



FEMINIST POLICY INDIA
Transformative Policy and
Financing for Gender Equality

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Pre-budget Consultation 2022: Transformative Financing for Gender Equality

Organised by Feminist Policy Collective, IWWAGE, Sahaj and
UN Women

Venue: UN House, Lodhi Road

Address: UN House, 55, Joseph Stein Lane, Lodhi Estate, New
Delhi, Delhi 110003

Agenda

DAY 1: 15 th DECEMBER 2022 (THURSDAY)			
SESSION	SESSION OUTLINE	TIME	SPEAKERS/Moderators
Registrations and Tea	Technical checks	10:00 am - 10:15 am	
Introduction	Opening Remarks	10:15 am - 10:30 am	Dr. Sona Mitra, IWWAGE
Keynote Address Moderator: Dr. Sona Mitra	Keynote Address Q/A	10:30 am - 11:15 am	Aasha Kapur Mehta
TEA BREAK		11:15 am - 11:30 am	
Roundtable 1: Social Sectoral Priorities Co- Moderators: Suneeta Dhar, Nilangi Sardeshpande	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Rights and Education• Labour Rights• Ending gender-based violence• Social Infrastructure• Health• Eradicating manual scavenging• Impacts of climate change on women in agriculture	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protiva Kundu (CBGA)• Neha Wadhawan (ILO)• Sanjida Arora (CEHAT)• Nesar Ahmed (BARC)• Indranil Mukhopadhyay (OP Jindal Global University/ Jan Swasthya Abhiyan)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bezwada Wilson (Safai Karmachari Andolan) ● Usha Seethalakshmi (MAKAAM)
LUNCH		1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	
Livelihoods Panel 1 Moderator: Sarojini Ganju Thakur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-Traditional Livelihoods ● Domestic and Informal Workers ● MSMEs 	2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nilanjana Sengupta- APU ● Kiran Moghe ● Ritu Dewan - FPC
TEA BREAK		3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	
Livelihoods Panel 2 Moderator: Saachi Bhalla (BMGF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creches and ECD ● Unorganised sector ● Skilling ● Tech-enabled emerging sectors 	4:00 pm - 5:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sumitra Misra -Mobile Creches ● Geetha Ramakrishnan- Construction Workers Union ● Sunaina Kumar - ORF ● Anweshaa Ghosh – ISST
DAY 2: 16th DECEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY)			
Recap of Day 1	Welcome to Day 2 and recap Day 1	10:00 am - 10:15 am	Nilangi Sardeshpande and Renu Khanna

<p>Roundtable 2: Intersectional Lens</p> <p>Co-Moderators: Jashodhara Dasgupta, Shruti Ambast (CBGA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dalit and Adivasi Women's Issues ● Trans persons group ● Child Rights ● Housing and Land Rights ● Minority Persons' Rights ● Queer person's Issues 	<p>10:30 am - 12:30 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beena Pallical - NCDHR ● Grace Banu ● Kumar Shailabh - HAQ ● Anagha Jaipal - HLRN ● Hasina Khan - Bebaak Collective ● Ritambhara Mehta - Breakthrough
<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Renu Khanna - Sahaj</p>	<p>Way forward</p>	<p>12:30 pm - 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Susan Ferguson - Executive Director, UN Women</p>
<p>WRAP UP</p>		<p>1:00 pm - 1:15 pm</p>	<p>Renu Khanna - Sahaj</p>
<p>END With LUNCH</p>		<p>1:15 pm to 2:30 pm</p>	

Transformative Financing For Gender Equality

Event Report: 4th Edition of the Transformative Financing for Gender Equality Meeting

Keynote Address: Dr. Asha Kapur Mehta, Moderated by Dr. Sona Mitra

Introduction:

The 4th edition of the Transformative Financing for Gender Equality meeting kicked off with a warm welcome note, setting the stage for a crucial discourse on understanding the gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) tool. The overarching goal was to discuss transformative actions and outcomes for gender equality, with a particular focus on redirecting attention towards women's empowerment within the G-20 framework.

Dr. Asha Kapur Mehta's Remarks:

Dr. Asha Kapur Mehta, delivering the keynote address, emphasized the transformative potential of GRB, drawing insights from both successful implementations and persistent challenges. She traced the roots of gender budgeting in India, citing milestones such as the Feminist Movement in India, the CSW report of 1974, and various expert groups.

The journey, spanning years of dedicated work, led to significant recommendations, such as the formation of an ad-hoc task force involving the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and Planning Commission. Despite these efforts, there are still gaps in the execution, with only a few ministries reporting, and, when done, there's ex-post reporting within the GRB.

Dr. Mehta pointed out the need to view GRB as a multilayered process, requiring collaboration between government ministries and civil society. She provided examples from the Ministry of Renewable Resources and the state of Kerala to showcase effective implementation.

However, challenges persist, including incomplete reporting, lack of groundwork, and the dominance of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in the GRB. Dr. Mehta stressed the importance of integrating GRB across all policy stages and using various tools, from checklists to spatial mapping.

RoundTable 1: Social Sectoral Priorities

Co-Moderators: Suneeta Dhar (FPC), Nilangi Sardeshpande (SAHAJ)

The roundtable discussion, moderated by Suneeta Dhar and Nilangi Sardeshpande, focused on social sector priorities. Each speaker addressed specific sectors, highlighting budgetary gaps, challenges, and potential solutions.

Bezwada Wilson's Presentation (Sanitation and Manual Scavenging):

Wilson's presentation shed light on the persistent issues faced by sanitation workers, particularly women engaged in manual scavenging. Despite reduced budgets and a focus on infrastructure, the human aspect of these jobs is overlooked. Wilson emphasized the need for earmarked allocations and alternative livelihood opportunities. He called for a roadmap to achieve a 50 percent budget allocation for sanitation workers.

Protiva Kundu's Presentation (Child Rights and Education):

Protiva Kundu highlighted gaps in child education policies, especially in older age groups, focusing on issues of identification, resource allocation, and measurement. She stressed the need for fiscal commitment for inclusivity and called attention to the decline in budgetary support for essential schemes like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Nesar Ahmed's Presentation (Social Infrastructure):

Nesar Ahmed underscored the interconnected nature of social issues, pointing out the impact of land acquisition on livelihoods and social services. He emphasized the need for budgetary provisions for Rehabilitation and Relocation (R&R) in infrastructure projects.

Neha Wadhawan's Presentation (Labour Rights):

Neha Wadhawan discussed issues related to SDG 8.7, focusing on the recognition of unpaid work, especially for women. She highlighted the importance of mobility and the need for gender-sensitive migration policies. Wadhawan also addressed the care economy, calling for increased remuneration for workers and sector-specific schemes.

Sanjida Arora's Presentation (Gender-Based Violence):

Sanjida Arora focused on violence against women (VAW) and the health system's response. She discussed the challenges in allocating funds for VAW initiatives and highlighted gaps in training healthcare providers. Arora recommended separate allocations for facilities dealing with gender-based violence.

Indranil Mukopadhyay's Presentation (Health):

Indranil Mukopadhyay delved into gender patterns in health, criticizing the government's allocation priorities. He emphasized the need for increased budgets for Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) and specific schemes addressing women's health.

Usha Seethalakshmi's Presentation (Women in Agriculture):

Usha Seethalakshmi outlined challenges faced by women in agriculture, including identity and recognition issues, asset and land ownership

disparities, and climate change impacts. She called for policy changes, including a Women Farmers Entitlement Act and increased allocations for women in agriculture.

Discussion:

The discussion encompassed various pertinent issues, including the KALIA scheme and PM KISAN, presenting an opportunity in the election year to address the initial cap on beneficiaries. Concerns were raised about the reinforcement of gender stereotypes through work-from-home (WFH) and work near home (WNH) practices in India, where digital access remains a significant barrier. It was noted that women often escape domestic violence by leaving home for work, but community-based monitoring can restrict their mobility. Underspending on health was highlighted, emphasizing the need for increased public investment, with a shift towards public health, mental health, and preventive practices. Additionally, provisions for the fishing community were acknowledged, and the importance of focusing on school as a touchpoint in education was emphasized, considering the heterogeneity and the need for infrastructure development. The call for democratizing the delivery of public health services and gathering data to understand the reasons behind underspending underscored the multifaceted nature of the issues discussed.

Livelihoods Panel 1: NTL, Domestic & Informal Workers, MSMEs

Moderator: Sarojini Ganju Thakur

Discussion Overview:

The Livelihoods Panel 1, moderated by Sarojini Ganju Thakur, delved into the intricate nuances of non-traditional livelihoods (NTL), domestic workers, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The lively discussion revolved around the changing budgetary allocations and schemes, with a focus on empowering women in various sectors.

Dr. Nilanjana Sengupta's Presentation (NTL):

Dr. Sengupta commenced her presentation by highlighting the inception of the non-traditional livelihoods network in 2016. The fluidity of the term "non-traditional" was emphasized, acknowledging that what is considered non-

traditional today might evolve with changes in employment opportunities for women. NTL was positioned as a tool to break gender stereotypes, expand livelihood scope, and increase incomes.

Best practices were outlined, including mobilization of training, sustainable livelihood programs requiring 6-8 months of training, building NTL-friendly markets in collaboration with the government and private sector, and facilitating connections to livelihoods through direct or indirect placements. Dr. Sengupta also stressed the importance of hand-holding during the initial phases of jobs or entrepreneurship, advocating for facilities like daycare at training and job sites.

Challenges such as lack of coordination among ministries, clustering of women in traditional courses, and inadequate financing were discussed. Recommendations included focusing on unpaid work, mobilization, flexible learning schedules, and developing creche facilities.

Kiran Moghe's Presentation (Domestic Workers):

Kiran Moghe addressed the challenges faced by domestic workers, drawing attention to the evolving nature of informal and unorganized work. The presentation emphasized the need for recognizing, respecting, and protecting the rights of domestic workers, including issues related to caste, class, and gender discrimination.

Key challenges were identified, such as the absence of statutory provisions for working conditions, lack of standardization of wages due to diverse tasks, and the absence of social security. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working opportunities and wages was also discussed.

Policy measures were proposed, including better registration processes, implementation of the Domestic Workers Act, and a focus on state laws and budgets. Access to social security, health insurance, and maternity benefits were deemed essential for the well-being of domestic workers.

Dr. Ritu Dewan's Presentation (MSMEs):

Dr. Ritu Dewan shed light on the pandemic's impact on policy, emphasizing the need to focus on the demand side and consumption needs. The lack of

definitive data on women-run and owned MSMEs was highlighted, with an exploration of the challenges faced by women in the sector.

The changing definition of MSMEs and their significant contribution to output, employment, and exports were discussed. The impact of various policies, such as GST, demonetization, and the ECLGS scheme, on MSMEs, particularly those owned by women, was analyzed. The dependence on imports from China and the absence of a focus on labor-intensive MSMEs were underscored.

Discussion/Questions:

The panel discussion extended to various topics, including the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the impact of the pandemic on domestic workers, and the need for skilling programs linked with education and vocational programs.

Domestic workers' challenges, including migration and recognition, were highlighted, with the suggestion to push for the implementation of recommendations made during the COVID-19 pandemic. The linkage between skilling and industry was stressed, emphasizing the importance of soft skills and the need for increased investment in skilling programs.

The Livelihoods Panel 1 provided a comprehensive exploration of challenges and opportunities in non-traditional livelihoods, domestic work, and MSMEs. The event fostered a platform for insightful discussions, recommendations, and collaborative efforts to address the multifaceted issues affecting women in the workforce.

Livelihoods Panel 2

Moderator: Saachi Bhalla, BMGF

The second panel of the Livelihoods discussion, moderated by Saachi Bhalla of BMGF, brought together experts to deliberate on critical aspects affecting women in the workforce. The panel touched upon Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) and its significance in advancing women's interests through policies.

Sumitra Misra's Presentation (Childcare, Creches, and ECD):

Sumitra Misra shed light on the intricate dynamics of childcare, creches, and early childhood development (ECD) within the larger context of the care economy. She emphasized the need for discussions on the precarity of work and its differential impact on women. While childcare is enshrined in labor laws and the Maternity Benefit Act, challenges arise from contractual and subcontractual work, leading to the exclusion of women in sectors such as construction and tea plantations.

The presentation explored the potential of gig work in childcare and its role in the future care economy. The "care diamond" concept highlighted the substantial market demand for childcare, but women's lack of agency over childcare decisions remained a concern. Misra discussed the Mission Shakti guidelines, the repackaging of creche schemes, and the challenges faced in their implementation, especially with the new Palana scheme. The need for trained care workers, informed parents, and childcare opportunities outside the home was underscored.

Geetha Ramakrishnan's Presentation (Unorganized Sector - Social Security):

Geetha Ramakrishnan's presentation focused on social security measures available to women in the informal and unorganized sector. With over 50% of women working in sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and construction, the discussion centered around state-specific welfare boards providing benefits to unorganized workers in Tamil Nadu.

Ramakrishnan highlighted challenges posed by the Labor Codes, emphasizing the need for the restoration of state laws and pushing for the re-introduction of the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act. The closure of two major hospitals for beedi workers sparked the demand for new legislation for unorganized workers. Issues related to funds, grants, and the role of the Central Government were discussed.

Sunaina Kumar's Presentation (Skilling):

Sunaina Kumar delved into the skilling landscape in India, emphasizing the positive impact of skilling on employment. The presentation highlighted significant gaps in skilling, with less than 5% of the workforce receiving training. Challenges included a shortage of qualified trainers, poor placements, and a lack of market linkages.

Kumar pointed out gender-specific challenges in skilling programs, with women often confined to traditional sectors. The need for gender-transformative government skilling programs, reduction of the gender digital divide, and clarity on the social security code for gig workers were suggested.

Anweshaa Ghosh's Presentation (Tech-Enabled Emerging Sectors):

Anweshaa Ghosh focused on women in the platform economy, categorizing it into freelance/crowd work and on-demand platform-based work. While acknowledging the massive scope in this sector, Ghosh highlighted the limited representation of women and challenges associated with their placement.

Issues such as digital divide, lack of flexibility, and biases in algorithms governing gig workers were discussed. The recognition of women gig workers in the social security code and the need for gender-transformative government skilling programs were suggested as potential solutions.

Discussion:

The panel discussion covered various topics, including the Palana Scheme's low allocation and challenges in childcare policy implementation. There was a call to support state governments in rural and urban areas, recommend fund allocations at the state and district levels, and address administration problems.

MNREGA creches and gig platforms were discussed, with examples from Malaysia and Tamil Nadu developing apps for registered workers. Challenges and opportunities in the gig economy, including care-gig work, were highlighted, emphasizing the need to reduce the gender digital divide and ensure gender-transformative government skilling programs.

The Livelihoods Panel 2 offered a nuanced exploration of critical issues affecting women, spanning childcare policies, social security, skilling, and the challenges within emerging tech-enabled sectors. The panel discussions provided valuable insights and recommendations for creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in various workforce domains.

Day 2 - Roundtable Discussions and Presentations

Key Takeaways from Day 1:

Day 1 of the event provided insights into gender issues at macro and micro levels, emphasizing policy implications and government-level challenges. The impact of Covid-19 on education and gender-based violence was discussed, with a particular focus on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the need for gender perspectives. The livelihood sessions offered recommendations regarding creche and daycare facilities, community engagement, hand-holding support, and compulsory registration of unorganized workers. Overarching themes included MNREGA, skilling, data gaps, flaws in current policies, unspent budgets, and the importance of normalizing gender budgeting.

Roundtable 2: Intersectional Lens

Moderators: Jashodhara Dasgupta and Shruti Ambast

Discussion Highlights:

The roundtable focused on the experiences of women from different communities, with an intersectional lens. Challenges faced by trans people, issues in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), systematic targeting of the Muslim community, and gaps in dedicated funding for marginalized groups and women were discussed.

Grace Banu's Presentation (Transpersons Issues):

Grace Banu highlighted the challenges faced by the transgender community, including issues related to child rights, land rights, and livelihoods. Discrimination against gender non-conforming children in the education system was emphasized. The presentation called for separate reservations, increased budget allocations, and support for healthcare and elderly trans individuals.

Kumar Shailabh's Presentation (Perspective of Girl Child):

Kumar Shailabh focused on governance and child protection issues, emphasizing the declining share of the Union budget allocated to children. The need for restructuring and reevaluation of schemes, greater focus on state budgets, and addressing challenges exacerbated by Covid-19, such as child labor and child marriage, were discussed.

Anagha Jaipal's Presentation (Homeless and Urban Poor):

Anagha Jaipal discussed the inadequate budgetary allocations for homeless and urban poor populations, emphasizing the disparity in implementation across states. The impact of forced eviction and displacement, lack of compensation, and exclusion of vulnerable groups from housing schemes like PMAY were highlighted. The presentation called

for special allocations, increased budgetary support for infrastructure, and addressing the unique needs of women in housing initiatives.

Demands and Recommendations:

- Special allocation for those excluded from PMAY.
- Increased budget allocation for infrastructure like shelters and specific kinds of shelters for vulnerable groups.
- Inquiries on vacant housing units.
- Enhanced budget allocation for upgrading informal settlements, focusing on safety, transportation, healthcare, sanitation, and drinking water for women.
- Addressing landless beneficiaries and increasing resources for disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure.

The discussions underscored the importance of a nuanced and inclusive approach to policymaking, acknowledging the diverse challenges faced by different communities and advocating for targeted and comprehensive solutions. The event on Day 2 contributed significantly to the ongoing discourse on gender, rights, and budgetary allocations in India.

Diverse Perspectives on Marginalized Communities

Hasina Khan's Presentation (Minority Rights, Especially Muslim Women):

Hasina Khan shed light on the challenges faced by Muslim communities, especially women, under the current political landscape. Since 2014, there has been a decline in the allocation of the minority budget, with the government claiming improved economic and social situations for minorities. Lack of awareness about government schemes and systematic discrimination against Muslims, including forced vegetarianism and restrictions on children's diets, was emphasized. The presentation called for the right to life, addressing vulnerabilities, and raising awareness on healthcare and body rights.

Ritambhara Mehta's Presentation (Queer Feminist Perspective):

Ritambhara Mehta, a queer feminist trainer, highlighted the government's limited approach towards vulnerable groups, including queer individuals. The focus was on shifting from providing mere "crumbs" to addressing larger aspirations and mainstreaming non-normative identities. Concerns related to education, healthcare, forced marriages of queer individuals, and the need for sensitization in services like Mission Shakti were discussed.

Recommendations included women's groups advocating for resources for queer men, redefining "gender" in gender-based violence, and increasing civic spaces for diverse perspectives.

Nesar Ahmed - BARC Presentation (Dalit Issues):

Nesar Ahmed focused on Dalit issues, particularly changes in budget allocations for marginalized groups under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Concerns were raised regarding the insufficient allocation for SC/STs in central-sponsored schemes, limited representation of tribal/Dalit women in ministries, and the absence of gender budget statements for women in various departments. The presentation urged ministries to design schemes specifically for women in their constituencies.

Abirami Jotheeswaran's Presentation (Access to Justice - Dalit Women):

Abirami Jotheeswaran discussed the prevention of violence against Dalit women, highlighting a doubling of violence under the SC/ST Act. Mental trauma, erasure of identity, and concerns of the older LGBT community were emphasized. Recommendations included incorporating CAG reports, addressing issues of homelessness, shelter, sanitation, and taking concrete steps to support the vulnerable communities.

Comments and Recommendations:

The discussion touched upon cross-cutting issues like precarious livelihoods, discrimination in education, violence against minorities, and the need for value-based education. Recommendations included promoting health education, increasing allocations for housing, protecting existing policies, and adopting an intersectional approach in gender assessments. The importance of data collection, utilization of existing policies, and the need for sensitized personnel for effective implementation were underscored.

The event provided a platform to delve into the multifaceted challenges faced by marginalized communities, emphasizing the importance of nuanced policies, increased awareness, and a comprehensive, inclusive approach towards the empowerment of vulnerable groups in India.

Closing Address: Empowering Women on the Global Stage

In her closing address, Susan Ferguson, the Executive Director of UN Women, emphasized the importance of prioritizing women's interests and the critical role governments play in investing in policies for women.

Reflecting on the progress made globally, she highlighted the need for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) as a crucial tool for resource allocation and addressing gender issues. Susan celebrated India's commitment to GRB, distinguishing it from countries that have discontinued such practices, including Australia, the pioneer in this field.

The focus then shifted to the G20/W20 initiatives, where Nidhi Goyal and Priti Darooka presented insights into the Women's Voices collective and the evolving structures of the W20. The changing landscape of global politics and the role of multilateral groupings as key spaces for global governance were discussed. The W20's focus areas, including women-led development, entrepreneurship, grassroots women leadership, bridging the digital divide, education/skill development, and climate change, were highlighted as opportunities for women's advancement.

Specific dates for upcoming W20 events were shared, marking significant milestones in the journey towards gender equality. The Mahabalipuram Summit in 2023 holds particular importance, with the finalization of the communique and its submission to India's Sherpa. The dates for key events leading up to the summit were provided, showcasing a strategic and structured approach to W20's initiatives.

The contact details for the W20 Secretariat, along with the names of key individuals leading the W20 India chapter, were shared, emphasizing transparency and accessibility.

Placing the [specific dates](#) of summits below:

- 13-14 February 2023, 1st Inception Meet, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India
- 13-14 April 2023, international Meet, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- 19-20 June 2023, W20 Summit, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India

Official Contact details:

- Address of the W20 Secretariat: FICCI FLO, Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi, India
- Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair, W20 India : chair@w20india.org
- Dharitri Patnaik, Chief Coordinator, W20 India Secretariat : chiefcoordinator@w20india.org

In conclusion, the event underscored the importance of sustained efforts in empowering women globally. By integrating gender-responsive budgeting, promoting women-led development, and actively participating in global initiatives like the G20/W20, India stands poised to contribute significantly to the advancement of women's rights and opportunities on the world stage.

