

Madhya Pradesh Rajya NITI Aayog

Bridging the Gap from Policy to Practice for Women's Empowerment in *Madhya Pradesh: A Discourse Consultation*

Date: 04th May 2023

Venue: Jehan Numa Palace, Bhopal

Coordinator team:

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INTRODUCTION / BRIEF

Madhya Pradesh, India, the second-largest state with a population of over 70 million, faces significant challenges related to gender-based discrimination and violence against women. While the government has introduced numerous policies and initiatives to promote gender equity and women's empowerment, there is a persistent gap between policy and practice. To address this issue, a discourse consultation event was organised by Madhya Pradesh Rajya NITI Aayog bringing together various stakeholders to discuss the key factors hindering the implementation of these policies and to identify effective strategies for enhancing women's empowerment in the state.

Key Highlights from the Event:

Setting the Context


- **Mr. Swatantra Kumar Singh, Member Secretary, MPSPPC and CEO, AIGGPA** emphasized the need for sensitizing all sectors of the government and the general public to address gender-based issues effectively. He stressed the importance of making grassroots-level changes to secure gender equality and women's freedom and security.

Panel Discussion

- **Ms. Jyoti Sharma (IAS), CEO, Zila Panchayat, Khargone**, highlighted the growth of policies over the years and discussed the challenges women face in different areas and suggested ways to promote women empowerment in the state.
- **Mrs. Tripti Tripathi, Member Secretary, the State Women Commission**, mentioned the importance of gender budgeting and equal opportunities for men and women.
- **Pinky Jeevnant, EIG, Women Safety Branch, police department**, addressed issues related to women's safety and the steps taken to provide security and legal protection.
- **Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, AIGGPA**, discussed the need for better coordination between government and non-government departments.
- **Mr. Suresh Tomar, Joint Director, WCD**, highlighted the strong gender bias and discrimination prevalent in rural areas and the measures to be taken to address the same

Open Discussion

- Participants raised various important points, including the need for gender sensitization, affordable sanitary products, health and menstrual hygiene in schools, promoting education, and encouraging men to participate in policy-making and discussions.
- Suggestions were made to address family issues, increase patience levels between men and women, and empower women at the grassroots level.
- The importance of involving youth, conducting research, and implementing gender-responsive budgeting was emphasized.
- Success stories were shared, such as upskilling women artisans and providing equal opportunities for women in various sectors.



Concluding Remarks

- The event concluded with the acknowledgment that both the government and the community share the responsibility for bridging the gender gap.
- Participants emphasized the importance of instilling values in childhood, providing equal opportunities and wages, taking care of women's health, nutrition, and protection from violence.

This discourse consultation provided a platform for various stakeholders to exchange ideas and experiences, fostering a culture of collaboration and dialogue. By addressing the challenges and opportunities, Madhya Pradesh aims to bridge the gap between policy and practice to empower women and create a more inclusive society.



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