



Dear Friends,

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru said "You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women".

According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2015, India is ranked at 105th position in the world in terms of economic opportunities and education for women. Despite being the world's largest democracy, and laws &

legislation concerning gender equality being formed, there is still much that needs to be done for implementation.

We, at CII Foundation believe that industry has a key role to play in inclusive development and women's empowerment. CII Foundation, with support from member companies, has been empowering women through a range of on-ground projects, including the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program, which recognizes and supports extraordinary women at the grassroots. These women, overcame all odds stacked against them to become "active agents of change", and are an inspiration to many others, including us.

In this issue of Dialogue, we bring stories, views and opinions of stakeholders from multilateral agencies, industry and foundations on women empowerment. Together, we can enable gender equality and empowerment, thus creating ripple effect of change in the family, community and country at large.

Shefali Chaturvedi
CEO, CII Foundation



Expert Opinion



'Stepping it up' for gender equality, women's empowerment & safety

Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, Representative, UN Women Multi Country Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka talks of SDGs, gender equality and participation of the private sector to realize the same

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In Conversation



Connecting for Good: Empowering women through CSR

In an interaction with CIIF, **Sunil Sood**, Managing Director and CEO, Vodafone India Ltd., talks of inclusion at workplace, CSR interventions to empower women and his future outlook of CSR

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Trend Watch



The Indian Women Network (IWN): An exclusive platform for career women

With over 1700 members and presence in 12 states and 2 zones, IWN delivers value-added and need based intervention to enable learning & development, well-being and, advocating & promoting inclusive policy at workplace

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A New Frontier: Use of Technology for Transformation

BBC Media Action demonstrates how mobile technology can improve health services, change social norms and impact health outcomes for mothers and children in rural India

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Find a credible authenticated implementing agency for your CSR initiatives

Sammaan is an online platform to enable corporates to undertake effective CSR activities by connecting them to verified authenticated NGOs. Choose among 200 projects on women empowerment across 21 states on India.

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Opportunities of corporate engagement in Government Schemes to empower women

There are several opportunities for the companies to participate in various Government schemes through their CSR interventions and contribute significantly towards gender equality and inclusive development.

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Celebrating Women Empowerment



CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program

Celebrating the transformational leadership of exemplary grassroot women and further empowering them through the Woman Exemplar Program.

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Building Capacity & Expanding Horizons- A workshop

For the first time 20 grassroot Women Exemplars came together to share insights of their journey and future plans with CII Foundation.

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"CII salutes all the Exemplars. Each one of them is an inspiration. We are committed to support and grow this into a network of extraordinary women grassroot leaders across India."

Sumit Mazumder
Immediate Past President, CII
and Chairman & Managing Director
TIL Ltd.

"Gender diversity in the work force at all levels including at leadership and also as members of the Board, as the experience shows, has contributed greatly to 'team's efficacy' leading to enhanced quality of dialogue, discussions, consensus and the decisions."

Subodh Bhargava
Past President, CII
& Chairman
Tata Communications Ltd.

"Women form the backbone of a country's growth and future. Recognizing the pivotal role women play in the development and progress of society and country at large, empowering women is one of the focus areas of Bajaj Group's social interventions. Through various initiatives, we have been supporting rural women in Maharashtra by strengthening their livelihoods and improving socio economic condition. These women who are now financially independent and supporting their families with additional income, are the role models for others in community."

Madhur Bajaj
Vice Chairman
Bajaj Auto Ltd.

"Society must change its attitude towards girls and women as otherwise we would not only see a growing incidence of violence and abuse of girls and women but more importantly witness a stunting of the country's GDP growth potential which could be negatively impacted by as much as 5 %. A real beginning can be made by ensuring that we provide every girl child the most basic of all rights - the right to live, to economic freedom, to education and to unfettered security."

Harpal Singh
Mentor & Chairman
Emeritus Fortis Healthcare Ltd.

"We feel privileged and proud to anchor the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program. Over the last decade, we have seen the Exemplars grow and become change makers, inspiring and impacting lives of many more in the community."

Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General
CII

"The Exemplars are a force to reckon with. Chosen through a rigorous selection process, they are true leaders and have set an example of how sheer grit, courage, determination and a little support can help transcend personal and social limitations."

Rumjhum Chatterjee
Chair, Selection Committee,
Woman Exemplar Program 2015-16 &
Group MD & Head- Human Capital
Feedback Infra Pvt. Ltd.

"For us social development is not just CSR, but a passion which I have also inherited. To me, women empowerment is not a choice but an imperative. CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program is one such intervention which recognizes grassroot women leaders and supports them to scale up their initiatives. The exemplars have been a great inspiration to us and many others. I am privileged to be a part of this unique program."

Meher Pudumjee
Chairperson
Thermax Ltd.

"Education is the key to women empowerment as they are the pillars of the nation. There is a strong need to create an environment where there is no gender bias and women have an equal right in community, society and workplace."

Manpreet Brar Wallia
Chairwoman
Indian Women Network Delhi Chapter &
Director, The Walsons Group

For more details, visit www.ciifoundation.in
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