W20 POST

EDITION 4

APRIL '23

Contents

W20 MEETINGS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

**FROM 12th MARCH
TO 11th April 2023**

**TOTAL
OUTREACH
PROGRAMMES:**

13

NEW DELHI
1. Speaker session by The Geostrata - 22 March 2023
2. Event on Climate Change and resilience- 27 March 2023
3. Build for Future Hackathon 2023 in DTU- 1-2 April 2023

SURAT
1. Surat Saree Walkathon with 15000 women- 9th April 2023

BHUBANESWAR
1. Sensitization program for station-level stakeholders - 14 March 2023
2. Sensitization program on 'Protecting Girls from Cyber Crimes' - 15 March 2023

THIRUVANATHAPURAM
1. Meeting with anganwadi teachers- 5th April 2023
2. Special Lecture on G20 & W20- 11th April 2023

W2O
INDIA 2023 WOMEN

www.w20india.org

JAN BHAGIDARI EVENTS

Public Outreach: Women, Girls and Youth

March 13: On March 13, 2023, a virtual Vice-Chancellor's Roundtable was organised by W20 Knowledge Partner, Sri Sri University in collaboration with W20 India on the theme 'Women in Higher Education: pathways to increase women in leadership roles'. The programme garnered a live audience from the social media handles of the university having a reach of 1.5 lakh subscribers.

March 14: W20 Knowledge Partner, Humara Bachpan Trust organised a sensitization program for station-level stakeholders and reached out to 1378 passengers and 226 adolescent girls of the station peripheral communities at Bhubaneswar Railway station.

March 15: Humara Bachpan Trust organised a sensitization program on 'Protecting Girls from Cyber Crimes' at Budheswari Labour Colony, Odisha. The event was attended by 120 adolescent girls.

March 16: An invigorating discussion on the theme "Grassroots leadership & transformation: Charting the path of empowerment through technology & skill development" was held at a side event of CSW67, hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and W20 India with support from UN Women. 500+ participants from different countries participated.

March 22: W20 collaborated with the Geostrata and held a speaker session at Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, attended by 270 students, where Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, delivered the keynote address on W20's key priorities.

March 23: W20 in collaboration with Sri Sri University organised a Think Tank on the theme "How the Indian Startup Ecosystem can be more equal for women entrepreneurs". The programme was attended by female entrepreneurs, students, research scholars, faculty members, Deans of Sri Sri University, and a live audience from the social media handles of the University having a reach of 1.5 lakh subscribers.

March 27: W20 India and the Geostrata collaborated with Equinox, the Geography Society of Miranda House to hold an event on Climate Change and resilience. The event aimed at raising awareness and promoting environmental conservation and saw the participation of over 500 students.

April 1-2: W20 India and the Geostrata, with Delhi Technological University, conducted the 'Build for Future Hackathon 2023' in collaboration with Assetmantle (Student Chapter IGDTUW). The event focused on W20 India's key priority 'Bridging the Gender Digital Divide' and saw the participation of over 800 students.

April 4: W20 India Takforce on Grassroots leadership had a virtual meeting, where Ms. Bharati Ghosh, (Chair, Grassroots Leadership Taskforce) and Ms. Farahdibha Tenrilemba (Co-chair), along with taskforce members discussed the zero draft and drew up the presentation for the first draft that was presented in the Jaipur Meet of W20.

April 4: W20 India conducted a meeting with 381 Anganwadi teachers from Thiruvananthapuram in NIMS MEDICITY, Neyyattinkara, Kerala, where Dr. Laxmi Vijayan VT (Head, Kerala chapter W20) explained to them the vision and objectives of W20.

April 9: W20 India led a Janbhagidari event in Surat, the textile hub of India. As a part of the event, 15000 women participated in a walkathon adorning colourful sarees to raise awareness on Healthy Women for Healthy Society, Women Empowerment, Fit India and Make in India.

April 11: Woman Empowerment Club of NIMS College of Nursing organised Special Lecture on W20 in NIMS Medicity Neyyattinkara on 11 April. Dr Lakshmi Vijayan V T, Head of Kerala Chapter W20, explained the objectives of W20 and G20 to the 87 Students who attended the lecture.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS BY W20

Consultation with Policy Makers

W20 Chair Dr. Sandhya Purecha met Ms. Ashwini Bhide, AMC Mumbai and EOs MCGM and discussed with them about W20 India.

SPOTLIGHT

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP AND TRANSFORMATION:
Charting the path of empowerment through technology and skill development"-
Side event during 67th Commission on Status of Women, United Nations

16th March 2023: A side event titled "Grassroots leadership and transformation: Charting the path of empowerment through technology and skill development" was hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in partnership with W20, the official engagement group of G20 on women's economic empowerment at United Nations, New York.

Digital transformation provides new avenues for the economic empowerment of women and can contribute to greater gender equality. The Internet, digital platforms, mobile phones and digital financial services offer ample opportunities for women and girls and can help bridge the divide by enabling them to earn additional income, increase their employment opportunities, and enhance their network through social media. While Information Communication Technology (ICT) is recognized as having the potential to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, a digital gender divide has been identified, whereby women and girl's access and use ICTs less than men and boys, which exacerbates gender inequalities.

Without increased digital adoption and use, women & girls will have fewer employment opportunities and will face additional barriers to workforce participation. Closing the digital divide for them needs tailored understanding and actions for each of these barriers.

To discuss key challenges and issues in ensuring universal access to the internet and technology in India, the event opened the platform for speakers and delegates across G20 nations for charting out a road map on skilling girls and women to bridge the gap in workforce participation as well as in access and use of technology. On the occasion, Her Excellency, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ambassador Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, the Executive Director of UN Women Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair of W20, Dr. Jyoti Kiran Shukla, Economist & Policy Expert, Ms. Bharati Ghosh, Former Indian Police Service officer & Former UN official, Ms. Cheryl Miller, W20 EU, Ms. Susan Jane Ferguson, Country Representative at UN Women India Ambassadors and delegates of W20 were present. The CSW side event witnessed large participation of representatives from UN member states, UN officials, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

Dharitri Patnaik moderated the Side Event emphasizing the imperative need for bridging the Gender Digital Divide. She said; "The process of achieving gender equality has slowed down due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures taken by the G20 countries to mitigate the economic and social impact of the covid-19 crisis yet evidence from many countries shows a disproportionate impact on women especially those younger, low-skilled or from ethnic minorities. The mission is to remove all barriers to Women-led development and ensure an enabling environment and ecosystem for women to thrive as well as others further building an equitable and sustainable future for all. Globally data from 2020 shows that 76% of urban households had access to the internet; which is twice as much as rural. India has become a prominent nation in deploying technology to transform lives of its people. In order to be part of the digital knowledge economy, the call to bridge the digital gap and digital inclusion has grown louder.' She highlighted the objective of the event which is to deliberate and discuss issues in ensuring universal access to the internet and technological innovations as well as charting out a roadmap on skilling women and girls.

Her Excellency RuchiraKhamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (UN); said that India today is going through major transformational changes with the transition happening from women's equity and empowerment to women-led development. The nation's belief and determination remove every obstacle in the way of women's progress and the firm conviction that gender does not define potential is forming the very basis of nation's empowerment.

The four key aspects that stand out are that the number of girls going to high school & beyond has tripled in the last years and more of them are going for science, engineering & technology which is at 43% as compared to the global average of 36%. Schemes such as KIRAN, UDAAN, PRAGATI, VigyanJyoti etc. have fueled the flight for these girls. Women are taking entrepreneurship like never before with a vast majority of beneficiaries of the MUDRA loan being women at 70%. The current government facilitates the direct transfer of these benefits thus ensuring fair practice. Her Excellency concluded with; "At the grassroots level in India; more than 1.4 million elected women representatives lead in the formulation and implementation of public policies which is highly commendable."

Her Excellency Sima Sami Bahous, Ex. Director of UN Women, addressed the panel highlighting the fact that the discussion goes to the core of the CSW-67's priority theme, which is ensuring that technological transformation promotes gender equality & women's empowerment around the world. The gender digital divide has become a new form of poverty in the face of gender inequality for millions. Highlighting the key areas of action Her Excellency remarked; the first is to close the gender digital divide since women are less likely than men to have meaningful access to technology due to barriers like cost, education etc. and 25 % less likely than men to possess efficient digital knowledge & skills.

Dr.SandhyaPurecha, Chair of W20 spoke about India's massive infrastructure push in the digitisation process and how Women are driving digital technologies in a variety of ways, from developing new products and technologies to leading digital innovation in their respective fields. Speaking about the Prime Minister's progressive schemes such as the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan (PMGDISHA)', 'National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology' (NMEICT) Scheme, SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), SWAYAM PRABHA, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab, e-Yantra, NEAT (National Education Alliance for Technology) etc., Dr. Purecha said, with these interventions, India has moved from women development to women-led development in the last nine years keeping digital and financial inclusion at the core of this.

Women 20, acknowledges that there are still challenges and gaps in digital inclusion and hence W20 advocates for some of the effective strategies to address the gender inequalities in the digital inclusion process, She added.

The panel discussion was taken forward with the eminent panelists reflecting on challenges, best practices and building collaborative approaches to ensure equitable access to the internet and technology, especially for women and girls.
Dr, Jyoti Kiran Shukla, Economist & Policy Expert responding to the question about the digitalization of decentralized governance structure said, 'Women led Development'; along with being a positive intervention, it has economic sense to it.

With more labour force participation of women, India is one among the trajectory of few countries to maintain 7-8 per cent growth rates & digitalization is playing a key role in it. To productively involve in the labour force, nearly 1.4 million women at the grassroots need access to finance to remove the barriers that restrict them. Referring to the Rajasthan state government's special initiatives, she emphasized that to script development index in terms of digital language, a radical change in financial architecture is required to promote digital governance and skill building.

Ms. Bharti Ghosh, Former Indian Police Service Officer & Former UN Official mentioning her experience with various schemes and programmes of India at the grassroots level towards bridging the gender digital divide said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, technology revolutions were harnessed during the COVID-19 crisis. India made history as it rolled out the largest vaccination drive; vaccinating 220 Crs. Indians along with millions overseas. A parallel revolution took place in the country where thousands of women at the grassroots; the ASHAs, Anaganwadi workers and the Female Health Workers as 'Digital Sarthaks' mobilized and facilitated COVID information to communities, leading to women empowerment.

By series of significant national schemes, the Honourable Prime Minister brought transformation in the lives of millions of women in India. She appraised the 'Mudra Yojana', which has reached out to 390 Million small and micro women entrepreneurs through institutional credit of whom 74% of women who belong to marginalized sections. 81% of 'Start-up India' scheme holders are women with 92 thousand accounts and a total of 21,000 crores have been disbursed for women-led enterprises and 12 million self-help groups.

In the last 8 years, more than 80 million women are working in group mode and funds of 55 trillion in credit support is extended to them. Reiterating Pradhan Mantri's different initiatives, Ms. Ghosh added that 55% of users of the universal banking facilities system under 'Jan DhanYojana' are women, women constitute 34% of the IT workforce and 10,000 women are employed through the world's largest women-run E-scooter factory whereas 45% start-ups are owing to women entrepreneurs, 15% of India's unicorns are women founders.

Ms. Bharti Ghosh remarked, at top governance 11 out of 78 union ministers are women and in grassroots democracy, women constitute 78% at the panchayat level. 28% of women officers in the defence sector with permanent status make women-led development a priority of the nation's development agenda.

Explaining the role of international organizations in bridging the gender digital divide at the grassroots level, Ms. Susan Ferguson said, in a country like India having incredible potential and where amazing work being done, international organizations like UN Women is to convene people from different sectors to work together to pilot different interventions which can be scaled up and doing research for government to take up policies and programmes.

Giving instances of UN Women's similar initiatives such as setting up of 'Women Empowerment Hubs', Ms. Susan said, the hub is equipped with different tools that help women in aspirational districts to learn and access the digital world. Industrial Training Institutes in collaboration with different industries are able to provide training and placements to women and girls in different technical jobs and the partnership of UN Women with NitiAyog has leveraged collaboration among government, private sectors and women communities to support women entrepreneurs towards enhancing their access in supply chains.

Cheryl Denise Miller, Delegate of W20 European Union, said that India's achievements and success stories should go out for the West to echo, emulate and replicate them. The situation of the gender digital divide is urgent. There are 240 million more men than women having access to technology. Referring to suggestions of Chat GPT (an AI language model), Ms. Cheryl said; the most important thing in closing the gender digital divide requires a sustained and coordinated effort by multiple stakeholders. She added; "We can do two things regarding this; one is that Digital Equity for women's empowerment should be the centrepiece for local, national and global policy-making.

Second is 'Paid Apprenticeship' programs for IT expertise targeting mature women should be introduced." Ms. Cheryl also remarked that; "We should move from tech-enabled entrepreneurship to tech-driven entrepreneurship with more women as founders of tech startups and they should be supported in terms of funding."

The panelists were asked to give one recommendation that the global leaders should take note of. Ms. Susan Ferguson suggested, "Three things that should really be considered are universal access to smartphones which includes data access at affordable rates, digital literacy and work on social norms that govern access and literacy as mentioned."Dr. JyotiKiran Shukla placed before the panel; "Removing invisibility in empowerment which requires data by which we mean digital data and collaborate with consensus and energize with participation."

Ms. Bharati Ghosh said that "As the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji says that gone are the days of women as homemakers, now is the time to see them as nation builders. For e.g. the JalJivan Mission which provides water to every household in rural India; along with providing water to 110 million households; brought 6 million women to leadership by training them with Smart Phones and Field Testing Kits on Collection, Safe-guarding and management of water as well as monitoring its quality."

Finally, Ms. Cheryl Miller ended with her final remarks; "Two silver bullets; better and more portrayal of girls and women in media. Rewarded paternity leaves so that women's participation outside the house is increased.

W20 PARTNERSHIPS

Permanent Mission of India to the UN
New York

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CSW67 Side Event – Grassroots Leadership and Transformation: Charting the path of empowerment through technology and skill development

Apeejay Stya University partners with W20 India for knowledge partnership

The MoU was signed with the purpose of knowledge partnership between both the parties. ASU and W20 aims to work towards the advancement of the cause of all women across the G20 nations.

Written by **FE Education**

March 25, 2023 15:00 IST

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UNIVERSITY EVENTS

NEWS FROM SRI SRI UNIVERSITY, OFFICES

Vice-Chancellor's Roundtable in collaboration with W20 and G20

A Vice-Chancellor's Roundtable was organized by Sri Sri University in collaboration with W20 India on March 13, 2023. The theme of the roundtable was Women in Higher Education: pathways to increase women in leadership roles. The roundtable aimed to provide a platform for Vice-Chancellors of universities to discuss the challenges faced by women in higher education and to identify pathways to increase women in leadership roles. The roundtable also aimed to identify best practices and strategies to increase the number of women in leadership roles in higher education. The roundtable was hosted by our hon'ble President Prof. (Mrs.) Rajita Kulkarni and attended by Vice-Chancellors of universities from across India and representatives from W20 India. The roundtable was a great success and provided a platform for Vice-Chancellors to share their experiences and best practices. The roundtable also identified several key challenges faced by women in higher education, including lack of access to education, lack of support from family and society, and lack of opportunities for leadership roles. The roundtable identified several pathways to increase women in leadership roles, including increasing access to education, providing support to women in higher education, and creating opportunities for women to take on leadership roles.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

Humara Bachpan Trust & W20 India (an official engagement group of G20) held a Public Outreach Programme at the Khandagiribari Community Ground of Bhubaneswar to kick-off the W20 Agenda in Odisha. The Curtain raiser event was attended by around 1000 women & adolescent girls from nearly 46 communities. It was organised by HBT with partnered sponsorship from Biriyani Box.

Women & Adolescent girls were felicitated by Dr. Sandhya Purecha, W20 India Chair; for their contributions across various priority areas of the W20.

Dharitri Patnaik, Chief Coordinator of W20 India and Founder & Chairperson of Humara Bachpan Trust also marked her presence.

MEDIA COVERAGE

CSW67 UN Women Side Event Highlights Need for Accelerating Action to Bridge the Gender Gap in the Digital Economy

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

Firstpost.   **HT Hindustan Times**

Author: Xiaerbati Daositeke

BY	Directorate of Student Affairs Sri Sri University
DATE	March 13, 2023
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India's G20 presidency: A bold case for 'Nari Shakti' and gender equality

The Modi government has demonstrated the willpower to uplift women and make a real difference, along with bringing about a shift in the paradigm from women's development to women-led development

Akanksha Khullar | March 12, 2023 13:49:04 IST

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World

India G20 Presidency: W20 delegation joins Indian Envoy, discusses Tech-led empowerment

ANI 17 March, 2023 03:14 pm IST

W20 Delegation with India's Permanent Mission at UN, Ruchira Kamboj in New York. (Photo: Twitter/India@UN)

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Media Coverage Links

1. Vice-Chancellor's Roundtable in collaboration with W20 and G20
https://srisriuniversity.edu.in/vice-chancellors-roundtable-in-collaboration-with-w20-and-g20/

2. CSW67 Side Event - Grassroots Leadership and Transformation: Charting the path of Empowerment through technology and skill development
https://pminewyork.gov.in/press?id=eyJpdiI6IjVlRm5qa25xakpMczE1N1FudDVSWGc9PSIsInZhbHVlIjoiXC83eFVkcWdDQ3ZhZW90aEtZSEpBaUE9PSIsIm1hYyI6IjgzNzAwZGU2Yjc2MThjNjBkYWExYTcwZWMyNTBiMGQ3NzgzYjMxNWU1MmYxMmVlM2Q4NDI2ZGI4ZjBkNzcyMTgifQ==

3. India G20 Presidency: W20 delegation joins Indian Envoy, discusses Tech-led empowerment
https://www.google.com/amp/s/theprint.in/world/india-g20-presidency-w20-delegation-joins-indian-envoy-discusses-tech-led-empowerment-2/1450980/%3famp

4.Apeejay Stya University Gurugram Signed MoU With W20 India For Knowledge Partnership
https://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/apeejay-stya-university-partners-with-w20-india-for-knowledge-partnership/3021840/

5.India's G20 presidency: A bold case for 'Nari Shakti' and gender equality
https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/indias-g20-presidency-a-bold-case-for-nari-shakti-and-gender-equality-12276922.html

Media Coverage Links

6. Humara Bachpan Trust & W20 India held a Public Outreach Programme at the Khandagiribari Community Ground of Bhubaneswar
 https://www.humarabachpan.org/humara-bachpan-trust-w20-india/

7. W20 – Call to Action for an equal and equitable society emphasizing on Women Led Development
https://thevoiceofchandigarh.com/w20-call-to-action-for-an-equal-and-equitable-society-emphasizing-on-women-led-development/

8. A historic leap to advance India's G20 women agenda
https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/pm-modi-prioritizes-women-led-development-in-g20-agenda-calling-for-global-action-and-investment-in-women-s-empowerment-to-achieve-sdgs-101680332791829-amp.html

PHOTO GALLERY

www.w20india.org

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