

SUDSC WEBINAR SERIES

"Empowering Cities" Advancing Gender Perspectives in Urban Development

Time

15:00 to 16:30 Hrs (IST)

Date

7th June, 2024

Online- MS Teams

<https://shorturl.at/xlW1G>

Meeting ID: 318 348 559 904

Passcode: 2TRJFH

Background

In November 2022, the United Nations announced that human population had surpassed 8 billion people with over 55% living in the urban areas. In the Indian context, the World Bank Report suggests that by the year 2022, the urban population in India was approx. 36%. This percentage share is expected to increase to 41% by the year 2030 (as per UN Survey). Women and girls, constitute half of the urban population, and play integral roles as active contributors to the economy.

The Annual PLFS Report, 2021-22 published by MoSPI, Govt. of India indicates that the labour-force participation rate (LFPR) for population aged 15-59 years is almost 59%. Of this, the female LFPR is limited to 35.6% as against 82% of male LFPR. Statistics further indicate that the LFPR is much improved in the case of rural areas. Such variation reflects that a significant portion of the nation's economic potential remains untapped.

As per the Global Gender Gap Report, 2023 published by the World Economic Forum, India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap, ranking

127th on the global index. It has improved by 1.4 percentage points and eight positions since the last edition, marking a partial recovery towards its 2019 (66.8%) parity level. The country has attained parity in enrolment across all levels of education. However, it has reached only 36.7% parity on Economic Participation and Opportunity. This disparity keeps varying across different regions, and depends on several factors such as migration, education levels, fertility rates, age of marriage, economic growth, etc.

As we embark on the journey towards sustainable urban development, it is paramount to weave gender perspectives into the very fabric of urban planning, governance, and its development. Advancing gender perspective is a testament to this imperative, that aims to catalyse conversations and actions that foster gender equality and empowerment in the urban contexts.

In order to achieve the objectives of its Feminist Development Policy, 2023, the BMZ has identified four action areas. Strengthening rights, eliminating

discriminatory laws and norms, equal access to resources, equal representation and increased opportunities to exert influence are key factors for just, resilient, sustainable and peaceful societies

which leave no one behind. The “three Rs (rights, resources and representation)” are the key starting points for the BMZ’s feminist development policy.

About the Webinar

NIUA has entered into a strategic partnership with GIZ for supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development in Smart Cities - Phase II (SUDSC II) project, which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). As part of the project, NIUA and GIZ have jointly initiated the “SUDSC-II Webinar Series” to support setting up of the Communities of Practice on identified topics in partner cities/states. The webinar series is a set of curated dialogues/discussions focusing on urban topics related to municipal finance, climate resilience, digital innovations, gender responsiveness in urban governance.

The 9th webinar in the series, titled as **"Empowering Cities" Advancing Gender Perspectives in Urban Development** will emphasise on the crucial role of gender perspectives in urban development, highlighting the need for inclusivity, empowerment, and equity within cities. It will delve into topics such as digital/'phygital' transformation, municipal finance, and climate resilience, by examining how these areas intersect with gender considerations to shape policies and initiatives.

By focusing on promoting gender perspective and inclusivity, the webinar aims to inspire actionable steps that create urban environments where individuals, regardless of gender identity, have equal opportunities, access to services, and a voice in decision-making processes. Through insightful discussions and sharing of best practices, the webinar seeks to drive positive change and contribute to building more inclusive and sustainable cities for everyone.

The webinar aims to delve into a discussion with city officials, academicians, experts, community groups, etc. to explore the initiatives and actions

taken by them around the following themes:

a. Role of women for localised actions/ solutions towards building climate resilience: Vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by several factors like gender, ethnicity, low income, social and economic factors among others. Gender inequality coupled with the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It poses threats to ways of life, livelihoods, health, safety and security for women and girls around the world. Role of women in building resilient infrastructure is indispensable for achieving sustainable development goals and ensuring the well-being and prosperity of communities worldwide;

b. Strengthening municipal finance with a gender perspective: Gender disparities persist across various sectors, including education, healthcare, employment, and social protection. Traditional budgeting processes often fail to account for these disparities, leading to inappropriate resource distribution that inadvertently perpetuates inequality. The discussion will explore initiatives like gender budgeting, inclusive finance mechanisms, value capture financing, and green financing strategies that support gender-responsive urban development;

c. 'Phygital' transformation for sustainable urban development: In an increasingly digital world, the intersection of 'phygital' (physical and digital) elements, targeting to fulfil the gender-based requirements has profound implications for societal development, economic growth, and gender equality. While digital technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for empowerment and inclusion, gender disparities persist in access to and utilisation of these technologies. The discussion will bring forward the initiatives towards adoption of 'phygital' solutions as well as other initiatives that can foster inclusive development and ensure progress.

Session	Speakers	Discussion Points
Introduction (10 mins)	NIUA/ GIZ Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the Webinar and the topics to be covered Introducing the Speakers
Plenary 1 (20 mins)	Ms Bijal Brahmbhatt Director Mahila Housing Trust, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised actions/ solutions for building climate resilience Role of women in building resilient infrastructure
Plenary 2 (20 Mins)	Dr Prachi Jambhekar Director (Planning) Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening municipal finance with initiatives like gender budgeting that support gender-responsive development
Plenary 3 (20 Mins)	Ms Jeenal Sawla Principal Advisor Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives towards adoption of 'phygital' solutions enabling intersection of physical infrastructure and digital innovation for societal development, economic growth, and gender equality; Other initiatives on integration of care-infra with urban development
Q&A (10 Mins)	NIUA/ GIZ Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A session and open discussion
Closing Session (10 Mins)	NIUA/ GIZ Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks Vote of thanks

Profile of Speakers



Ms Bijal Brahmbhatt
Director

Mahila Housing Trust, Gujarat

Ms Bijal is Director, Mahila Housing Trust, Gujarat, who has extensive experience and broad knowledge of intersectional challenges that are mediated through housing and habitat, governance (lack there-of), informality, and gender for low-income urban communities and migrants in cities. She represents and advocates for the rights to improve living conditions, foster climate resilience and overall economic security, through socio-technical approaches and women-led models.



Dr Prachi Jambhekar

Director (Planning)
Brihanmumbai Municipal
Corporation, Mumbai

Dr Prachi has an illustrious career that spans over 21 years, she has been extensively involved in the development and execution of strategies for poverty alleviation, skill development, and the empowerment of women. She holds a master's degree in politics and public administration and has a PhD in the Sustainability of SHG's. She presently holds the position of Director (Planning) at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and is actively engaged as a Mentor with 'Vital Voices,' an organisation affiliated with the United Nations that is committed to fostering women's empowerment on a global scale.



Ms Jeenal Sawla

Principal Advisor
Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA

Ms Jeenal works as the Principal Advisor at the Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry. Here, she anchors initiatives to transform streets and public spaces in India's Smart Cities, like the India Cycles4Change, Streets4People, Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge, Placemaking Marathon, etc. She also works on improving citizen services and infrastructure in 100 Smart Cities. Prior to this, Jeenal worked in urban development across the United States, Switzerland and India. Jeenal holds a Bachelor's of Architecture from Kamla Raheja in Mumbai and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Harvard University, USA.