

**National Conference**  
**on**  
**Women and Development**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**



***Organised by:***

**Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension**

**Rural Extension Centre (REC)**

**Visva-Bharati (A Central University)**

**Sriniketan-731236**

**Birbhum, West Bengal**

**Theme of the Conference: *Women and Development***

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

**Venue:** Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (Rural Extension Centre), Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan.

**About the Conference:**

The term Women and Development has become a catchword now a day. Women and Development are closely related and have a bi-directional relationship – in one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in other direction, empowering women may accelerate the development process. So, policy makers and social scientists have tended to focus on one or the other of these two relationships.

Those focusing on the first have argued that gender equality improves when poverty declines. They argue that policymakers should therefore focus on creating the conditions for economic growth and prosperity, while seeking, of course, to maintain a level playing field for both genders, but without adopting specific strategies targeted at improving the condition of women. In contrast, others emphasize the second

relationship, from empowerment to development and argue that achieving gender equality is a “prerequisite” to achieving the sustainable development.

It has been found that poverty and lack of opportunity breed inequality between men and women, so that when economic development reduces poverty, the condition of women improves on two counts: first, when poverty is reduced, the condition of everyone, including women, improves, and second, gender inequality declines as poverty declines, so the condition of women improves more than that of men with development. Economic development, however, is not enough to bring about complete equality between men and women. Policy action is still necessary to achieve equality between genders. Such policy action would be unambiguously justified if empowerment of women also stimulates further development, starting a virtuous cycle.

In India, half of the population consists of women. They are the hard workers and creating greatest change in living and social conditions for the largest number of people. However, they still remain as the most marginalised and vulnerable section of the society. So, empowering women is the key for the socio-

economic development of the nation. In modern India, besides rectification of international conventions, there are provisions in the Constitution and several legislative Acts have been passed to ensure women empowerment. Government has also implemented several policies and programmes for the empowerment and development of women. However, the empowering strategies need substantial fine-tuning to ensure that they are effective and result oriented. That would enable the country to fulfill the constitutional mandate of women equality and the objective of women's total involvement in the development of the nation.

In this context, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (REC) proposes to organise a national conference on “**Women and Development**” to discuss in details the following sub-themes:

**Sub Themes:**

1. Status of Women in India
2. Women and Livelihood Development
3. Micro-finance and Women Development
4. Nutrition, Health and Women

5. Sustainable Development Strategies and Practices for Women
6. Education and Development of Women
7. Women Development of Marginalised Community (SC, ST & Minorities)
8. Panchayati Raj Institutions, Civil Society and CSR in Women Development

**The conference will have two segments -**

- 1. Self Help Group Members and Elected Members of PRIs under the Command area villages of REC & Academicians meet:** Self Help Group Members and Elected Members of PRIs under the Command area villages of REC meet will be organized in the first day of the conference. Around 200 SHG members, representatives from Gram Panchayats will discuss their case studies and success stories. Some resource persons will deliver lectures to sustain the SHGs, for the empowerment of the women. The Academicians will get the grass root level exposure from this discussion.
  
- 2. Research Paper Presentation:** In the second day of the conference researchers, teachers, development



professional, academicians from various Government and Non-Government Institutions will attend and present their research papers.

**Submission of Paper:** Interested participants are requested to submit their Abstracts electronically as an email attachment (not as PDF File) in MS Word, front size 12, Times New Roman. The abstract should be within 500 words along with telephone number, email address and the institutional affiliation of the author(s). Please send your abstract to the following email within March 10, 2017:

**[vbrec.conference@gmail.com](mailto:vbrec.conference@gmail.com)**

Authors of the short-listed abstracts will be communicated within 12/3/2017.

**Registration Fee:**

Students and Research Scholars	:	Rs. 500/-
Others	:	Rs. 800/-

Participants are requested to make their own arrangement for accommodation and travelling. If participants face difficulties to find out accommodation at Bolpur/Santiniketan, on request, we can facilitate to get very modest accommodation in

University Guest House or in Hotels. Payment will be made by the participants directly to the hotel/guest house.

**Important Dates:**

<b>Submission of Abstract</b>	10/03/2017
<b>Intimation of acceptance of abstract</b>	12/03/2017
<b>Submission of full paper</b>	16/03/2017
<b>Conference Date</b>	17-18 March, 2017

**Details of Communication**

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