

**Call for Nominations- 2023**

ABOUT THE WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

Since its inception in 2005, the Woman Exemplar Program has promoted grassroots women’s empowerment by discovering, recognizing and supporting women who have excelled against all odds, to contribute to the development process in India.

WHO IS A WOMAN EXEMPLAR

The women who are selected to this initiative are called EXEMPLARS because they demonstrate vision, resilience and role model leadership. They emerge from marginal communities and overcome deep social and economic exclusion. They build their own agency and voice and go on to transform their own lives and that of their societies. In the process, they set an example for others, and ignite the belief among other grassroots women that they too can be change agents. We endeavour to celebrate such ‘nation-builders’ whose efforts have gone unnoticed and unrecognized.

**BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM**

**Capacity Building**

Building Capacities of the women leaders to increase the scale and impact of their programs through leadership training, coaching and access to an India-wide peer network for the Woman Exemplars and create a new rung of leaders working on health, education and Microenterprise within marginalised communities

**Recognition**

The program **identifies, recognizes and celebrates 15** women leaders who have relentlessly worked and become role models of change at the grassroots level, especially in the rural geographies or from any challenging/ disadvantaged environments. An award is given to 3 women each year with a citation, a trophy and a cash award of Rupees three lakhs each for the winners

**Become a part of a network of women working to transform India**

The program seeks to create a national level network of grassroots change agents and inspire and create many more such leaders at the grassroots and induce a bottom up approach of development.

THE SECTORS OF FOCUS

The Woman Exemplar Program celebrates women working at the grassroots who have contributed to the fields of:

* **Education**
* **Health**
* **Micro Enterprise/Livelihoods**

EDUCATION

In the field of **Education**, we invite nomination of grassroots women change agents who are:

* Building access to quality education (both in-school and out-of-school) for children from marginalized communities.
* Expanding and improving early childhood care and education.
* Enabling life skills and leadership skills among children, adolescents and youth.
* Addressing the discrimination and structural barriers that prevent children/youth and women from accessing education.
* Strengthening child protection and child rights to enable ‘at-risk’ children to access safe education and learning environments.
* Addressing the social structures such as poverty, gender, information etc. that prevent access to education or access to other basic amenities.
* Providing vocational and employability-related education to ensure smooth transitions into the world of work
* Facilitating any other approach or intervention that falls within the holistic definition of education.

HEALTH

In the field of **Health**, we invite nomination of grassroots women change agents who are addressing access to health (physical/mental/social) by:

* Building access to quality healthcare and health financing for marginalized communities.
* Spearheading community-level health awareness and health education.
* Developing local health solutions and health products.
* Strengthening capacities of barefoot, para-professional and professional healthcare service deliverers.
* Working on the mental and social well-being of disadvantaged individuals and communities; focussing on psycho-social health, violence, disability, mental health and wellness.
* Addressing social determinants of health such as poverty, gender, other social norms, policies, violence etc.
* Facilitating any other approach or intervention that falls within WHO’s definition of health.

MICRO-ENTERPRISE

In the field of **Micro-enterprise**, we invite nomination of grassroots women change agents who are:

* Ensuring livelihoods with dignity for marginalized communities – through avenues of self-employment.
* Setting up micro-enterprises that enable individuals and families to lift themselves out of poverty.
* Equipping individuals with entrepreneurial skills through training and mentoring

**CII Foundation invites grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), social enterprises, movements, social change networks, governments and corporates to nominate exemplary grassroots women change agents from across India and to spread the word about the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program.**

**General Terms & Conditions for Nominations**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

* For being a part of the program, the woman should have a nominator **self-nominated forms will be rejected**.
* Women should not be nominated by their own family members for the program. (Family encompasses of the immediate family of the woman and her spouse’s side of the family if married)
* Employers, partners, stakeholders, community members or government officials can nominate women for this program.
* The nominee should have a **minimum work experience of 3 years** in the category that she is being nominated for.
* **Previous years’ finalists and winners are not eligible to apply for this program**
* **Women who have received recognition** through National Award or Stateawards (including Chief Minister’s and Corporate Awards) **are not eligible to apply for this program.**
* **Incomplete forms or delayed submissions** will automatically be **rejected.**

**WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED?**

* The program is intended for grass-root level, under–privileged **women**, from either rural or urban areas who have excelled as social change leaders in the fields of education or health or micro-enterprise.
* The nominee may be running her own initiative or organization. Or she could be employed by another non-profit organization. Alternatively, she could be working as an individual volunteer (e.g. ASHA, Community mobilizer) or be part of the local government system (i.e. a sarpanch) or a government employee from the grassroots (ANM, AWW).
* Regardless of the formal nature of her employment/work, the nominee should be a self-motivated woman who exhibits role-model leadership skills.
* The nominee’s accomplishments over the last three years will be evaluated. Where the nominee is part of a project, we will seek information on the impact of the nominee’s individual efforts on the community, rather than the overall project outcomes.
* The Program will encourage women who have not had an opportunity to study, or have studied against all odds, or have achieved several milestones without any formal or informal education. Women who have done exemplary work at a young age will also be encouraged.
* Participants of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program are expected to deepen and scale their ideas and programs for social change. Therefore, only those nominees who are willing to participate in leadership trainings, mentoring and capacity building initiatives, as well as willing to build the Woman Exemplar network may be nominated.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The nominated grassroots women change agents will be assessed on the following criteria:

* Vision and leadership
* Journey of personal transformation
* Impact created, and milestones achieved
* Profile of Beneficiaries Targeted (*Extent of marginalisation of communities served by the Nominee)*
* Approach and strategy for addressing a social problem
* Ability to ignite and mobilize people, resources and local partnerships
* Ideas for sustaining and scaling her program/ideas
* Self-motivation and continuous efforts for enhancing her own knowledge, skills and competencies
* Role model leadership with the ability to mentor and launch other change agent

**SELECTION PROCESS**

* The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program will undertake a rigorous four-step process to identify the exemplars for the 2021 edition. The steps include:

CII Foundation will conduct the outreach, due diligence and jury presentations

* A maximum of **fifteen** nominees will be identified as finalists (five each from education, health and micro-enterprise). The Steering Committee will decide on **three** winners from the short-listed participants, one for each category.
* The three winners will receive a citation, a trophy and a cash prize of Rupees Three Lakhs each. All finalists will receive certificates, citation as well as capacity building and coaching support.
* The selected Exemplars must personally accept the recognition at the CII National Conference and Annual Session. All Finalists, who receive invitation, must attend this event. CII Foundation will arrange travel and stay for all the Finalists.
* In case there is no eligible candidate, no winner or finalist for the category would be presented.

**NOMINATION PROCESS**

* Only NGOs, social enterprises, government, and other networks can propose nominees, not the applicants.
* The nominee should be able to produce a Recommendation Letter from an authorized agency such as – Government Departments including Panchayat/ Municipality, Government Schools or Primary Health Centres, Nationalized Banks, reputed organizations or any recognized financial institutions.
* The Nomination form must include the following:
* Duly filled Nomination form (Part A & Part B attached)
* Duly filled Proposer form (form attached)
* Recommendation letter (format attached as Annexure I)
* Supporting documents (checklist attached as Annexure II)

**Please note that any accompanying material will not be returned. Incomplete formsare liable to berejected.**

**The Nomination Deadline**

Nomination form along with all the supporting documents must reach CII Foundation. **Please email the applications to us at** [**WomanExemplarProgram@cii.in**](mailto:WomanExemplarProgram@cii.in)

**CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program 2023– Application form**

**PART A - Nominee Details**

1. **Name of the Nominee**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Educational Qualification** (*Please provide the highest qualification attained (for example: 10th Standard, 12th standard, BA, MA etc.)* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Language skills** (Please indicate the level of proficiency by ticking √ or cross X in the appropriate box.)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Language | Understand | | | Speak | | | | Write/read | | | |
| Moderate |  | Fluent |  | Moderate |  | Fluent |  | Moderate |  | Fluent |
| Hindi |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| English |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (Please specify) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Marital Status** *(√ )*
2. Never Married b. Married c. Widow d. Separated/ Divorced

1. **Family background** (*please mention names of family members and their occupations*)

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1. **Family income:** (*Please provide the income of the Woman and her family as a whole per month- attach proof)* (Family encompasses of family members of the woman she stays with, her own side or her spouse’s side of the family if married)

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1. **Contact Address:** (Please provide complete address for correspondence): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **District & State:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Pin:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Mobile:** *please ensure all the digits are entered correctly*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. **E-Mail** (if any): *(please provide a valid e-mail ID which is being used by you for checking day-to-day mails)* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Have you ever applied for this award before, if yes have you ever been shortlisted as the finalist? If yes, please mention the year of selection.**
7. **Awards/Recognitions: Mention all awards received in connection with the current area of operation/project activities –**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Award Name | Awarding institution | Year | Purpose/domain | Monetary value (if any) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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**PART B: Personal struggle and Work information**

1. **Please select the sector under which you would like to apply for CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program** (*if your organization works in more than one area, pick up the sector that you feel is most applicable to your work.) (*√ *)*
2. Education b. Health c. Micro Enterprise/ Livelihoods
3. **What inspired you to commence the work?** (at what stage were you in your personal life when you started this activity? What motivated you to begin work? – please substantiate with life examples and stories)
4. **Provide a brief description of your work, where and how did you commence project activities**: (*when did you start your work and where, details of project/ activities undertaken by you, how is it being carried out, unique approach adopted to achieve desired results, who are the beneficiaries*) **Give examples, wherever possible.**
5. **In your own life journey (not work), what personal challenges / hurdles did you face and how did you overcome them?** *(Please mention the challenges you face from the family, community, government departments, accessing opportunities and services, any other hurdles?)* **Give examples wherever possible.**
6. **How has the work impacted the surrounding areas/communities especially marginalized groups** *(give description and add details in the table below; benefits accrued, and transformation in the community/lives of beneficiaries because of your work)?* **Share description and also fill the table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Beneficiary type  (women, children, general community) | Age Group (specify a range) | Number of beneficiaries benefitted | Number of years for the impact (Work years to reach the impact) |
| *Example: Working with Children* | *5-15 years* | *2100 girls*  *400 boys* | *6 years (2016 – 2022)* |
|  |  |  |  |
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1. **Do you work in a team or individually?** *If you work with a team, specify the number of team members and their roles (You may choose to depict the same diagrammatically) strength of your team and the challenges you face working with a team. (Please note: The team might be part of the same organization that you work in( paid) or might be members of the community who play leadership roles)*
2. **Have you created a second rung of leaders who are replicating the project across other locations/themes?**
3. **Where do you aim to take your project in the next five years?** (*share broad goals, directions and strategies)*

**Section II: Association with the proposing organization (only organizations can propose)**

1. **Mention the nature of your association with the proposer/ NGO.** *(choose from the options below)*

* Founded the NGO and directing its activities
* Related to the NGO Founder and supporting its activities
* Employee of the NGO and taking part in its activities
* Beneficiary of the NGO
* Any other (please specify)

*(Attach supporting documents like ID card, NGO registration documents*

1. **Since when have you been associated with the Proposer NGO?** *(Mention year)*
2. **Give details of your roles and responsibilities with respect to your association with the Proposer NGO.**

**Section III: DECLARATION BY NOMINEE**I, Ms………………………………………………… have read the above and understand that under the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program

* Application to the program does not ensure me being selected as the winner(3) and/or the finalists (15)
* The decision of the jury is final in the matter above.
* If selected as the finalist or winner, I ensure my participation in the award ceremony and the coaching and capacity building program that will be planned and conducted over the subsequent year by CII Foundation.
* I understand the intention of the program is to recognize and facilitate grassroots women in leadership. As part of the network, I will ensure that my actions are always exemplary and towards the promotion of women in leadership.

I HEREBY CONFIRM MY COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION TO THE CII FOUNDATION WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

Sign of the nominee:

Name of the nominee:

Date:

**PROPOSER DETAILS (Self nominated forms will be rejected)**

1. **Name of the proposer[[1]](#footnote-1): ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Name of the organization of the proposer (Specify if individual consultant or person):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Designation of the proposer in the organization: ­**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Please provide specific details about the activities carried out by your organization (***briefly mention the areas of intervention, activities undertaken by your organization, target beneficiaries, reach in terms of villages and beneficiaries)*
5. **Contact Address:** *(Please provide complete address for correspondence):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **District & State** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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3. **Mobile:** *please ensure all digits are entered correctly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **E-Mail (if any):** please provide a valid e-mail ID which is being used by you for checking day-to-day mails. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Provide details of your Association with the Nominee (***how do you know the Nominee and about her work)*
6. **Give brief overview of the community to which the nominee belongs.**
7. **What are the social and economic challenges that your nominee is addressing?**
8. **In what ways does she deserve to be called ‘EXEMPLAR’?**

**Annexure I**

**Recommendation Letter**

(To be filled in by Government Departments including Panchayat/ Municipality, Government Schools or Primary Health Centres, Nationalized Banks or any recognized financial institutions)

**Sukriti Tolani**

**Program Manager**

**CII Foundation**

**Email:** [**WomanExemplarProgram@cii.in**](mailto:WomanExemplarProgram@cii.in)

**CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program 2023 Nominee Recommendation Letter**

Dear Madam,

This is to confirm that Ms…………………………….. a grassroots level changemaker has been engaged with the project …………………………since……....…

I agree with the Terms and Conditions laid down by you and accordingly, recommend Ms……………….. as a nominee for the Woman Exemplar Program proposed by (Name)……………….…… (Designation)…………………. (Organisation) ………………………………………………

**Recommendation for the proposer NGO**

I also confirm that the Proposer…………………………… is running a reputed NGO called………………….……. working in the area of ………..………………since …………………………

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Yours faithfully,*  (AUTHORISED SIGNATORY)  Name : …………………………….........  Designation : ……………………….........  Department : ……………………….........  Agency : …………………………….........  Address : …………………………….........  ………………………………….…….........  Tel : ………………………………….........  Fax : ………………………………….........  Mobile : ……………………………......... |

Official Stamp:

Date:

**Annexure II**

**Checklist for Supporting Documents**

**From Nominees:**

* Passport size photograph of the Nominee.
* Recommendation letter
* Proof of self-income and family income
* Identity card (in case nominee is an employee of the proposer organization)
* NGO registration documents (if running own organization)
* Photographs of the nominee engaged in their activities
* News clippings / articles and other such items, if any

**From Proposer:**

* Passport size photographs of the Proposer.
* NGO registration documents

1. Head of the organization or senior management can be the proposer [↑](#footnote-ref-1)