



GENDER SAMVAAD

Theme: Gender Transformative Rural Livelihoods

INAUGURAL EVENT

April 16, 2021



PREFACE

Gender Samvaad is a joint attempt between Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM) and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) to create a common platform for generating greater awareness on NRLM's interventions across the country and best practices, with a focus on hearing voices from the states and the field. The event is part of the Azadi Amrut Mahotsav, launched by the Prime Minister of India to commemorate 75 years of India's independence and share the glorious traditions and progress made in several areas. Organised as a bi-monthly webinar, the Samvaad will provide states with opportunities to:

- Understand best practices/initiatives that other states have been undertaking to improve women's agency e.g. facilitating women's access to land rights, engagement in farmer producer organisations (FPOs), best practices around Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) (FNHW), in establishing strong institutions for public service delivery, in protecting and providing redress to vulnerable groups within women (e.g. practices against witch hunting) etc.;
- Understand gender interventions globally;
- Engage with experts and other colleagues on suggestions with regard to handling issues/ implementation barriers;
- Support creation of a 'gender repository' with resource materials on best practices for gender interventions across the country/other countries; and
- Build advocacy around the need to focus on gender issues across SRLMs and the NRLM.

In the current context of the pandemic, time is opportune to initiate such dialogues with a varied range of stakeholders to comprehend broader policies and more micro processes underlying such initiatives. In doing so, the Gender Samvaad will cover stakeholders ranging from representatives of state rural livelihood missions (who would share their experiences) to NRLM's senior officials, representatives from civil society, academia and multilateral institutions, and international experts implementing similar women's empowerment programmes around the world, who would offer their feedback and recommendations to the states.

The Gender Samvaad was launched on April 16, 2021 at 4 PM. The online launch event brought together a distinguished panel of experts, including senior officials of the Ministry of Rural Development. In addition, it included voices of women champions from Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Kerala, who shared their experiences on how gender mainstreaming efforts within the NRLM have helped enhance their agency. A compendium of case studies presenting inspiring stories of SHG members was also released at the event. The Agenda of the launch event is attached in Annexure I.

I.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO GENDER SAMVAAD



Smt. Nita Kejrewal
Joint Secretary
MoRD

Smt. Nita Kejrewal, Joint Secretary, DAY NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI) in her introductory remarks welcomed the Secretary and Additional Secretary of the MoRD along with NRLM's National Mission Monitoring Unit (NMMU) and the IWWAGE team. She extended her warm wishes to all the participants joining the virtual inaugural event of the Samvaad. She explained that the Samvaad platform will create opportunities for hearing the gender champions at the grass root level coupled with innovative approaches, practices and systems adopted across States in realising gender equitable outcomes at the community level. The Samvaad platform will serve as a 'gender repository' and build advocacy to further the mandate of strengthening women's empowerment. The event is an integral part of the Amrut Mahotsav celebration to commemorate the 75th year of Indian independence.

In her remarks, she underscored the relevance of DAY NRLM in addressing multidimensional poverty. The unique feature of this flagship scheme is geared towards empowering women and creating social capital at the village level. Thus, these women led institutions at the grass root level drive the development agenda enabling effective delivery of public service. Under its Gender Strategy adopted in 2017, DAY NRLM endeavours to demonstrate pioneering approaches to mainstream gender within the programme. The Gender Strategy has a two-pronged approach including: i) building capacities of NRLM's human resources to address gender issues, across the national and sub national architecture; and ii) developing institutional models to address gender issues. In this context, DAY NRLM is working in partnership with IWWAGE to train its staff at all levels and test the efficacy of institutional models such as Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) in 4 States (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha). The project has resulted in building capacities of 8500 mission staff, 18000 social action committee members, 3500 gender point person, and 3500 community resource persons in these states.

In her concluding remarks, the Joint Secretary extended her wishes to make the Gender Samvaad a success and requested the IWWAGE team to screen a short video on NRLM's gender interventions. [The video, NRLM Gender Interventions can be viewed here.](#)

II.

ADDRESS BY THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MoRD



Ms. Alka Upadhyaya
Additional Secretary
MoRD

Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Additional Secretary, MoRD in her address welcomed the Secretary, MoRD and the IWWAGE team. She welcomed the participants, including many SHG women who had joined the online Samvaad from across the country to share their stories of resilience, hope and success. She eloquently appreciated the effort in creating the Gender Samvaad platform which is a first of its kind to celebrate the success of women in the NRLM programme. To increase the penetration of the Gender Samvaad, the Additional Secretary underscored the importance of the community radio platform as one that could be leveraged in future. The Samvaad, she said, will be organised as a bi-monthly event focused on specific gender-based themes, engaging subject matter specialists for recommendations and inputs.

In her remarks, the Additional Secretary underlined how NRLM is a flagship scheme that provides a window of opportunity for building strong identities for women through women's collectives. Testimonies from the field reflects that these vibrant institutions of women are capable of financial planning and use of financial resources for livelihoods interventions particularly in agriculture, dairy and poultry. The presence of these SHGs in different SARAS melas centre stages their capacity and capability of running, managing and sustaining rural enterprises. The Additional Secretary highlighted the need to increase the retention of skilled women with better safety and security in jobs/ services.

The establishing of GRCs by the women's self-help groups is a signature step towards the empowerment of women under the programme. The GRC, she said, can be a powerful platform for addressing grievances of women ranging from access to rights and entitlements of public services and violence related cases etc. For example, several cases of land rights for tribal women have been resolved through these institutional spaces in tribal districts in Madhya Pradesh.

However, the Additional Secretary cautioned that to achieve the transformative agenda of women's empowerment, there is an increasing need for making women from self-help groups visible in Gram Sabhas so gender issues can be mainstreamed in development planning processes. It is also important to encourage women from SHGs to contest for electable positions in the panchayats, given the law which mandates 33 per cent women reservation in the governance of Gram Panchayats.

Given rising insecurity around health due to the pandemic, the Additional Secretary emphasised the importance of increasing social security for women through insurance. Although 8 crore women have been associated with this programme, but the number shows a steady

decline in terms of insurance coverage which approximately covers 1.8 crore women. She, therefore called for participants from different States to design strategies for inclusion so more women could be brought within the insurance fold, to reduce the risk of further uncertainties and shocks for them.

Thus far, the Gender Samvaad serves to be an excellent opportunity for creating awareness across different women and showcase stories of lived experiences of the gender champions. The Additional Secretary closed her remarks by requesting the Secretary, MoRD to release the compendium of best practices titled “Stories of Resilience and Hope”. She also requested IWWAGE to translate the compendium into Hindi for greater outreach.

III. LAUNCH OF GENDER SAMVAAD WEBPAGE



Following the release of the compendium, the Gender Samvaad webpage was launched. Soumya Kapoor Mehta, Head, IWWAGE briefed the audience about the objectives and purpose of the webpage. The webpage is bi-lingual (English and Hindi) and can be accessed at <https://iwwage.org/gender-samvad/>. The purpose of the webpage is to store inspiring stories and experiences of women from across the country and best practices across the NRLM verticals from a gender lens. All upcoming events, including panel discussions, will be uploaded on the Samvaad webpage for broader outreach and dissemination. In future, several deliberations on themes like gender and land, skills and financial inclusion will also be housed in the web page. Currently, IWWAGE is in the process of making the web page dynamic by creating a chat option for receiving queries on gender issues under NRLM, from across the country to provide need-based solutions.

IV.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE
SECRETARY, MoRD

Shri. Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
MoRD

Shri. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, MoRD welcomed all the participants and requested them to be alert and to stay safe in the corona crisis. In his keynote address he requested all the cadres and SHG leaders to participate in the Gender Samvaad for their own benefits for implementing the programme. He expressed hope that the theme-based format followed for the virtual Samvaad, would highlight achievements as well as the operational challenges faced by NRLM. Shri Sinha emphasised that expeditious actions for identified challenges should evolve from the discussion through this forum, by engaging different State experiences as well as subject matter specialists. In his address, the Secretary said that poverty has disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and men. There is, therefore a need to design a gender targeted approach, especially in areas where the gender divide is comparatively more with respect to other societies.

To ensure gender responsive governance, women from SHGs should participate in the village poverty reduction planning (VPRP) to identify different economic, social and infrastructure solutions. Such convergence in planning can help achieve substantive changes in the lives of women and girls. Engendering planning processes through bottom up participation of women can not only help identify gender specific issues, but also ensure adequate allocation of public resources to bridge the gender divide.

Equally important are synergies between the Rural Development Department and Women and Child Development Department which if strengthened can help in optimal utilisation of resources and efforts for the overall development of women and children.

In his concluding remarks, the Secretary, RD congratulated the effort of conceptualising the idea of the Gender Samvaad and the opportunity that the platform provides to all community leaders and States to share their experiences, success stories, and challenges.

V. CASE STUDIES



Three Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand (in the order of presentation) shared their experiences of working with the mission and how the mission had helped them to support other women in their communities. The stories reflect how existing stereotypes can be challenged, and advancement made towards women's leadership and managerial roles in the livelihoods sector.

CASE STUDY 1:

Ms. Beena Paul

President Kudumbashree Women Construction
Ernakulam District

TITLE:

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING: WOMEN IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN KERALA



In 2014 Kudumbashree¹ started realising that while the construction industry was booming in the state of Kerala, there was limited participation of women in the industry. The obvious reasons for women not joining the construction sector comprised lack of skill training for women in construction which is considered hitherto to be male dominated.

Understanding the potential market demand and labour absorption capacity in this sector, Kudumbashree started adopting a model that was initially started by SEWA Nirman in Gujarat. Kudumbashree's state mission along with HUDCO initiated a project for skill upgradation of women in the construction sector. Kudumbashree's Ernakulam District wing took the challenge: it identified 130 women (40 civil engineering graduates, 30 civil diploma and ITI holders and around 60 masons). Finding work opportunities in the construction sector were initially a huge challenge for women, given the common notion that men perform such activities. However, with the passing of time, the scope for work has widened and trained masons perform variety of activities ranging from construction of sidewall protection works, cattle sheds, government offices, repair works, house construction, anganwadi construction, construction of toilets, road works, and bridges. Some of the Ernakulam wing's recent projects include: (i) Railway parking facilities; (ii) construction of 29 houses for tribal department; (iii) three Ashraya houses at Mookkannoor Panchayat; (iv) construction works of 41 lakhs for Forest Industries Travancore Ltd.; (v) and construction work at Technolodge, IT hub - Piravom. The group has been receiving tenders from different departments and agencies from 2014. The total amount received by them for such work from between 2014 to 2020 has been approximately Rs 2.20 crore.

The group works in association with 4CLFs, 8 VOs and 27 SHGs. Presently the group comprises of 60 members: 5 members are in the core group- (Beena Paul works as President). The group uses women friendly tools like metal and wooden cutting machines, plastering machine, roller brush etc. They have also been trained on how to handle electrical tools. These reduce the drudgery of work and ensure timely completion of jobs.

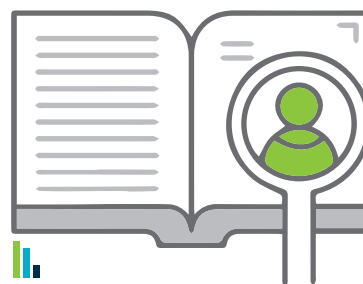
¹ <https://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/507#>

CASE STUDY 2:

Ms. Singampali Durga
Andhra Pradesh

TITLE:

WOMEN OCCUPYING MANAGERIAL AND LEADERSHIP ROLES IN FARMER PRODUCER GROUPS



Ms. Durga is from Bansalapadi village in Chintanapali mandal in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. This village had 35 female farmers who grew turmeric, and were distributed across three farmer producer groups. The women started growing a new variety of turmeric and for this they converged with the horticultural department, getting seeds at a slightly reduced rate. They also received training on how to grow these hybrid varieties of turmeric, in vegetable growing and keeping of poultry, to improve their nutritional status and in new techniques such as using machinery to harvest. In addition, they tied up with the TATA trust which enabled these farmer producer groups to sell their produce in the market at good rates, thereby resulting in an increase in their income.

The name of the farmer producer organisation (FPO) is Chintapally Agriculture Allied Producer MACS Ltd. The FPO was registered under MACS Act in the year 2017. Presently, the geographic coverage of the FPO is 63 villages across 17 GPs in Paderu ITDA, Visakhapatnam district. The total shareholders in the FPO are 1320, out of which 255 are women. The Board of Directors are 15 and out of which two are women directors. The women directors attend all the board meetings and actively take part in procurement of turmeric and ensure that the amount goes to the account of the women farmers. Women directors also actively participate in meeting various buyers and negotiating for better price. The FPO is now keen to have minimum 50 per cent women as shareholders, with active participation in decision making (including General Body meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors). Women farmers (both members and non-members) have gained skills on grading related aspects and also aware of the market prices.

The FPO consists of five staff, out of which one is woman holding the position of accountant. There are two sub committees- i) for procurement and ii) for negotiating with buyers for marketing. Each committee consists of three members and one member is a woman. The value of one share is Rs.1000.

CASE STUDY 3:

Reshma Khatun
Jharkhand

TITLE:
**MAINSTREAMING VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS IN LIVELIHOODS
INTERVENTIONS**



Reshma Khatun is from Simdega in Jharkhand. She works as a Block Resource Person (BRP) within the Kalebira cluster. Within the block, around 120 women are reportedly suffering from being labelled as witches by the community. In Reshma's block, women have raised awareness on anti-witch hunting through street plays. These plays have helped identify women who have been branded as witches and get support for them through the state. Ms. Khatun shared a story of one such survivor, who was branded a witch. She was a widow with four small children, and her house needed repair. In Jharkhand, single women are not allowed to fix the roof of their houses. Not worrying about what society says, this woman repaired the roof of her house with her own hands and was branded a witch. She had economic difficulties as well. She then joined the NRLM mission. She started with a small loan; after sometime she took a larger loan, bought an auto rickshaw and also started running a small hotel. Through these means she started earning her income, and her condition improved. Ms. Khatun frequently met her and counselled her. Because she was doing this, two men from the community often threatened Ms. Khatun for counselling the victim. Ms. Khatun did not lose motivation and continued to support her. In similar ways, Ms. Khatun has helped many other women and connected them to livelihoods such as running ration shops, poultry, goatry etc.

Ms. Khatun has also been instrumental in providing school education for the children of victims who had been branded as witches. As a BRP, she also rescued girls from child marriages and provided support to victims of domestic violence. The two different approaches that she has been practicing in mainstreaming gender in livelihoods are: i) linking women to the SHGs and supporting them in livelihoods planning; and ii) focusing on survivors of superstitious practices, so they can regain their identity and self-respect before they are linked to livelihoods interventions.

VI.

MODERATED PANEL ON BEST PRACTICES FOR GENDER INTERVENTIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, Dean & Professor, School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, while describing the concept of gender mainstreaming elaborated that this entails ensuring that gender needs and interests are integrated across the spectrum of a policy, programme or project, right from the planning phase, to deciding how the programme is structured, factoring representation and participation of women, men and those who do not conform to the gender-binary. An example shared of gender mainstreaming was how when designing public spaces and infrastructure (e.g. buildings, bus stops, gardens, city amenities), the needs of women, children and persons with disabilities should be considered, even though often a male-centric vision is adopted. A good practice was also shared of Georgia in erstwhile USSR, where a holistic approach to addressing violence against women has been taken. Rather than narrowly viewing violence as a legal issue, a comprehensive approach has been adopted across workplaces, schools and in public health, recognising that violence against women within the household results in productivity losses for women, men and for children. Another important dimension of gender mainstreaming, going beyond systems and programming considerations, would be to ensure that women themselves start experiencing dignity and enhanced self-perception as citizens, capable of demanding entitlements.



Moderator:

Soumya Kapoor Mehta
Head, IWWAGE

Panellists:

Lingam Lakshmi (M.A. PH.D)
Dean & Professor, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai

Renu Golwalkar
Director for Gender Youth and Social Inclusion (GYSI) in Global capacity

Sejal Dand
Director of ANANDI Technical Support Unit

Ms. Sejal Dand, Director and Founder Member, ANANDI, discussed what gender mainstreaming looks like in practice, drawing on ANANDI's extensive experience of working on gender with the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MPSRLM). Commending NRLM for having built strong women's institutions having tremendous outreach and voice, she said that these institutions need to leverage their collective agency to move towards gender transformation, recognising and addressing structural and systemic barriers and multi-dimensionality of poverty. Given women spend long hours engaged in unpaid work such as collection of water, fuel and fodder and in childcare responsibilities, a key strategy for economic empowerment is for women and vulnerable groups to demand their social protection entitlements. This has been the core approach of ANANDI's Lok Adhikar Kendras (Gender Justice Centers), which provide a platform for women to directly engage and negotiate with block level officers and representatives for demanding their rights and entitlements, including water, electricity and land rights, among others. By gaining an opportunity to engage with local stakeholders, women develop and strengthen their negotiation skills, which is key to a gender transformative process. NRLM has made investments in building platforms of women's institutions, and it is these collectives that provide information and strength to members to collectively engage with different stakeholders, rather than one woman having to fight her struggles alone.

Dr. Renu Golwalkar, Global Director, Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion (GYSI), Engender Health, while sharing lessons from a project on women's empowerment in micro, small and medium enterprises in Tamil Nadu highlighted that women's economic empowerment is not only about linking women with income-earning economic opportunities but about women's agency – for women to be able to exercise their choice and decision making power over income, how to spend, save or invest and what type of businesses to run. It also means going beyond building only financial, economic and vocational skills to learn how to assert oneself through life skills, negotiation skills, communication and also digital skills, especially relevant in COVID-19 times given the gender digital divide. Further, there is a need for engaging men in initiatives for women's economic empowerment, acknowledging gender stereotypes and social norms which define gender-based division of labour and ensuring women do not face resistance and backlash from households and communities. Care is also needed to ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised voices are heard, especially within the larger group. This would mean ensuring that the group has representation and participation from among the most vulnerable (e.g. single women headed households, HIV+ women and persons with disabilities) and ensuring their perspectives, issues and priorities inform programme design. It is also critical to know how to measure women's economic empowerment through monitoring and evaluation, to engender indicators and use gender markers to capture, on an ongoing basis, the gender transformative change processes.

In her second round of comments, Dr. Lakshmi Lingam said that while NRLM is a gender-specific programme working with women, there is a need to make it a gender-transformative programme. This would mean moving from transaction-based monitoring of groups (e.g. how many groups are linked to banks, receive loans, regularly hold meetings) to focusing on processes that contribute to transformation, as well as by ensuring a gender lens in assessment of verticals. It would entail asking if groups are discussing issues important to them, adopting gender agendas (e.g. related to violence, drop out of girls from schools and addressing hunger needs of the most vulnerable) and formulating gender action plans. Additionally, it would be important to consider sustainability once NRLM exits, including how these women's institutions would remain linked to larger markets and whether they would function democratically and equally. There remain concerns that the programme should not increase women's work, including through roles for women's community institutions in implementation of other government programmes and at the level of the Gram Panchayat. It would also be important to ensure that an integrated understanding of gender and poverty alleviation be embedded in programming, including in implementation and reviews across verticals.

In her second round of comments, Dr. Renu Golwalkar outlined that an important aspect of ensuring gender mainstreaming is to build capacities of staff at the organisational level, to address both personal and professional aspects. In terms of the personal aspect, there is need for acknowledging that personal gender biases and stereotypes, internalised and socialised by individuals since childhood, may permeate attitudes and behaviour of staff in their professional capacity (e.g. upholding the belief that women should not operate tractors on farms or a staff member conducting meetings with groups only in areas having the same caste women as the concerned staff). It would be important to create participatory and reflective safe spaces within the organisation to challenge these gender stereotypes of staff. In terms of the professional aspect, for frontline staff that have daily interaction with community women and leaders, it would be critical to understand what gender transformation means, in a language that is free of gender jargon and terminology. Staff should remain guided by questions such as - what will an empowered woman look like and what can I do to bring about that change?

Finally, Ms. Sejal Dand concluded by lauding women under NRLM who have been breaking stereotypes, leaving their house to work and challenging social norms, while reiterating that the programme has built strong women's collectives. Drawing attention to the gaps that remain for women's economic empowerment, she said there is need for putting in place infrastructure to alleviate women's unpaid work (e.g. access to water, safe transport, creches and electricity) and for universalising services such as health and education which are increasingly becoming privatised, to ensure accountability on these

basic needs. Beyond ensuring credit and capacity building inputs for community institutions through the programme, she suggested that there remain prospects for leveraging government resources for ensuring assets, skills and technology for these community institutions (e.g. in Madhya Pradesh, each cluster level federation has a building and training center which they run on their own). Recognising that a single woman cannot enter a market on her own, there is a need for strengthening public procurement, which would make visible and formalise the work of women and guarantee sale, for instance through procurement of rabi (winter) crops from small and marginal farmers and by getting contracts for women's community institutions (e.g. to make school uniforms and undertake social forestry). She emphasised that it would be critical to strengthen women's work and occupational identity, including especially farmer identity, to be able to claim due entitlements.

VII. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION



Following the panel discussion, the floor was open for interaction between the participants and the experts. Some of the questions that were responded to during this session are summarised below:

1) What indicators can be used to monitor women's empowerment in the field?

Ms. Renu responded that indicators need to be integrated into the design of the project at its inception. Every activity and the result need to be seen from a gender lens. For example, if financial inclusion trainings are conducted with SHG women, an indicator could be framed around how many women make financial decisions at home and number of women who negotiate with family members in financial decision making, pre and post training. It is not sufficient to develop indicators; small interventions are required to achieve impact. Ongoing monitoring of gender markers is critical to see that the project is moving in the right path of advancing women's empowerment.

2) In Haryana, in the context of male-dominant practices, some social changes are being made through widow remarriage but the children of the first marriage are usually left in the first husband's house? So how do we look at what happens to the child? How do we change the mindset of women?

Dr. Lakshmi Lingam said that small steps need to be undertaken for bigger efforts. The steps should get acceptability. For example, widow women coming out in the public domain, participating in marriage functions, wearing colorful clothes would create ripples in the villages but slowly and steadily, an ecosystem may be created through women's groups with more people supporting these changes. One needs to see women as individuals who are capable of and can make their own choices. Here, the choice is not about being a good or a bad woman, but it is about personal preferences. These choices should not be coloured by the norms around what is acceptable for women in society and what isn't. But when there is toxic masculinity in the environment, there can be a push back. Conversations need to be initiated at the village level so they can remain unaffected by larger shifts (which may even be adverse) at the national level.

Ms. Sejal added that there is no combat between men and women, with women also upholding this normative behaviour. Changes can be made when women collectively challenge such harmful norms. Women engaging in discussions, influencing and taking decisions in the Panchayat can also lead to a change in men's behaviour. In order to challenge and break patriarchy, opportunities for discussions with SHGs, VOs and CLFs need to be utilised. Debate and dialogue are not sufficient; interventions on issues and in practice is required. Indicators can be included in all verticals of economic empowerment.

3) Are we instrumentalising groups for livelihood activities? Are gender roles being sustained by keeping women in domestic domains through engagement in activities such as sowing and stitching, etc.?

Ms. Sejal responded that the groups should not work for free. Procurement should be paid, whether it is mobilisation for immunisation or any other work. MGNREGA plans to pay for mobilisation. If it is not paid, it leads to instrumentalisation.

Dr. Lakshmi Lingam added that there are two ways of looking at this issue. It is important to work on women's existing skill sets like cooking, sowing, stitching, etc. Women of certain classes and castes have domesticated skill sets as opposed to women working in the fields. We need to work on existing skill sets and add value to the work women undertake within the domestic domain. That work too should not be devalued. With men as chefs in hospitality industry, it is not said that they are doing women's work though they may be facing stigma and not getting brides. But their earning is much higher than what women get when engaged in the same work (cooking) at home. The other alternative is to train women in alternative occupations e.g. women doing masonry, driving etc. This may be considered as upward mobility as opposed to women running community kitchens becomes cooking is undervalued. There is need to change our thinking on work and its valuation.

VIII. VOTE OF THANKS



Soumya Kapoor Mehta, Head, IWWAGE expressed her sincere thanks to the Secretary, Additional Secretary, and the Joint Secretary, MoRD for constant support and inspiration in designing the programme. The guidance from the Lead, IB/CB and support from other NMMU members was invaluable in shaping the programme. Smt. Mehta expressed her sincere appreciation to all the State partners for participation and preparing the community leaders for sharing their lived experiences with the Mission and how it helped them become gender champions. Smt. Mehta also shared that the next webinar will be planned in July, 2021.

Annexure I

Launch Event of the Gender Samvaad

April 16, 2021, Friday | Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM IST

4.00 pm to 4.05 pm	Welcome and Introduction to Gender Interventions under NRLM Ms. Nita Kejrewal , Joint Secretary, NRLM
4.05 pm to 4.10 pm	Short Video on Gender Interventions under NRLM (with numbers/graphs)
4.10 pm to 4.20 pm	Address by Ms. Alka Upadhyaya , Additional Secretary, RD
4:20 pm-4:25 pm	Launch of the Gender Samvaad Web page
4.25 pm to 4.30 pm	Launch of the Compendium of Case Studies by Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha , Secretary, RD
4.30 pm to 4.40 pm	Key note Address by Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha , Secretary, RD
4.40 pm to 4.55 pm	Reflections by SHG Women from the Field 1. Ms. Beena Paul , Kudumbashree, Kerala 2. Ms. Singampalli Durga , Andhra Pradesh 3. Ms. Reshma Khatun , Jharkhand
4. 55pm to 5.30 pm	Moderated Panel on Best Practices for Gender Interventions in South Asia Moderator: Soumya Kapoor Mehta , Head, IWWAGE Panelists: 1. Lingam Lakshmi (M.A. Ph.D) , Dean & Professor, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai 2. Renu Golwalkar , Director for Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion (GYSI) in Global capacity 3. Sejal Dand , Director of ANANDI Technical Support Unit
5.30 pm to 5.55 pm	Q & A with States
5.55 pm to 6.00 pm	Vote of Thanks by Soumya Kapoor Mehta , Head, IWWAGE