

Press Release

A workshop involving webinar participants on **“Addressing Gender Gap in Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics(STEM)”** & **“Gender Budgeting – Planning and allocation for Gender needs”** was held under the Chairmanship of Thiru.C.Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council (SDPC) (erstwhile State Planning Commission), Tamil Nadu on 18.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.

The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national/ state budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. Women, constitute 49.9% of State’s population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like education, economic opportunities, etc. In Tamil Nadu, as per the Census 2011, female literacy rate is 73.86 per cent against the 82.14 per cent for male. Consequently, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for female is 33.7% as against the male LFPR of 77.7%. It is imperative to consider that benefits of gender responsive budgeting extend beyond the improvement in the conditions of women and also contribute significantly to state growth and development. Hence, they warrant special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. In Tamil Nadu, the share of Gender Budget (probable outlay for women) as a percentage of total budgetary outlay is 38.83%, which is very high than at the National Level.

The objective of the workshop was to identify the Gender Gap issues in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics” & Gender Budgeting” in the State and it aims to converge the activities of various stakeholders including technical education providers, sector research institutions.

Thiru. Anil Meshram, I.A.S., Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council, has insisted for **“Addressing Gender Gap in Science Technology,Engineering, and Mathematics(STEM)”** to ensure development among women in Tamil Nadu.

Thiru.C.Ponnaiyan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council, in his presidential speech expressed concern on increasing experts involvement of women among youth in India and emphasized the need to reduce the gender gap in STEM studies/programmes, and attention should be given to address the contributory cognitive, motivational, and socio cultural factors, primarily by maximizing the number of career options that women perceive as attainable and compatible with their abilities, preferences, and goals. The system in vague is career oriented on the professional career ensure job opportunity. It is imperative to encourage the Self Employment Groups with support of banking sector for projects with market tie-up to foster the entrepreneurial skills of women. Especially more attention should be bestowed on girl children from vulnerable society namely viz., Tribal & Adi Dravidar sections. Gap in remuneration should be addressed effectively and parity in salaries should be there especially in farm sector. The Hon'ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council (SDPC) stated that for the successfull implementation of Gender Budgeting, mere allocation of funds will not suffice unless the desired outcome is attained. He opined that the allocation of funds for gender is much less and needs improvement for bridging the gaps. Polices should be chalked out for both short and long term span. There is a need for increasing the budget allocation of gender responsive schemes significantly. Moreover, the mere assignment of funds will not suffice unless there is a significant shift in focus on the measurement of outcome and impact of the schemes.

Thiru K.Vivekandandan, IAS., Commissioner, Directorate of Technical Education, Chennai-25, made a presentation on "Empowering the women in Technical Education in Tamil Nadu" describing present status and future

strategies to be adopted for growth of Tamil Nadu. In his presentation he has highlighted the methods of reducing gender gap in Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics subjects.

The Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics related Heads of Department from University of Madras, Chennai-5 and Anna University, Chennai-25, also made presentation in their respective subjects.

The meeting also focused on the opportunities in STEM for reducing the Gender Gap.

Sd/xxx
Member Secretary

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