



Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

Presented

National Webinar

on

Role of Women in Sustainability: Prospects and Challenges

In celebration of

International Women's Day 2022

Report

Event File: 8th March 2022, 1:30 P.M.

Mode: Online on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86375463839>) and Offline at NSOU HQs, Boardroom

Participants: Around 102 attendees logged in for the virtual celebration.

Overture

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8 to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.

Observed for the first time in 1911, International Women's Day aims to highlight and recognise the achievements of women in different spheres while also bringing attention to important issues including gender discrimination that exist even today.

On behalf of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Netaji Subhas Open University, Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, SoE and Member, ICC, NSOU extended greetings to distinguished speakers, officers, Directors, faculty members, staff members of NSOU and all learned participants. She also wished all a very Happy Women's Day to commemorate International Women's Day 2022.

The theme of 2022 International Women’s Day was “gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”.

Dr. Upadhyay, being the Moderator of the event, initiated by expressing that advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world’s poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens the most.

EVENT PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurta Banerjee, Associate Professor of Political Science, NSOU & Member, ICC exuberantly presented a formal welcome address to one and all present in the virtual congregation especially the illustrious speakers. She proceeded with focusing on the theme of the National Webinar. She outlined that the focus of this celebration is to ensure women and girls are effective and powerful leaders and change-makers for a sustainable development. This International Women’s Day, let’s claim “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”, as she read out a statement by the United Nations. She furthered by that quoting from the UN SDG, ‘.... Continuing to examine the opportunities, as well as the constraints, to empower women and girls to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability is essential for sustainable development and greater gender equality. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach.

Felicitation: A token felicitation was presented to the illustrious speakers

PLENARY SESSIONS

Session-I: *‘Empowering Women with Disability: Their role in gender debate’* **was deliberated by Dr. Aloka Guha**, Founder-Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi. Her presentation was backed with interesting slides and success stories. She talked about various experiences where disability was not a hindrance to success. She presented many exemplary incidents which were

indeed motivational and inspirational. Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women is essential to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Women and girls with disabilities experience double discrimination, which places them at higher risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation.

Session-II: *'Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship'*-This session was headed by **Smt. Sangita Sen**, Founder CEO, SunnyRay Solutions & Global Links Entrepreneur. Sangita was overwhelmed to say that it was a great opportunity for her to speak in front of so many young minds. By celebrating this special day, she preferred to promote entrepreneurship for women. She welcomed all to support each other and grow together. In 2018, Sangita Sen established SunnyRay Solutions. It deals with solar plant installation, maintenance, and sales. She briefed on solar industrial training. Sangita was very optimistic to establish that marketing is all about customers satisfaction, that help the brainchild to survive. Sangita Sen elaborated her talk through engaging PPT slide presentation. To draw the conclusion, few solar products were demonstrated and displayed.

Session-III: *'Involve Women to make water use Sustainable'*-The last plenary session was delivered by **Dr. Saswati Ghosh**, Associate Professor & Head, Economics, City College. This session was enriching as Dr. Ghosh deliberated on the water crises and role of women towards a sustainable future. To keep the session interesting, she cited documentary evidences as well as statistics on water usage and pertinent issues that gauge the significance of women's performance from household to office.

Felicitation of Women employees of NSOU

Centre for Quality Assurance (CIQA), NSOU took a unique drive to felicitate its women employees by presenting pens and face masks. Since the event was hosted in a blended mode, the women employees who attended physically were presented. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar and the Presiding Officer, and Convenor, ICC, NSOU appreciated this idea and heartily thanked Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA. Women Faculties, officers and staff together cherished the moment and applauded the idea.

Special Address

Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU was invited to speak few words. Prof. Sarkar heartily wished the muster an ICC for taking up this event. He also expressed his deep gratitude to the speakers for their illuminating speeches.

Q & A Session

Plausible questions were asked by the participants, to which each of the speakers came up with apt responses. It was an interactive session with good deal of exchange of thoughts, views and suggestions from the corners of the attendees. The session was coordinated by **Smt. Ananya Mitra**, Deputy Registrar (Admin), NSOU & Presiding Officer, ICC, NSOU.

Closing

The event ended with Vote of Thanks by Sri. Manick Chandra Das, Assistant Controller of Examinations, NSOU & Member, ICC, NSOU.

Post Webinar announcements

Dr. Upadhyay reminded the participants to fill out the feedback form released on the chat box so that participation certificates could be generated and sent into registered email IDs of the intended participants.

-----Report prepared by
Dr. Papiya Upadhyay
