

# International WOMEN'S DAY 2022

“The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2022 (IWD 2022) is “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”, recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response to build a more sustainable future for all”



No poverty



Good health and well-being



Clean water and sanitation



*Honoring the  
accomplishments  
of Women*



Gender equality



Life below water



Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Reduced inequalities





# Women Leadership

## Views of Women Professionals



### Women – LED Climate Transformation



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“Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are knocking on the door of Climate Catastrophe. It is time to go into emergency mode” said the Secretary-General António Guterres at the UN Climate Conference held at Glasgow recently.”

His dramatic statement is quite justified considering that life below water and above land is under immense and irrevocable stress today... Earth's natural resources are depleting at a rate that is bound to be catastrophic.

While the high decibel discussions among countries are about fixing Governments responsibilities for climate change mitigation, those affected most by the climate change, i.e. 'WOMEN' are barely discussed or even seen to be participating in those discussions! Considering that close to 80% of people impacted negatively by climate change are indeed women, it's strange that these international forums keep women out of the game...

Women represent only a third of the world's researchers, but have been at the forefront of Planet Protection and Scientific Innovations. A case in point is COVID-19 adaptation. It was in fact the Hungarian Biochemist Katalin Kariko's work on mRNA that led to two COVID vaccines and a young female Sudanese Molecular Biologist that inspired 3D printed ventilators. Despite demonstrated capabilities, women are being kept in the periphery...

#### Women in the Periphery

It's not just that women are kept out of international discussions on Climate Change but their issues are also not comprehensively included in the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Only 64 out of 190 'Nationally Determined Contributions' on SDGs refer to gender and not having 'Gender Specific Indicators' for many SDG goals speaks of the myopic approach to climate issues. The neglect is stark when we notice that only 22 countries considered women issues in their goals.

Globally, women constitute 40% of ocean scientists yet only a fraction of them are featured speakers at International Ocean Science Conferences. At the highest level of climate financing and technical support, it may be noted that there is a mere 19% representation of women on IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank Boards!

Therefore it is not a surprise that The World Economic Forum - Climate, supported by over 450 environmental leaders

highlighted and challenged women's under-representation in COP26 negotiations at Glasgow.

#### India can lead GENDER AGENDA Globally

Just the way India, under the stewardship of Prime Minister Modi proved its leadership by initiating 'International Solar Alliance' at COP21 (UNFCCC) PARIS, our country can lead the 'Gender leadership in Climate Change Mitigation' too.

India is AFLUSH with women talent...

When the world is lamenting about the chronic under-development of women's talents in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM studies) 43% of STEM graduates in India are women!! As a country we have performed better than USA, UK, France & Germany in educating our girls in pure sciences. This advantage has to be reckoned and put to use. These STEM graduates can work on 'Climate Science' and India can identify, develop clean technologies for a sustainable future. It's not difficult considering how our Start-Up ecosystem in the country has been shaped in the last few years. Unicorns are growing just as Startup ecosystems are maturing.

It is not an exaggeration to say that India can guide the world in Gender Leadership for ushering a sustainable world. It is worthwhile to pay your attention to the Sunderbans, the ecological treasure of India- when ferocious tigers killed thousands of men, it was the 'Tiger Widows' a band of 3000 women who lost their husbands to tiger attacks, rallied together to protect the key mangrove species of Sunderbans threatened by the devastating effects of climate change! Not withstanding their emotional and economic trauma, they fiercely protected our ecological assets. Such is India's Legacy!

If some Indian women are ferociously protecting our ecology, those at home have mastered the art of the 3R (Reduce | Reuse | Recycle) formula for sustainability.

No one can deny the fact that women at home are experts at recycling – old sarees are sewn into bedspreads curtains & pillow covers, young boys are taught to wear 'hand me downs' and the leftover food from the previous night magically becomes the morning breakfast. With this natural ability embedded into their DNA, women should be given their due credit and attention in the process of climate change.

#### Mitigation?

Unleashing the knowledge and capability of women across the country is needed to craft Equitable. Inclusive and Sustainable climate change solutions for not only India but for the entire world...

Women, that constitute half of humanity if excluded from architecting a sustainable future, the planet's health is bound to remain bleak. India can change this course – for the World! We have the Intellectual capital and leadership to navigate this change.

Women-Led Climate Transformation for a Sustainable Future can indeed be India's Crown Jewel!