

# GENDER IN FOCUS



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to *Gender In Focus* !

After a brief pause, we are happy to relaunch the IWWAGE newsletter, with a refreshed format and a more regular way to stay connected with our work. *Gender In Focus* brings together highlights from our research, policy engagement, fieldwork, events, and the people behind IWWAGE's work on advancing women's economic empowerment.

For us, this newsletter is more than an update – it is a way to share evidence, ideas, and learning with the colleagues and wider community who engage with and contribute to this work. We hope it keeps you informed, sparks conversations, and offers useful perspectives on the changing landscape of gender and women's economic empowerment in India.

We would love to hear from you – please share any feedback or suggestions at [communications-iwwage@ifmr.ac.in](mailto:communications-iwwage@ifmr.ac.in). Your inputs will help us continue to strengthen *Gender In Focus*.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,  
Sushila Varma  
Executive Director, IWWAGE

## In Focus

### From Best Practices to Policy Action: Advancing Gender Equality in Haryana



Sruthi Kutty, Head – Policy & Strategy at IWWAGE, participated as a panelist in the workshop “Advancing Gender Equality in Haryana: Learning from Best Practices”, hosted by the Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management (SJHIFM) and UNDP India, in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Haryana.

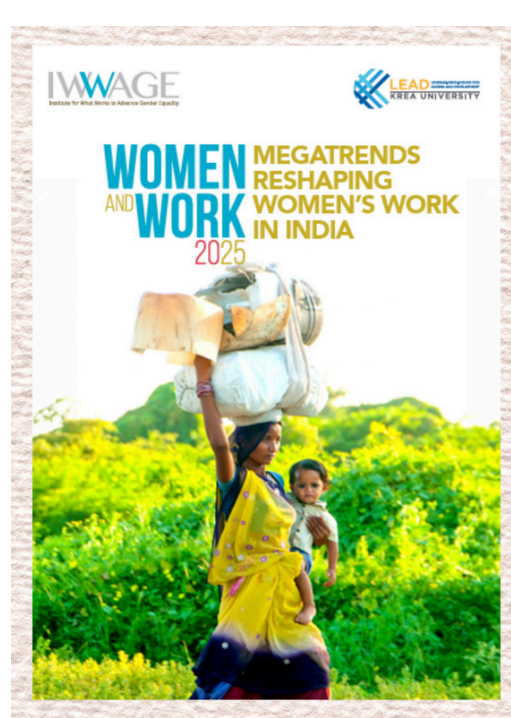
During the workshop, Sruthi highlighted the **need for critical investments in sectors that shape women's overall well-being and development**, moving beyond welfare-oriented approaches. She emphasised the importance of policy convergence and coordinated action across departments and Ministries, extending beyond the Women and Child Development portfolio, to advance the goal of women-led development.

The workshop provided an important platform to share experiences and identify effective approaches to advancing gender equality. Through such consultative forums, **IWWAGE continues to bring evidence and best practices on women's economic empowerment** from diverse geographies across India to the policy discourse, to support their adaptation and uptake across states.

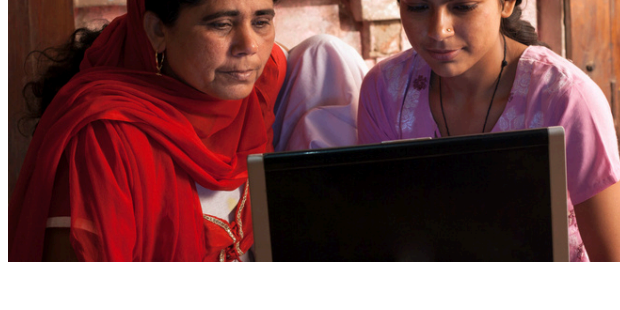
## Evidence Spotlight



**IWWAGE's State-level and India-level Factsheets:** How is women's engagement with work changing across India? IWWAGE's state-level and India-level factsheets bring together key trends on **women's labour force participation, employment and livelihoods**, offering a closer look at the changing nature of women's work across the country and within individual states. → [Explore the factsheets](#)



**Women and Work Trends Report 2025:** IWWAGE's flagship **Women and Work Trends Report 2025** examines the changing landscape of women's work in India across five interconnected areas: **labour force participation and employment quality, digitalisation and platform work, artificial intelligence, climate change, and menstrual and menopausal health at work**. The report highlights the emerging opportunities and challenges shaping a more inclusive and equitable future of work for women. → [Read the report](#)



**A Digital Leap: Reflecting on Women's Internet Use in NFHS-6**  
More women are using the internet. But does digital access necessarily translate into digital empowerment? Our latest blog, authored by **Bidisha Mondal**, Head – Research and Strategy, examines the NFHS-6 findings and discusses the insights they provide, as well as the questions they leave open about women's internet access and use. → [Read the Blog here](#)

## Field Notes

### Understanding Gender Dynamics among the Baiga Community

As part of the **Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY)**, IWWAGE recently visited Bodla and Sahaspur Lohara blocks in Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh, to engage with members of the **Baiga tribal community** and better understand their lived experiences.

The field engagement explored gender relations, roles and decision-making within the family, as well as the challenges and experiences of women, men, and adolescents.

The visit reinforced the importance of grounding gender-responsive programming in **community voices and lived realities**. Insights from these conversations will contribute to IWWAGE's ongoing efforts to better understand local gender dynamics and inform inclusive approaches under SAY.



## Shaping the Dialogue

Bidisha Mondal, Head of Research and Strategy at IWWAGE, delivered a lecture on “**Women's Challenges and Opportunities in the Platform Economy**” as part of a Capacity Building Programme on *Understanding the Social Security Issues for Gig and Platform Workers*, organised by the **V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI)**.

Drawing on IWWAGE's research, the session explored women's experiences of platform work, including **social security coverage, awareness and access to benefits**, and the evolving policy landscape around gig and platform work. The discussion brought together labour officers, trade union representatives, NGO leaders and research scholars from across India, creating an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives on the changing world of work.



## Beyond the Desk

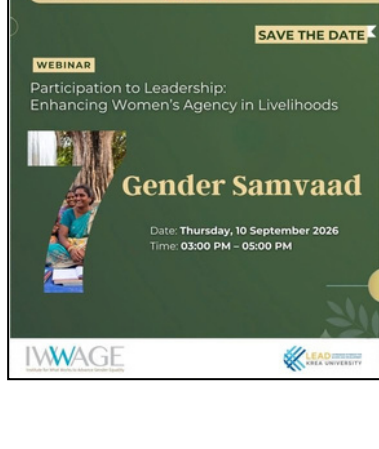
### Celebrating Together, Growing Together

This month, the IWWAGE team came together to celebrate **Independence Day** with an afternoon of fun, laughter and shared moments. From engaging games and activities to friendly conversations, the celebrations allowed colleagues to step away from their desks and connect beyond their day-to-day work.

The afternoon concluded with a team lunch, bringing everyone together to relax, catch up and enjoy each other's company. It was a simple but joyful reminder that while meaningful work brings us together, it's the **relationships, camaraderie and sense of community** we build along the way that make the journey even more rewarding.



## Coming Up



### 7th Gender Samvaad

Join us for the **7th Gender Samvaad**, a national dialogue on “**Participation to Leadership: Enhancing Women's Agency in Livelihoods**”.

**Date: 10 September 2026 (Thursday)**

**Time: 3:00 – 5:00 PM (IST)**

The webinar will bring together gender and livelihood practitioners, experts and policymakers to explore how women's participation in livelihoods can translate into greater **agency, leadership and decision-making**, contributing to more inclusive and equitable rural economies → [Watch this space for joining details](#)



We would love to hear from you.

Share your suggestions and ideas with us at [communications-iwwage@ifmr.ac.in](mailto:communications-iwwage@ifmr.ac.in)

[www.iwwage.org](http://www.iwwage.org)

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