

perspectives

A Quarterly Viewletter

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Focus : Climate Change

Climate Change and Women

The price they pay and their potential to address the issue

GUEST VIEW

Women, especially in developing countries, bear the brunt of climate change: floods, droughts, heatwaves, the gradual degradation of soil and changing weather patterns affecting agricultural practices, water, and food security. The impact is more significant because they constitute the majority of the poor and depend more on natural resources for food, water, and livelihood. Compounding the problem are the social, economic, and political barriers they face, leaving them with a feeble voice to protest. Together these factors make women, especially at the lower bottom of the pyramid, more vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change.

In India, this is apparent across geographies and sectors.

Agriculture, for instance, employs 80% of women. Over 70% of the livestock work is done by women. Yet most women do not own the land they work on; they usually work on small landholdings

and have poor access to markets to sell their products. The social inequalities are mirrored in digital inequalities – most women are at the periphery of utilising digital technology such as mobile phones to connect to markets or be a part of the formal banking sector. Therefore, any impact on agriculture due to climate change impacts a large number of Indian women, usually pushing them into further poverty.

Globally the net-zero campaign has opened new market opportunities and businesses must mould accordingly.

If we look at the state of women from the lens of geography, the challenges are manifold. In most rural households, it is the women

who collect water and firewood and women in Rajasthan are known to walk miles in the sweltering heat in summers to fetch drinking water, a fast-depleting resource. Elsewhere, in the East, they struggle when devastating floods during monsoons wash away their homes and they are left struggling to piece their life together.

The need of the hour is a gender-sensitive approach to climate change. At the policy level and the ground level, the work needs to consider the price women pay due to climate change and the potential they carry to bring about positive changes to promote sustainable living. Women can play a critical role in promoting sustainable use of natural resources such as water and preventing soil degradation by promoting crop diversity. A multi-stakeholder approach with Government, the private sector, academia, and research organisations and with women as central and significant voices is required to accelerate India's



Dr Priyesh Modi
Head - Corporate Social Responsibility at Apraava Energy

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Climate Action.

Climate change is a 'threat multiplier' in terms of its widespread impact on natural resources and human health.

We have started experiencing the impact of climate change in our daily lives and on economic activities, businesses, and all other facets of life. Crises, in terms of available

resources, will only intensify in time to come unless we view it seriously and address it at all levels using a multi-pronged approach.

Women, on the one hand, are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On the other hand, they are also viewed as profound change agents in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation. This is the area where an opportunity lies untapped and our gender-sensitive strategies must encash it.

At Apraava Energy, we believe that women can be powerful change agents. A woman empowered is a family empowered.

Empowering women is thus a means to multiply the positive impact. We are committed to developing our communities as we build our businesses. A gender-sensitive approach is inbuilt in all that we do. We have been making efforts to build water security in our catchment areas with diverse initiatives such as watershed management, water budgeting and adoption of climate-resilient farm practices. In all such initiatives that we support, women farmers play a significant role in decision making.

Globally, the net-zero campaign has opened new market opportunities and businesses must mould accordingly. This

has created a new-age skill requirement: it may be renewable energy skills, logistics and fuel we use, farm practices and consumption or the way we work- hybrid and WFH models. We see this both as a challenge and an opportunity to enhance female participation in the labour workforce and upskilling for new-age skills and processes.

The Right Time is Now to bring a lasting change for a happy planet!

Views expressed are personal

MY VIEW

A Commitment For Change



Seema Arora

CEO, CII Foundation and
Deputy Director General, CII

“Air pollution affects us all. CII has been working in the area of air pollution. We have an initiative - Cleaner Air Better Life - under which we work with farmers in Punjab and Haryana to offer environmentally sustainable alternatives to crop residue burning. In 2021, we covered 226 villages and 92% of the farmland in the adopted villages became free of stubble burning, compared to 88% in 2020.”

To know more, click here

<https://youtu.be/0xb-1N6ouRY>

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Sustainable Development Goal 13

Tackling Climate Change

Goal 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It is intrinsically linked to all 16 of the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As countries move toward rebuilding their economies after COVID-19, recovery plans can shape the 21st century economy in ways that are clean, green, healthy, safe and more resilient. The current crisis is an opportunity for a profound, systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet.

The UN Secretary-General has proposed six climate-positive actions for governments to take once they go about building back their economies and societies:

1. Green transition : Investments must accelerate the decarbonization of all aspects of our economy.
2. Green jobs and sustainable and inclusive growth
3. Green economy : making societies and people more resilient through a transition that is fair to all and leaves no one behind.
4. Invest in sustainable solutions : fossil fuel subsidies must end and polluters must pay for their pollution.
5. Confront all climate risks
6. Cooperation : no country can succeed alone.

To address the climate emergency, post-pandemic recovery plans need to trigger long-term systemic shifts that will change the trajectory of CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

Saving the Environment

Voices from the Ground

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplars are creating awareness about the environment and driving sustainable change through their work at the grassroots.

“With my organisation, Bhavi Nirman Sanstha, I’ve been working towards environmental conservation. In order to create awareness about environmental issues, we formed Yuva Manch. Along with this, we’ve been doing plantations in villages across the region. We’ve talked to villagers about the demerits of increasing environmental pollution and global warming.”

Rama Sharma
Education finalist for the
CII Foundation
Woman Exemplar Award 2019



Click here for her perspective
<https://fb.watch/dR6BITIEA4/>

Rama is working with her organisation, Centre for Unfolding Learning Potential (CULP), to conserve the environment in her region. By garnering support for the movement from all sections of the society, she is establishing why community participation is imperative to save the environment.

“I cultivate my fruits and vegetables organically, along with my family. Fruits and vegetables which I grow are abundant, and I sell my produce in the nearby market as well as online. Because chemical fertilisers are not used, organic farming has the advantage of extending the lifespan of the consumer by two years.”

Malan Raut
Micro-enterprise finalist for the
CII Foundation
Woman Exemplar Award 2021



Click here for her perspective
<https://fb.watch/dR6zRoLe6I/>

Drought-prone Latur's farms have been transformed into fertile fields, and women have been empowered and made financially independent because of Malan's efforts. Malan has trained women in organic farming to generate better, sustainable lives and transform farming in rural Maharashtra. Malan has taught 3,000 women about organic farming strengthening sustainable agriculture in Latur.

To know more about CII Foundation's initiatives towards sustainable development, write to
Priya Shirali, Head - Strategic Communication at Priya.Shirali@cii.in

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