential for high corruption, leaving it to the states to decide on the mode of wage payment.

Inadequate Worksite Facilities

Most worksites are within 5 kilometres. Inadequate worksite facilities : shade, drinking water, first aid and childcare demand for permanent day care centres with supplementary nutrition in village and not worksite; Problem of funds to purchase implements for workers. Non-payment of unemployment allowance or compensation is almost universal. Paradoxically, the greatest strength of the programme, its demand-driven character, has been its weak point. Workers have no idea that they have to apply for work, nor how to apply. Think that after registration the onus is on the Panchayat and local administration to provide 100 days of work. They are innocent of transition from a supply-driven Food

For Work Programme to a demand-driven National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Shortage of Staff and Under Utilization of Funds

Acute shortage of administrative staff and training facilities are common everywhere. Necessary recruitment are not done, from the Gram Panchayat level, upwards. They are unclear about procedure for appointment of mates, their qualification, work and wage. Often, relatives of engineers are employed. A 'muster clerk' is needed to supervise the works on site, and ensure its proper implementation. Every village must have a Village Level Worker and each Gram Panchayat must have an Executing Officer. Lack of technical personnel for surveys, design, estimation and technical sanction is another big problem. They must put in place Programme Officer, since it is not possible for existing officials to continuously bear responsibility of NREGS. Low absorptive capacity of the NREG programmes is due to acute shortage of Staff, slow percolation of details, Inadequate pressure from beneficiaries, Programme being stymied by nervous administration.

Women's issues in Employment Guarantee

Some provisions have particularly negative implications for women. The focus is on manual work. Productivity-linked wages and high standards of productivity effectively give them lower wages. Payment is only in cash and hence they have to buy grain outside. Female-headed households are not recognized. Individual job entitlements are absent. Work site facilities are few. Priority is given to durable physical assets. The Scheme either excludes or exploits women's labour. Both are dangerous in the context of abysmally high levels of malnutrition and poorly paid employment of women in rural areas.

Labour Process and Wages

Women's groups were particularly concerned about the nature of the labour process in public employment programmes. The employment is typically in manual labour for

loosening, digging, lifting and throwing soil in what has come to be known as ‘earth works’. Obviously, heavy earth work cannot and should not be the only type of work offered, given the high degree of malnourishment among working class rural women who require the work most.

The gender based division of labour because of which women bear the triple burden of family reproduction, income generation and customary social responsibilities, reduces women’s mobility and narrows down their work options considerably. Women’s labour at government worksites too is exploited using the compulsions of proximity to homestead imposed by the patriarchal division of labour. Women’s entitlements are curtailed in at least four interconnected ways due to unequal access; unpaid work , low wages, little say in selection of works.

There are a few concerns with regard to the type of permissible works under the NREGS and the procedure of their selection. A well-known aspect of village meetings is that usually women remain silent or absent. This is unfortunate because the NREGS has the potential of addressing women’s practical needs through wage employment and the creation of assets that address basic needs of food, water, fuel, fodder, etc. It can also address their strategic needs by improving their status and structured involvement in local area development and better intra-family division of work. It is therefore essential to organize separate meetings with women workers. It is important to ensure dovetailing and convergence the EGA with other government programme like ICDS

In many places the Gram Sabha was not held. Women remained absent or silent: little voice in the selection of works. Women identify food security, health, education, sanitation and water shortage as important. They want pastures, health centres, anganwadis, ration shops, primary schools, household and small-scale industries, training centres, fish culture, sericulture, horticulture, individual beneficiary schemes, etc. Often these suggestions are either not articulated or dismissed.

Instead, focus is on durable assets mainly Roads and Ponds. Thus, the programme ignores key development activities like social services and infrastructure and income generation. Little gender-sensitivity or location-specific flexibility is available in the programme. Inadequate technical staff results in sticking to DPP works, since new works require surveys, design, estimation and sanction. There were many disputes over prioritization. Another concern is when employment is needed most, in the food-deficit months, after sowing and before harvesting in the rainy season, when distress out-migration is high, the employment is not available. At these time, heavy rain does not permit large scale earth works.

Close to 70 per cent of the workers at NREGS worksites are women in the age group of 30-50 years, largely from landless, small and marginal farmer low-asset households, belonging to Dalit and Adivasi communities, reportedly because men are unwilling to work at such low wages. Men would prefer to migrate or find alternative employment to increase family income while women tend to stay back to look after the family's basic needs.

The lower-than minimum wages have become a mechanism for targeting the scheme at the poorest and most vulnerable, making it a self-defeating exercise. This method of work organization excludes single women due to their inability to find a partner. Single women have been turned back from the sites. If two women team up others at the worksite resist this since this brings down average outturn.

Dr. P.S. Geetha Kutty - Access to Technology, Skills and Management

Dr. P.S. Geetha Kutty commenced the presentation by spelling-out the various aspects of agriculture and food production, them being, resource utilization in order to produce bio mass at a given place influenced by natural resources and available inputs to meet household and commercial needs. Both men and women are partners in agriculture (as farmers, co farmers, labourers, entrepreneurs and SHG members)

The speaker also enumerated the roles of women in food security, which are, women in production of food (farmers / labourers), women as income earners of family for purchasing food (non farm / farm), women as processors, distributors, vendors of food in enterprises or livelihoods, women as consumers of food (storing, processing or distributing in households).

Women as farmers or co-farmers of a locality could be looked at in the following aspects. Women headed farming systems (more than 20 %) (Feminisation of agriculture due to male migration and suicides) and Co-farmers and unpaid family members (42 % contribution to farm family income 3-4 hours from family female labour. Marginal, small and medium farmer's - family women participate in physical activities of farming).

Women and Crop based food production are as follows: Planting, weeding, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, drying, grading, processing, storing, cooking etc. are women specific or women dominated practices of field crops systems. Women have very low access to market and profit.

Women and men's roles in animal based food production are itself very differentiated. Cattle shed cleaning, feeding, fodder collection, bathing, milking, processing and health care are women specific or women dominated fields. Women have very low access to institutions, profit and market.

Women's roles in the fisheries are as follows: Marine Fishery- Fish vending, processing shell industries, net making etc; Fresh water fishery-cultivation, vending, processing, catching, hatchery; Ornamental fishery- Hatchery aquariums.

Non Timber Forest Products involve collection, processing, selling (Tubers, leaves, flowers, honey, reed, lac, medicinal plants), fuel/ firewood, and social forestry, agro forestry management, and biodiversity conservation, fodder collection.

Women as Farm Entrepreneurs, members of SHGs or as Micro entrepreneurs have scope in the areas of Agro based enterprises/ livelihoods, food processing/ products, Floriculture/ Fishery, value addition of agricultural products, food production (vegetables/ rice/fruits etc), marketing outlets/ door to door delivery of food products.

Women as farmers face constraints such as lack of accessibility to skills, trainings and information, technology discrimination, lack access to inputs, credits, financial incentives, market and control over farm income, multiple workload of farm and home, women's priorities, needs and problems are neglected in farm studies, lack of recognition/ inclusion as farmers in farmer support institutions.

Women labourers face loss of livelihoods and food security as modern machines/ technologies, face wage discrimination, replace them. Commercial crops are largely male oriented (e.g. Rice Vs Banana). Women face occupational/ health hazards, poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, anaemia, nutritional deficiencies and negative energy balance, technologies- (occupational - environment and ergonomic problems), pesticides/ work place hygiene related safety and health problems. They lack care/ education facilities for children and lack of insurance/ pension.

Women as entrepreneurs face constraints such as lack of capital, lack of market, lack of capital and credit, lack of land ownership, lack of confidence/risk bearing capacity, lack of achievement motivation, lack of managerial ability, lack of technological knowledge / inputs, multiple workload and lack of mobility.

Women performed farm activities need women friendly technologies and these technologies should be accessible to women. There is a need to identify activities which are Women specific (about 90%) and women dominated (50-90%) and develop/ appropriate/ popularise these technologies among women (user friendly machines/ safe plant protection practices/ safe processing/ safe devices of plant protection etc.) Traditionally women specific/ dominated farm activities become men operated on drudgery-removed mechanization. Machines and tools of women performed operations

like mechanized paddy transplanters, harvesters, threshers, sprayers, weeders; seeders are not being tested to be made appropriate to women users. Extension personnel do not popularise them among women. Local panchayaths do not mobilize women labour groups to run custom hiring units of farm machines. Category specific/ location specific Technologies are to be popularised.

Small machines of farm operation (drudgery removed efficient) are to be developed for small / medium group farmer women. Technologies are to be developed and popularized for women labour groups (user friendly paddy transplanters, manual paddy transplanters / weeders).

Studies of CSGCA, KAU indicated low access of technologies / farm resources/ institutions among farmwomen. One fourth to one third of farmwomen only have access to technologies / credit / seed materials / labour, manures and fertilizers, machines, equipments, and trainings. Studies of CSGCA, KAU indicates very low, accessibility among farmwomen to land, market and profit.

Less than 5 percent of farmwomen only access market and market information. Less than one fourth of farmwomen possess land; less than one fifth of farmwomen are members of farm support institutions. Less than one tenth of farmwomen get extension contacts

Farm labourers should be provided with supported social and employment security such as childcare / food / health / education and alternative employment. Integration of interdisciplinary programmes should be done. Insurance / equal wages/ and livelihood security, skills and group mobilization, mobilization labour bank must be provided.

KAU, CSGCA imparts training and studies of the paddy transplanters among labourers and farmers. Labour women need skills to use / repairing/ better starting mechanism and protective hood. Farmers are happy to use mechanized paddy transplanter– cost effective –time spacing and favours intercultivation practices.

Capacity Building among scientists/ Extension personnel/Local Governance for Gender Sensitive Technology Development must be made available. Women friendly technology packages are to be promoted with managerial skills to farmwomen's groups. Technological skills should be imparted such as production of bio control agent / mushroom, flowers / bio composting/ vegetable cultivation/ honey bee production/ seed production/ nursery etc.) and also enterprise management skills.

Central Government Scheme of WIA Programme is successful to bring favourable mindset among farmwomen and agricultural extension personnel. Women were promoted as farmers, entrepreneurs of micro enterprises - transfer technologies / women friendly implements, farm literature, technology demonstrations, exhibition of produces etc. Agricultural extension personnel/ system had identified the issues farmwomen face such as market, technology, and work burden, land ownership, management skill.

CSGCA, KAU imparts agricultural business management training / technologies, value addition skills for farmwomen and enable marketing and networking. CSGCA, KAU imparts agro clinics for technical, financial and managerial counselling for potential and ongoing entrepreneurs.

Inclusion of Men and Women in Farmer Co-operatives/ Farmers Organizations was also looked at. Women and men heads should get joint membership in co-operatives (credit/ market/ water users etc.) e.g. (RPSS, Rubber Board started joint membership on pilot basis). Farmer support agencies activities should be made gender sensitive – in bylaws, timings, programmes, market support etc. Women should also leaders along with men in these organizations.

Advocacy for bringing gender sensitive policies/ programmes of various agencies must also be taken up. Access to land among farm women (majority farm is leased on land) must be ensured and free / reduced rate electricity/ women run initiatives must be encouraged. Increased subsidy, forward- backward linkage of input- outputs of various enterprises must also be ensured.

Future agricultural cadets must be moulded in a gender sensitive fashion. Gender perspectives must be introduced in the agricultural curriculum.

Capacity building on Gender Perspective among scientists and Extension Worker must be ensured. Scientists should be sensitised to focus on women's needs, problems, needs, identity, and develop gender-disaggregated data. Women must be targeted for general extension programmes also.

Women need efficient, effective, drudgery free technologies for operations they perform in food production. Technologies skill knowledge should reach women farmers and labourers. Better technologies for food processing, value addition, and storage should be evolved or popularised among women. Trainings for women or women included training must be ensured. Water conservation, saving, transportation technologies, sanitation technologies must be developed or popularised. Technologies, practices to take care of anaemia, deficiency diseases, HIV, occupational hazards of women must be enabled.

Networking and Institutions Linkages for Technology development must be popularised and managed among women. Field programmes of R& D institutions (Agricultural Universities, ICAR, DBT/DST, NGOs, NIPCID), Development Departments/ support service Agencies (Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry/ Fishery, banks, insurance, Input agencies, social welfare Department), Panchayath Raj Institutions and Aanganwaadi, Rural Co-operatives, Markets etc.

Poverty alleviation Programme (Kudumbasree, REGP etc) and Public Distribution Systems FCI, warehouse, Food grain Banks, rural godowns must be implemented smoothly.

National and State Plans should be gender sensitive and should empower farmwomen. Mainstreaming of gender along with continuing the successful women specific programmes (e.g. Women in Agriculture Programme) must be introduced.

Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan – Gender Concerns in Disasters and Rehabilitation

This paper was a brief account of issues raised at a Forum on Disasters and Security that was organized in Chennai in September 2006. The paper sought to answer three fundamental questions regarding the “gender-disaster” relationship; (a) How does the existing gender politics of a society mediate the impact of a natural disaster? (b) What are the roles women play in the aftermath of the disaster? How do they become agents of reconstruction and relief? (c) What is the short term and long term impact of the disaster on gender relations in an affected society?

The speaker first acknowledged the sheer magnitude of fatalities of women as opposed to men, in disasters. In the context of women’s emancipation, Tsunami affected parts of Cuddalore district showed that, had women possessed the skill to swim, casualties would have been reduced in great numbers. This is particularly insightful in the attempt to answer the first question.

The first response to disaster situations resulting in mass casualties is dramatic changes in the sex ratio. This has both short and long term effects. The immediate consequence is that, whenever a family loses children, women end up bearing the brunt of rebuilding the family. Very often, women are forced to undergo reverse tubal ligations with recanalization surgery (Menon 23-10-2005; Cohen July 2005), regardless of what their original choice may have been. The long-term consequence is that of a higher incidence of marked violence.

In an environment of reconstruction and relief, both planning and distribution are male-dominated. This has considerable impact on women, as their vulnerability in a disaster situation, and the simplest of health needs are very often overlooked. A study of flood-affected adolescent girls in Bangladesh showed that personal hygiene, privacy, safety en route communal facilities to the workplace were important matters that had not been given due attention. Their attempt to follow ingrained customary values and behaviours placed them in jeopardy (2000: 69) Being unable to bathe, change and wash without fear

of prying or molestation ranked very high (Oxfam 2005; Rashid and Michaud 2000). The problem of physical insecurity in different aspects of their lives loomed large.

The impact of disasters is then again gendered. Distribution of relief and compensation are normally executed by male-dominated agents, who hardly pay due attention to female-headed households, who get left out of both the distribution of relief and compensation as also, needs assessments and planning (Global Fund for Women 2005:3). Natural disasters affect livelihoods such as agriculture and the informal sector the most, which largely employ women, thus reproducing the power equations of the (mostly) patriarchal societies whose lives they interrupt. Hence, the second dimension of impact of disaster on women – destruction of livelihoods. Displacement is the third dimension. This goes hand-in-hand with a rise in violence within the society. It is women who are the first targets of any crisis situation. It is normally women who are victims of abuse, harassment, trafficking, intimate partner violence, and sexual exploitation. Displacement and impoverishment together make women and children especially vulnerable to forced marriage, labour exploitation and trafficking.

Gender, women and disasters need to be understood in a context relating to two areas – the agency of women in the situations practiced, and effective intervention frameworks and strategies that should be adopted. With regard to agency of women, one of the most important features stressed on was the criticality of understanding the specific societal factors and cultural norms of the region. It would be inaccurate to assume that the patriarchal relations that exist in societies would be uniform. There are women who have been repeatedly affected by disasters in extremely conflict prone areas who tend to be doubly vulnerable. Where peace efforts have already managed to engage women in some sort of dialogue, it is still possible to involve them in post-disaster relief. However, the conflict itself very often limits their mobility, making it harder to create this space. Pre-disaster policies may create structural impediments such as in the prevailing laws on women's rights, especially the right to claim land on the death of other family members.

Four Aspects of intervention frameworks and strategies were discussed. There is a need to institutionalize post-disaster changes. Though the exigencies of relief operations emancipate women and increase their capabilities, there still exists a need to institutionalize these changes. The role of the State working in tandem with NGOs was highlighted and the capacity of NGOs in doing this all alone was also questioned. The need for civil society action in lobbying the State to make policy, programmatic, and funding changes was also mentioned. The call for thinking strategically rather than episodically was highlighted.

Secondly, being responsive to local needs rather than letting mandates dictate their post-disaster activities were pointed out to NGOs. This results in a failure to be introspective and transparent about their approach.

Thirdly, the practical question of involving men in creating sustainable changes, surrounded by popular 'Women and Development' as well as 'Gender and Development' discourses were also brought up. Solutions proffered ranged from valuing traditional women's work to including young men in the scope of self-help group programmes. Treating the family as the unit rather than taking an individual-oriented approach that places men and women in antagonistic positions, especially in the Indian context was also one of the suggested solutions. Fourthly, a suggestion was made to improve existing frameworks for intervention and obtaining clarity about the task at hand (rather than long drawn out analytical exercises), and not constructing zero-sum scenarios where one group benefits at another's cost, and about thinking through needs and projects for both short and long term (or relief and reconstruction phases).

Three different concerns were identified that were beyond the Women and their needs in the context of disaster management. The twin imperatives of scale and sustainability were recognized. The importance of evolving mechanisms that would take into consideration change and changing needs that are sustainable was also cited. Enabling changes that are long term and to face the challenge of preventing a return to the old order with the departure of NGOs were also conferred upon. The need for context specificity, and

keeping in mind the specific conflict and legal frameworks in engendering spaces for interaction was also pointed out.

Four concrete areas of action for the future were identified. Monitoring and Evaluation of existing programs was proposed. For example, one assumes that Self Help Groups work in every context, however, never questions whether they increase the burden of women who get involved instead of easing it. The ethic of questioning the validity of generalizations as written in reports for the sake of academic pursuit does not exist as yet. Secondly, the importance of contextual understanding prior to generating relief and reconstruction programs was also stressed upon. Given the urgency of the action required when it comes to disaster management, it was also suggested that a database with information about context and existing NGOs, and their areas of work is made available. The need to de-link consideration and discussion of women and children's issues was argued. The needs and problems of children in disaster settings as being very different from women were also recognized. Finally, understanding the linkages between conflict and disasters, and the divergent as well as similar needs of both was put forward. The nature of certain peculiar instances when the two overlapped, such as in Sri Lanka and Kashmir, was also brought to light.

4. Report of the Fourth Session on Gender Concerns in Nutrition, Child Care and Health Care

Dr. Shanti Ghosh, a Paediatrician and Consultant, National Commission on Health, New Delhi, chaired the session. Ms Mina Swaminathan, Trustee, MSSRF and Advisor, Education Communication and Gender, MSSRF, Chennai spoke on “Gender Concerns in Early Childhood”. Dr Minnie Mathew, Senior Programme Adviser, UN - World Food Programme, New Delhi, made a presentation on “Gender Concerns in Nutrition and Healthcare”. Dr Venkatesh Athreya, Programme Director, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, spoke on “Deteriorating 0-6 Sex Ratio”.

Dr. Shanti Ghosh – Theme Presentation

The speaker commenced the session by talking about innate gender biases that exist from the very moment that the child is born. She spoke about quantitative indicators, which directly relate to the cultural ethos that we hold. For example, she spoke infanticides being more common earlier, but now, with better determination techniques, it has become very common to process an ultrasonography. Foeticide has become that common. It has become so common that scanning centres are advertised in the market place; there is not even the need to go to a clinic anymore. People are treated like customers in the exchange of buying or selling of any service, the assumption being that it is better to spend on the surgical process than on dowry or education or any such expenditure incurred.

Dr. Ghosh also spoke with great distress over the issue of malnourishment among Indian children, which is supposed to be much higher than even children in Sub-Saharan Africa. She also spoke about the Infant Mortality Rate being higher among girls than boys though girls are the stronger sex. Studies from Punjab and Haryana have shown conclusively that there is an inherent bias; especially in the way illness among girls is treated. Girls are brought to the hospital only at extreme situations, and even then, there is no real effort made to resuscitate them.

Dr. Ghosh also commented on the efficacy of the ICDS program, and the role of the *aanganwadi* worker. She spoke about certain fundamental flaws in the way the program

is implemented which proves it ineffective. She also spoke about setting goals, which are smaller at the beginning, which can actually be practiced.

The value of complementary feeding along with the value of breastfeeding was also spoken about. Dr. Ghosh spoke about the need to pay more attention to the quantity and the quality of the food consumed by the child and how essential it is in the basic physical and mental growth and well being of the child. She cited the example of the Eastern states, which are entirely different from the rest of the country. There is much more education, much more hygiene, cleanliness, though the breastfeeding as such is very poor. However, the complimentary feeding is very good. From 3 months onwards they start feeding minced chicken, etc to the baby.

Dr. Ghosh insisted that programs and practices should be adopted in such a way that they can be practiced on the field and not laid down by the Ministry or Planning Commission.

Ms. Mina Swaminathan – Gender Concerns in Early Childhood

Early child hood is from conception to the age of 5-6 years. The period up to four years and from four to eight years represent periods of distinct development. Five issues of importance in early child hood may be conceptualized as the rights of the young child. By conceptualizing the basic issues as rights gives them better focus. The first one is the right to be born a girl. We have about a million missing girls every year and in India. Sex selective foeticide and infanticide is responsible for this. It is questionable whether a female foetus is allowed to be born at all. The second right is to be born healthy. About 30% of the babies born are now under weight – which means that they weigh less than 2.4-2.5 kilograms at birth. The third is the right to mother's milk - the child's right to be breast fed and the woman's right to breast feed. Six months of exclusive breastfeeding is recommended. It is questionable whether a majority of Indian women are able to do that.

Only when it is put across as a right, we can see what the obstacles are and why we are not able to achieve it. The next is the young child's right to food and nutrition. Young children need balanced food. It would also mean day care for the children under two of

working mothers. Lastly it is the right to education. This implies early childhood care and education. Day care and education of the children above three years of age is important.

There are some gender rights and issues in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). It requires the recognition of day care as a support service for women workers, recognition of Day-care, as a support service for education of girls engaged in sibling care, and finally the Recognition of child care workers as skilled workers entitled to training, appropriate wages and working conditions.

There are long-term and short-term consequences of low birth weight in babies. In the short run it affects brain development, it affects body growth and composition and also the metabolic development and in the long run low birth weight has an impact on your cognitive and educational performance, your immunity from disease and work capacity. In the long run your propensity to develop certain diseases like diabetes, obesity, heart disease and so on and so forth would increase. This is a relatively new research finding, in the last 10 or 15 years the risk of low birth weight children developing diabetes in later life has been recognised as a result of very rigorous research. Low birth weight is just not a health issue, but a gender issue as the low birth weight of the baby is due to the malnourishment of the expectant mother.

Young Child's Right to Food

A mother who is malnourished, who does not get adequate nutrition, as a pregnant woman, one who doesn't get adequate nutrition during the second trimester pregnancy has this very large risk of having a low birth weight baby. But the long term causes are even more significant if the body mass index of women in the reproductive period of life is low. The low birth weight problem is not a problem of the poor. It is a gender issue because it is related to the women's health. There was no secular trend of improvement in body weight in last fifty years. Neglect of women's nutrition and health are the root causes. While inability to lactate could be related to poor health and nutrition, studies have shown even malnourished mothers do feed their babies well, if the mother and child

are together through out the day. The WHO norm is six months of breast feeding but the socio economic conditions in which women has to perform multiple roles may not permit them to be with the child. So what we have been advocating for the last many years is maternity entitlement to enable the lactating mothers to stay off the labour market for sometime at least for 3 to 4 months if not full 6 months. It not only facilitates breast feeding but also gives the bonding between the mother and the child for strengthening psycho-social development.

Maternity benefit Act is applicable only to the organized sector. However, Tamil Nadu has a model Scheme of Maternity Entitlements. It is applicable to all pregnant women below poverty line, above the age of 19. It is applicable only to the first two children. Rs 6,000/- is being paid in six monthly instalments. It is payable at two months before and four months after childbirth

Why day care for the young children? As I said day care has three dimensions – for girl children, for mothers and for children themselves. Women are mothers and workers at the same time. There are about 11.5 crores of women in the work force and it is estimated that something like 3.5 crores have children below six. Ninety per cent of these women are in the un-organized sector, with out any child care services. This brings us to the ICDS services. The debate about this take home food and on the spot feeding has been going on for some time. Take home food has disadvantages of being shared by the whole family. Spot feeding has problems as the child cannot finish the food in a short time. Hence we have been advocating for the last 15 years or more that ICDS should be converted into ICDS cum day care, where the child is taken care for the duration when mother goes to work. Unfortunately, all our proposals for strengthening the day care component in ICDS are not approved.

Women's Work is invisible. Women sleep on the average 2 hours less than men. Women spend ten times more time on household work than men. This is true even in families where women work full time. Men have over two hours a day for leisure, while women have only five minutes, as per the time use surveys conducted in 1998-99. The average

Indian woman spends five hours a day more than the average man on her three roles. Hence she finds it difficult to take on political, social, economic, & civic roles as well.

According to an ILO study we do not know the status of about 38% of boys and about 60% of girls. We may call them invisible children as they are neither at school nor at work. Obviously they are involved in the household work. Almost double the number of girls are invisible compared to boys. Most of the girls are certainly involved in household labour including taking care of the siblings. This acts as an impediment to girl's education. And therefore the day care becomes an essential support system for the girl's education. There is another issue of gender discrimination in child care. There are about 2 million Anganwadi workers and helpers involved in ICDS and child care. Yet they are not considered as workers. They are considered as volunteers and they do not have any of the privileges of workers. They are under paid. They do not get any training and considered as un-skilled workers.

Dr. Minnie Mathew – Gender Concerns in Nutrition and Healthcare

The starting point of the speech itself was an introduction to how health and nutrition are the products of various factors. The speaker also cited other areas where gender discrimination is a stark reality, such as inheritance of rights, a low wage rate, income, decision making, social status, unequal distribution, food and medical care. And all these dimensions include food, nutrition and health outcome.

The speaker also identifies that as we go higher up education levels, there is a wider gender gap. . Gender differences become more and more because basic literacy is what is being spoken of and the numbers and the progress has been good when it comes to women's literacy in comparison to men literacy.

Another issue that was brought up was that work is not defined properly, and work and labour force are defined to exclude all activities outside the purview of the system of what is called National Accounts. Due to the definition itself, women's labour gets noticed the least.

The speaker also enumerated the relationship between work and nutritional status. Malnutrition adversely affects women's participation in the economic system and their productivity. This is a vicious cycle of women and productivity; on one hand an undernourished woman's productivity is very low, especially if she is anaemic. On the other, if she is also illiterate, all the chances to find work are negated.

The speaker had the following recommendations to make, such as, trying to achieve a much higher percentage of female literacy, empowerment of women to create a sense of self-confidence, increasing provision of services for adolescents, marriage and child bearing before the age of 18 to be strictly prohibited, skilled employment of women to be enhanced, employed women to be given infant and child care such as crèche facilities, delivery systems for human development to be improved, to provide better access to health facilities.

Dr. Venkatesh Athreya – Deteriorating 0 – 6 Sex Ratio

The focus of this paper was to discuss a particularly stark manifestation of gender inequality and highlight an extreme form of violence against women in Indian society, and to discuss briefly its dimensions and sources and to explore ways of addressing the issue. This brings to light the need for very serious reflections in the theory and practice of development in India. Relative female survival disadvantage (RFSD) as a consequence of both structured gender inequality in society and the nature of economic policies pursued.

The issue of declining female to male ratio, which is calculated in terms of the number of females for every thousand males in the population, or the Population Sex Ratio (PSR), has been imperative in the Indian development discourse. Studies have shown that sex selective migration can distort the PSR to a great extent. Hence, a higher PSR need not necessarily mean that the women of that population have faced emancipation and have been empowered. The region may have a high PSR solely due to sex-selective migration, despite having relative female survival disadvantage (FSD). PSR of four supposedly

industrialized or agriculturally advanced States – Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra have undergone a decline solely due to this. However, a more accurate measure of the relative FSD of females is provided by the female to male ratio in the child population. This is undistorted by sex selective adult migration. We refer to this ratio as the child sex ratio (CSR), defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the age group 0-6 years. CSR has declined between 1991 and 2001 in all the major states except Kerala.

On further reflection, the paper also identified the rapid declines in child sex ratio in `agriculturally advanced' Punjab and Haryana as well as in `industrially advanced' Gujarat and Maharashtra as not the relics of a feudal past but of a specific type of capitalist development. Not only has a strong 'son' preference remained intact due to the entrenched patriarchy, but 'modern' Capitalism has also brought with it an infectious consumerist culture. Successive governments have used both persuasion and coercion in subtle and unsubtle forms to enforce the 'two-child' norm. The blatant advertisements for sex selective foeticide, which first emerged in the 1980s in urban Maharashtra and metropolitan Delhi, constitute the more explicit expression of the emerging consumerist value system. Thus, the two-child norm is being forcefully and relatively successfully universalized without even ensuring infant and child survival, patriarchy.

A massive social mobilization campaign in Tamil Nadu has had some success in reducing the number of female infanticide deaths quite significantly. . A part of this decline may reflect a shift from infanticide to female foeticide as scan facilities have spread to rural areas. However, a part of it could also be cited as the outcome of purposeful intervention by a variety of social forces and movements.

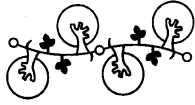
In conclusion, it was asserted that a multi-pronged attack on patriarchal structures and son preference as well as consumerism through social mobilization and pressure through mass movements on the State to change its economic and population policies constitute the minimum arsenal of the struggle to eliminate female survival disadvantage

Feedback Session

The Workshop concluded with a discussion between the organisers and the participants. On behalf of the organizers, Dr. V. B. Athreya, Ms. R.V. Bhavani, Dr. Rama Narayan, and Dr. Swarna S. Vepa interacted with the Faculty members of the colleges and requested them to give their feed back and suggest ways of taking the process forward.

The following issues have been highlighted in the participants' feedback:

- Similar workshops at periodic intervals
- Follow-up to develop a curriculum framework
- Willingness to include some topics into their curriculum
- Need to liaison with NGOs on a continuing basis, for hands on experience of the field level problems. This was specifically highlighted with regard to the Community Nutrition Programme offered by many colleges
- Areas of possible joint collaborative research on nutrition between MSSRF and colleges offering postgraduate courses and research in nutrition, may be identified
- A compulsory course on Gender Studies for all Students of pure sciences/ social sciences for awareness of gender issues
- A workshop for teachers of Women's Studies to deliberate on the scope and location of the subject among the social sciences.



M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Workshop on Gender Concerns in Food Security

Organized by

Ford Foundation Chair for Women and Food Security

Sponsored by

The Ministry of Women and Child Development

Government of India

Inaugural Session

Monday, 26th February 2007

9.00 - 10.00 am Registration & Tea

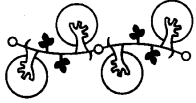
10.00 - 10.30 am Inaugural Session

Welcome Address: ***Dr. M Velayutham***, Executive Director, M S Swaminathan
Research Foundation, Chennai

Inaugural Address: ***Prof. M S Swaminathan***, Chairman, M S Swaminathan
Research Foundation, Chennai

Address by the Chief Guest: ***Dr. C K Gariyali***, Secretary to Governor,
Government of Tamil Nadu

Vote of Thanks: ***Dr. Swarna Vepa***, Ford Foundation Chair for Women and
Sustainable Food Security, M S Swaminathan Research
Foundation, Chennai



M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Workshop on Gender Concerns in Food Security

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PROGRAMME

Day One: Monday, 26th February 2007

9.00 - 10.00 am Registration & Tea

10.00 - 10.30 am Inaugural Session

10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Session 1: Macro Economic Implications of Gender Discrimination

Chairperson and Theme Presenter: ***Dr. Devaki Jain, Trustee, Singamma Srinivasan Foundation, Bangalore***

1. "Underestimation of women's contribution to National Income: Implications to Gender Justice" – ***Dr. Indira Hirway, Executive Director and Professor of Economics, Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad***
2. Gender Budgeting and its Implications to Gender Equity – ***Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi***

1.30 pm - 2.15 pm – Lunch

2.15 pm - 5.15 pm

Session 2: Gender Concerns in Food production Sustainability and access to Natural resources

Chairperson: ***Dr. V Arunachalam, Advisor, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai***

1. Gender Concerns in Water Management – ***Dr. Sara Ahmed, Independent Researcher and Consultant, Gender and Water Governance, Ahmedabad***

2. Gender, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management – *Ms. Sumi Krishna, Independent Researcher, Bangalore*
3. Foods from Natural Ecosystems – Rural Women’s need for Ecological Security – *Ms. Tara Gandhi, Advisor, National Virtual Academy, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai*

Day Two: Tuesday, 27th February 2007

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Session 3: Gender Concerns in Food Access and Livelihood Access (Education, Employment and Earnings)

Chairperson: *Smt. Sheela Rani Chunkat, Special Commissioner, Survey and Settlement, Government of Tamil Nadu*

1. Gender Concerns in Employment in India – *Dr. Smita Gupta, Fellow, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi*
2. Access to Technology, Skills and Management – *Dr. P S Geethakutty, Associate Professor and Project Coordinator, Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur*
3. Gender Concerns in Disasters and Rehabilitation – *Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, Director, Chaitanya – The Policy Consultancy, Chennai*

1.00 pm - 2.00 pm Lunch

2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Session 4: Gender concerns in Nutrition, Childcare and Healthcare

Chairperson and Theme Presenter: *Dr. Shanti Ghosh, Pediatrician and Consultant, National Commission on Health, New Delhi*

1. Gender Concerns in Early Childhood – *Ms. Mina Swaminathan, Trustee & Advisor, Education, Communication, Gender, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai*
2. Gender Concerns in Nutrition and Healthcare – *Dr. Minnie Mathew, Senior Programme Advisor, UN - World Food Programme, New Delhi*
3. Deteriorating 0 – 6 Sex Ratio – *Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, Programme Director, Food Security Studies, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai*

BRIEF PROFILES OF THE RESOURCE PERSONS

Dr. DEVAKI JAIN is a development economist and activist and is currently the Trustee of the Bangalore-based Singamma Srinivasan Foundation. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2006 and she is one of the two women awarded the Bradford Morse Memorial Award at the World Conference at Beijing in 1995. Her academic research and advocacy have focused on issues of equity, democratic decentralization, people-centered development and women's rights. In 1976 she founded the Institute of Social Studies Trust, ISST that focused on issues of poverty and gender. In 1984, as Director of ISST she convened a meeting of women from the South, one per continent to consider developing a feminist perspective on development from the South— leading to the founding of DAWN, Development Alternatives for a new Era. DAWN is today a visible actress in the global stage. She has held Fellowships at various Universities, notably at Harvard and Boston (1984) as a Senior Fulbright Scholar and at Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University as a Visiting Fellow. Presently she works with grassroots women through her Foundation and continues to be involved with a wide range of initiatives on equity, self-government, development and population.

Dr. AASHA KAPUR MEHTA is a Professor of Economics in the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. Her work is primarily in the area of poverty. She was a McNamara Fellow of the World Bank and also a Pre-doctoral Fulbright Scholar. She is also recognised as an Associate of the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. Presently she is the Chairperson of the Planning Commission Subgroup on Gender and Agriculture for the Eleventh Plan and Member of a larger Working Group on Gender, Micro-finance etc issues in Agriculture, for the Eleventh Plan and a Member of the Think Tank of the Group of Feminist Academics for Engendering the Eleventh Plan.

Dr. INDIRA HIRWAY is the Director and Professor of Economics at Center for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad. The major areas of her interest are poverty and human development, labour and employment, globalization and related policies,

development alternatives and development paradigms, environment and development, environment accounting, gender and development, time use studies etc. She was a member of the Steering Committee on Poverty Reduction set up by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan. She has also been associated with a number of expert groups, task forces, technical committees and study groups set up by the Central and state governments as well as international bodies. She is closely associated with several NGOs such as DSC, UTTHAN, VIKAS and NGO networks like JANPATH and PRAVAH.

Dr. SARA AHMED is an Independent Development Researcher and Consultant based in Ahmedabad. Her current social action and research interests include gender issues in development and organizational practice; water management, policies and institutions; building networks for change; conflicts and multi-stakeholder partnerships; adaptive strategies for livelihood resilience and disaster mitigation and facilitating learning alliances. She has worked on project appraisals and evaluations with a range of international donor agencies in India including: the World Bank, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, CARE, USAID, UNICEF, DFID, Novib, Cordaid, Aga Khan Foundation and Ford Foundation. She is presently the Member of Gender and Water Alliance Steering Committee and also a Member of the Executive Committee of PRAVAH, a network on the right to water and sanitation in Gujarat. She is the Trustee of Sahr Waru, an NGO working on gender and human rights issues and Honorary Research Director, Utthan, Ahmedabad, an NGO working on livelihoods, gender rights and human security.

Dr. SUMI KRISHNA is an independent, Bangalore-based researcher and consultant. She has 35 years of experience as an action-researcher, writer and teacher in gender, environment and development at field, programme and policy levels. Her concerns include natural resource-based livelihoods, biodiversity, local knowledge systems and resource rights; participatory governance through community institutions; interdisciplinary research methodology; and capacity building for young professionals. She is currently the President of the Indian Association for Women's Studies (2005-08). She has a particular interest in northeastern India and is on the Advisory Board of North East India Studies. She is an invited life member of the Centre for Women's Development

Studies, New Delhi. She is also founder-moderator of the e-group 'jivika' for livelihood and gender equity.

Ms. TARA GANDHI is an advisor in the National Virtual Academy of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. She worked for biodiversity conservation programmes with World Wildlife Fund in New Delhi and with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London where she also served as the Gender Focal Point for their Science & Technology Division. She has carried out extensive surveys on the status of sanctuaries and national parks in different parts of India, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Dr. SHEELA RANI CHUNKATH is an officer of the 1978 batch of the Indian Administrative Service. She has done extensive work in the areas of health, education, gender and development, as a planner, administrator and implementer. She has co-authored a book titled "Literacy and Empowerment" with Dr Athreya and has written extensively on issues of gender and survival as well as public policy issues in health and education. She is the recipient of many awards, including the prestigious Hubert Humphrey Fellowship, a Fulbright honour.

Dr. SMITA GUPTA is a Fellow at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. Her main areas of research are public finance, democratic decentralization, agriculture, natural resource economics and tribal issues. She worked on a comparative study of 7 states on their experiences in Empowering Gram Sabhas and Panchayats for the Ministry of Rural Development and UNICEF. She has just completed a 4 state study on Monitoring And Evaluation Of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme With Special Focus On Gender Issues. She is at the moment in the process of finalizing the Manipur State Development Report for the Planning Commission.

Dr. P S GEETHA KUTTY is Associate Professor & Project Coordinator, Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture in Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. Her professional areas of interest include Research, Capacity Building and Policy advocacy on Gender and Development in Agriculture, Women Empowerment, Women

in Agriculture, Rural Development, Indigenous Technical Knowledge, Participatory Technology Development, Farm Entrepreneurship, Evaluation and Monitoring of Development Programmes. She initiated and established the Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture in Kerala Agricultural University. She is a Member of the National Level Task Force Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on Gender Mainstreaming in National Agricultural Technology Projects (NATP)(2002- till date). She was also a Consultant of FAO Expert Consultation of Agricultural Extension, Research- Extension Interface and Technological Transfer at Bangkok, Thailand (2002). She also served as Member Secretary and Expert Member of various working Groups of the Eleventh Plan. She is also the Board Member of Child Welfare Committee of Social Welfare Department, Kerala.

Dr. SWARNA RAJAGOPALAN is a Political and Security Affairs Analyst and Writer. She is the founder of Chaitanya – The Policy Consultancy. She has authored several articles and book chapters concerning governance and security issues in South Asia. Her firm, Chaitanya – The Policy Consultancy organised a Forum on Disasters and Security in September 2006 in Chennai on behalf of Women in International Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP). She won the Ford Foundation/ACDIS Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was a Member of the Sri Lanka Election Monitoring Team of the US NGO Forum on Sri Lanka and the Asia Pacific Center for Justice and Peace.

Dr. SHANTI GHOSH is one of the best-known pediatricians in the country. She was the head of Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital for a very long time. She also worked with the World Health Organisation, both in India and abroad. She was actively involved in formulating the ICDS and Rural Health Mission and was involved in most of the five-year plans. She evaluated ICDS for most of the states in India. She was one of the first writers to take up the issue of sex differential. A prolific writer, she writes extensively on issues like neonatology, nutrition and other health issues for EPW as well as many medical journals. She won several awards from ICMR and the Asian Pediatrics Society conferred on her the award of the Most Outstanding Pediatrician in India.

Ms. MINA SWAMINATHAN is an educator by profession and in a career spanning over five decades, has been a teacher at the high school, primary and preschool levels, as well as in non-formal education, adult education and teacher education. In the last fifteen years she has been active in the areas of advocacy, trainers' training, development of resource materials, communication and networking, and in the field of women's theatre, as well as in painting. For many years, she was responsible for the development of programme and training in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and in the use of theatre for community education at MOBILE CRECHES, an organization, which pioneered day care for the children of poor women, especially construction workers.

She has served in an advisory capacity to the Government of India on several occasions, has been a consultant to several Asian countries, and has been deeply involved in the development of policy and programming and planning for young children. At M S Swaminathan Research Foundation she was the Honorary Director of ACCESS, a project concerned with childcare services for the young child, and later of the Uttara Devi Resource Centre for Gender and Development, and VOICING SILENCE, which fosters women's theatre for women's development. She is now an Adviser to MSSRF in Education, Communication and Gender. She has also been associated with the women's movement for many years and has been Secretary, later the Editor, and then the President of the Indian Association for Preschool Education.

DR. MINNIE MATHEW is the Head of the Programme Unit in World Food Programme in India. She has worked within the UN System in different capacities in management, research and training. Her experience spans a range of research, advocacy and policy subjects, from rural research, training, development planning, implementation, project management, evaluation, to policy advising. She developed an innovative project "Community Entrepreneurship for Production of Complementary Food in Madhya Pradesh" building up their entrepreneurship skills to manage a small scale production unit in a sustainable manner. This initiative has been instrumental in getting her the International Women's Day Award in 1999. She has developed an action plan for "Support of the Capacity-Building of Integrated Micronutrient Programmes in Central

America and Belize”. She led the nutrition mission in Cuba to see areas of cooperation between WFP and the government of Cuba. She was instrumental in integrating nutrition as part of NACP III.

Dr. VENKATESH B. ATHREYA is Professor and Head of the Department of Economics of Bharathidasan University since June 1990. Currently on a sabbatical, Professor Athreya is the Programme Director, Food Security Studies at M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation. Professor Athreya has been actively involved in the areas of gender, literacy and development as both planner and social activist. He coordinated mass literacy campaigns in Tamilnadu. He has been involved in social mobilization campaigns for gender equality and against female infanticide and feticide. Professor Athreya has held important academic responsibilities, having been Chairperson of Postgraduate Boards of Studies in Economics, member of the Senate, Syndicate and the Standing Committee of Academic Affairs in several universities. Professor Athreya has been on several central and state government committees. His current governmental assignments include being an Advisor to the Kerala State Planning Board, a member of the Program Advisory Committee, NCERT and a member of the 11th plan working group on food and nutrition security. Professor Athreya has held important responsibilities in public life, having been the past President of the All India People’s Science Network (AIPSN) and of the Tamil Nadu Science Forum, EC member of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi and EC member of the National Literacy Mission Authority of the Government of India.

**Workshop on Gender Concerns in Food Security
(26-27 February 2007)
Final List of Lecturer Participants**

Stella Maris College (Women)

S. No	Name of the Participant	Address
1.	Dr. Sujata Ramanathan	Lecturer, S.G. Department of Sociology Stella Maris College (Women) 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Mob: 9840794914 Phone: 28111987, 28111951 Fax: 28111129. Website: www.stellamariscollege.org
2.	Dr. Crystal David	Lecturer, Gender Economics Department of Economics Stella Maris College (Women) 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Mob: 9884114732 Phone: 28111987, 28111951 Fax: 28111129. Website: www.stellamariscollege.org
3.	Dr. Geetha Sridharan	Lecturer, S.G Department of Economics Stella Maris College (Women) 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Phone: 28111987, 28111951 Fax: 28111129. Website: www.stellamariscollege.org
4.	Ms. Raihana Sabir	Lecturer, P.G. Head, Department of Economics Stella Maris College (Women) 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Mob: 9840586536 Phone: 28111987, 28111951 Website: www.stellamariscollege.org
5.	Dr. Neeraja Rao	Lecturer, S.G. Department of Sociology Stella Maris College (Women) 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Mob: 9840118845 Phone: 28111987, 28111951

Madras Christian College (Co-Education)

6.	Ms. D. Merline Juliet	Lecturer, Department of Economics Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9884219362 Phone: 22375675, Fax: 22377352
7.	Mrs. Rukmini Sampathkumar	Reader, Department of History Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9444330369 Phone: 22375675, Fax: 22377352
8.	S. Adeline	Lecturer Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9444910473 Phone: 22375675, Fax: 22377352
9.	Dr. A. Annadurai	Lecturer Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9840034618 Phone: 22270618
10.	Achamma Mathai	Retd. Prof. of Physics (Coordinator, Centre for women's Studied, MCC) Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9444225589 Phone: 22290387
11.	Dr. (Mrs.) Vijayakumar Joseph	Lecturer Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9444225589 Phone: 22290387
12.	Mrs. Princy	Lecturer, Department of Social Work Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059 Email: princycheck@yahoo.com Phone: 22375675, Fax: 22377352
13.	Miriam Samuel	Madras Christian College (Co-Education) Tambaram, Chennai - 600 059. Mob: 9444225589 Phone: 22290387 ® 22375675 Fax: 22377352

S R M Engineering College

14.	Prof. Velu	S R M College of Management Kattankulathur-603 203
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Ethiraj College for Women College

15.	Dr. Padma Rani	Department of Human Rights and Duties Education Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 28279189 Fax: 28281204
16.	Mrs. M. Vasuki	Lecturer, Department of Sociology Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 28279189 Fax: 28281204
17.	Ms. Preethi Mohan	Lecturer, Department of Economics Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 9444226245 Fax: 28281204
18.	Ms. G. Sunanda	Lecturer, Department of Economics Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 9840838438 Fax: 28281204
19.	R. Hemalatha	Lecturer, Department of Nutrition Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 28279189 Fax: 28281204
20.	Stella Satheesh	Lecturer, Department of Nutrition Ethiraj College for Women College Ethiraj Salai, Egmore Chennai - 600 008 Phone: 28279189 Fax: 28281204

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Workshop on Gender Concerns in Food Security
(26-27 February 2007)

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**Workshop on Gender Concerns in Food Security
(26-27 February 2007)
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