



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
University Grants Commission  
quality higher education for all



**NIEPA**



**Webinar**

**On**

**Advancing Gender Equity and Women Empowerment  
through Education**

**Tuesday 14 July 2020 | 15:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs (IST)**

**Jointly Organised by the  
Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education  
National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi  
and  
University Grants Commission, New Delhi**

## Webinar

# Advancing Gender Equity and Women Empowerment through Education

**Tuesday July 14, 2020 | Time: 15:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs (IST)**

The Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi is hosting a webinar on '*Advancing Gender Equity and Women Empowerment through Education*' on July 14, 2020, from 15:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs. The webinar will bring together national and international academics, educationists, and policy makers.

### Background

Empowerment of women is a necessary step to ensure sustainable development goals. One of the first steps in empowering women is enhancing their educational levels. Empirical evidence has shown that an increase in the level of education of females reduces fertility rate, lowers infant and child mortality, improves family health, enhances participation of women in labour force, and increases family resources and national income. Advancing education of girls is now at the heart of the development agenda and has become part of the SDG 2030.

International conventions such as the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979), and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, emphasised the principle of gender equality in education to ensure that girls have non-discriminatory access to schools to be on an equal footing with boys and to have the same chances of completing their schooling, transiting to higher education and pursuing an occupation of their choice. According to UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report of 2015, "Among the EFA goals, the greatest progress has been achieved in gender parity." However, these advantages disappear at successive levels of education and in the employment market.

With a Gross Enrolment Ratio of 26.3 per cent in 2018-19, and an enrolment of 37.4 million students, India is the second-largest higher education system in the world. Women account for 48.6 per cent of the total higher education enrolment in India, and their share in enrolment in some of the states exceeds 50 percent of the total. However, the share of women in enrolment continues to be low in STEM subject areas and in courses with better employment opportunities.

There is a need for evolving strategies to ensure safety of women, and eliminating gender-bias and gender-discrimination on campuses. Many state governments have opened women-only colleges, introduced incentives and scholarship schemes for women students, and introduced student support programmes. Further, at the initiative

of the UGC, higher education institutions in India have created Women’s Cells, Internal Complaint Committees and Women Studies Centres.

Despite these initiatives, women are poorly placed in the employment market. The labour force participation rates of women have been declining continually over the past decades, unemployment rate has been rising among women graduates, and the earning differentials between men and women continue to be considerable. Women are under-represented in senior academic and in administrative positions in the colleges and in decision-making leadership positions in universities. Women from socially marginalised groups, such as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, are particularly vulnerable to both caste- and gender-based discrimination and remain the most disadvantaged in their efforts to climb educational and employment ladders.

Keeping this context in mind, the webinar aims to initiate a dialogue on gender equity in education as a necessary step towards empowerment of women and in promoting gender equity in society.

## Objectives

The major objectives of the proposed webinar are:

- to discuss gender inequalities in access to and success in education.
- to discuss institutional strategies to promote non-discriminatory and inclusive campuses.
- to analyse issues related to gender equality in the labour market.

It is hoped that the webinar will provide an opportunity to create a national network of partners, researchers, experts and policy makers for sustainable knowledge building.

## SPEAKERS



**PROFESSOR N. V. VARGHESE**  
VICE CHANCELLOR, NIEPA, NEW DELHI  
(CHAIRPERSON)



**DR. NIDHI S SABHARWAL**  
CPRHE/NIEPA, NEW DELHI  
(CONVENOR)



**PROFESSOR ANN STEWART**  
PROFESSOR OF LAW AND GENDER JUSTICE,  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, UNITED KINGDOM



**PROFESSOR SANTOSH MEHROTRA**  
CENTRE FOR INFORMAL SECTOR AND  
LABOUR STUDIES, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI



**DR. ARCHANA THAKUR**  
JOINT SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY  
GRANTS COMMISSION, NEW DELHI



**PROFESSOR MEENAKSHI GOPINATH**  
DIRECTOR, WOMEN IN SECURITY CONFLICT  
MANAGEMENT AND PEACE, NEW DELHI