

CALL FOR PAPERS:

National Workshop on Women's Employment and Economic Growth: Post 2015 Development Agenda in India

Concept Note

India has been struggling to achieve high rate of economic growth during the last decade. India's current growth rate is 7% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. This is less than 7.5 % in the first quarter of 2014 according to Asian Development Bank Outlook. India has been trying to achieve double-digit growth rate in near future against this backdrop. It is also significant that IMF Chief Christine Lagarde commented that India could increase GDP growth rate by 27% if the gender gap in employment can be reduced. The relationship between Women's Employment and Economic growth of the country claimed to be a two way one. It is claimed that Economic growth boosts up female employment. However India did not witness validation of this claim. After 2009-10 National Sample Survey Results on Employment Unemployment in India came out, it was clear that women's employment is going down in the country. In the same data released in 2011-12 the downward trend from 1990s decade continued. Hence in India the debate came in: is it downward fall in women's employment, which is pulling down India's growth rate? India is committed to Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda where three among the seventeen goals are distinctly related to the problem. These are Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The goals are related to the central questions of the debate in the sense that India also experienced the fact that a large section of employed women are also poor women. Many employed men have been laid off due to closed and sick mills. There has been much news also on farmer's suicides. It is women of the families of laid off industrial workers and farmer suicide families who have to earn their living to sustain their families. They form the much-discussed Unpaid Labour. They form the bulk of working poor who work, earn but are still poor in terms of the concept of multidimensional poverty. India now faces the second part of the debate in women's employment. This is women are working but still visible women's work in formal organized sector is declining. Where are the women working? A large part of them are working in various government schemes like MNREGA, NRLM, and ASHA workers etc. It is women who work as unpaid work, home-based work, etc. It is women who form the bulk of migrants. It is also women who face wage discrimination in many sectors. These are the women who are counted as female-headed households in the Indian census. The two-day workshop will be hosted by Women's Studies Research Centre and Department of Economics, University of Calcutta in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, India Office in May 2016 .

Abstracts are invited on the following subthemes:

1. Macro relationship between Female Employment and Economic Growth
2. General trends of Female Employment

3. Unpaid female labour
4. Rural Non-Farm Sector and women
5. Trafficking and Prostitution
6. Domestic Workers
7. Health hazards of women in semi-skilled and unskilled work.
8. Sexual Harrassment in WorkPlaces
9. Migrant female workers
10. National Scheme based women's work
11. Wage discrepancy between male and female workers
12. Female workers in Informal Sector
13. Social groups and female employment

The abstracts will be 1000 words and based on contemporary research. Primary field based research including both qualitative and quantitative analysis is welcome. Please send the abstracts in Word or pdf format in file name starting with WEEG –CU-FES to the Workshop Coordinators:

1. Ishita Mukhopadhyay, CU with email ID mukhopadhyayishita@gmail.com
2. Damyanty Sridharan, FES with email ID damyanty@fesindia.org

Last Date of Abstract Submission : March 10, 2016

Communication of Acceptance of Abstract: March 30,2016

Submission of Full Paper: April 20,2016