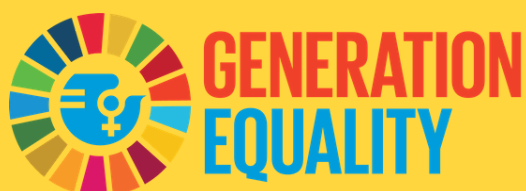


MAY 2021

Asia-Pacific Generation Equality Dialogue

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

Breakout Room
Insights



ACTION ROOM 1: INCREASE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT BY TRANSFORMING THE CARE ECONOMY

Facilitator:

Bharati Silawal-Giri

Chair-National Network Against
Women and Girls Trafficking
(NNACT) & Founder Member -
Human Rights Organisation of
Nepal (HURON)

Discussant 1:

Keiko Nowacka

Senior Social Development
Specialist (Gender and
Development), Asian Development
Bank

Discussant 2:

Nadira Yusoff

Founder and Chief Executive
Officer, Kiddocare

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
THEN COLLECTIVELY DISCUSS
AND IDENTIFY:

(i) 2-3- Priority actions for this
region for the next 5 years
(based on the area of discussion)
- and we can link these
recommendations to other
concerns for women and girls

(ii) Up to 2 recommendations of:
(a) strategies and/or
(b) opportunities for
strengthening multi-stakeholder
intra-regional collaboration and
collective action. It would be
good to be clear on which kinds
of collaboration will be key

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

INSIGHT 1

The care economy must be treated like any other economic sector, meaning that broad investments, policies, and regulations are put into place to ensure affordability, accessibility and quality care provision

INSIGHT 2

Technology and innovative market-based solutions have the ability to provide opportunities for decent work for some women while allowing working women to take full advantage of paid work outside the home

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Governments must take a **holistic approach** to the care economy that includes measures such as **infrastructure investments, subsidy provision and upskilling and certification for caregivers**

RECOMMENDATION 2

Collecting and generating **stronger gender data around women's economic empowerment** and specifically women's care burdens must be a priority

RECOMMENDATION 3

Addressing the care economy requires **intra-ministerial coordination and collaboration**. It cannot be siloed to women's ministries

ACTION ROOM 2: EXPAND DECENT WORK AND EMPLOYMENT IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL ECONOMIES

Facilitator:

Gillian Dowie

Senior Program Officer,
Sustainable Inclusive Economies
Team, International Development
Research Centre (South and South
East Asia office)

Discussant 1:

Nitya Nangalia

Coordinator for Collective Social
Enterprises, SEWA Bharat

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KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

INSIGHT 1

Peer networks and collectives are critical in resilience - informal workers in collectives and solidarity networks were more resilient and received better support. Informal workers in collectives also interface more with the formal economy and it offers routes for enterprise formalization. Informal networks can also be engaged in data collection and data sharing as they know the information better

INSIGHT 2

Savings and finance - capital support in the recovery is critical, whether low cost loans and small grants to avoid predatory loans and savings depletion, loss of business

INSIGHT 3

Digital inclusion - this offers a way to enhance resilience of workers and enterprises in both the formal and informal economies. Need to close the digital divide and enhance skills to engage in the digital economy and to utilize it also for network building and expansion

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Data and reporting - we need multi stakeholder collaboration and consensus on indicators for measuring progress on workplace gender equality in formal enterprises, and this needs to be done alongside enhanced regulatory frameworks to guide the transformation, and need engagement between private, public, civil society, workers organizations, etc. (including for example engagement between informal/formal workers, government and supply chain organizations). In the informal sector, we need more gender data and information on the impacts and needs

RECOMMENDATION 2

Social protection - key for protection of informal workers and formal workers in time of crisis, it needs to be more responsive to women's care roles, needs to engage women in design of responsive protection, and needs to be prepared for a crisis - registration of informal and vulnerable workers to support them when crisis hits. Also needs to capture a larger definition of informal workers and be understandable and accessible to even formal workers who need to fall back on it

RECOMMENDATION 3

Enterprise support hubs to support women in informal enterprises and entrepreneurs, that recognize their issues and needs, and can take learning from urban to rural areas. Collaboration between workers themselves and their collectives, along with government at different levels and private sector

ACTION ROOM 3: INCREASE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO AND CONTROL, OVER PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

Facilitator:

Mrinalini (Minnie) Venkatachalam
Regional Director, South East Asia
and Oceania for WEConnect
International (Singapore)

Discussant 1:

Naghma Mulla
Chief Executive Officer, Edelgive
Foundation

Discussant 2:

Aria Widiyanto
Chief Risk & Sustainability Officer,
Amartha

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KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

INSIGHT 1

It has become evident that access to land helps increase income of rural women by 30%. In order to access productive assets, women need financial support to restore their livelihoods. Flexible financial mechanisms that are transparent are essential

INSIGHT 2

Many women are not counted in the value chain (e.g. urban informal sector, micro entrepreneurs, etc.). Procurement needs to include women in value chains, especially collectives who represent the rural economy, in order to provide them with representation and growth opportunities through income opportunities

INSIGHT 3

Banking terminology and processes can hinder access to financial support. It is vital to understand women's specific needs and assist them accordingly. Make operations more women-friendly and simplify banking processes

INSIGHT 4

Cross-collaborative opportunities for organizations/institutions work together to scale-up, build on and leverage existing initiatives to bring information to the masses

INSIGHT 5

There are discrepancies between gender-budgeting implementation and M&E. The issue is accountability

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Improve access to digital devices such as mobile phones, which are game changers since they cut across geographical borders. This helps women access financial loans, and connect them with financial services in the market. It provides them with learning opportunities with free resources to enhance their skills. This helps them build social cohesion with other women in communities. Financial literacy/access should be promoted in tandem with digital literacy/access to increase empowerment, income and personal assets

RECOMMENDATION 2

Create a sub-regional coalition with private sector, government representatives and UN.

ACTION ROOM 4: PROMOTE GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES

Facilitator:

Paula Uniacke

Senior Program Officer (Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality), Asia Foundation

Discussant 1:

Lilika Fusimalohi

Gender Program Coordinator (Fiji & Small Pacific Island countries), Gender and Economic Inclusion Group, International Finance Institute (IFI)

Discussant 2:

Dr. Fahmida Khatun

Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

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KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

INSIGHT 1

Private sector businesses can play an effective role in addressing gender equality - including by providing evidence on the demand for gender equality to steer national policy and regulation to provide an enabling and productive economic environment

INSIGHT 2

Gender equality is not only a social and moral imperative for the private sector but also a business and economic necessity. A win for the business, employees, the family unit and the community

INSIGHT 3

Regulations and policymakers should provide guidance to safeguard gender-related risks and access to gender friendly finance

INSIGHT 4

Provide access to financial resources for women-led MSMEs - to enable women to continue their businesses, make key investments (e.g., digitize operations), or even tap into new opportunities- example from Huairou Comm member in Nepal (in context of lock down). For example, could support digitalization of women-owned MSMEs by boosting skills and access to financing

INSIGHT 5

Regarding stakeholder engagement, maybe connect with existing networks (organisations who have social/community resources) create space for dialogue with different actors to join the same event to start the dialogue. Build trust with key policy makers, through evidenced based studies

INSIGHT 6

Need to promote the sense of belonging that women rights is human rights and to align the respect of human rights in the role of women and meaningful inclusiveness gender means

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Strengthen women's equal rights on property and resources that will contribute to build a gender sensitive financial system

RECOMMENDATION 2

Need initiatives to ensure transparency and accountability in distributing government packages for the poor to face the challenge of COVID-19

RECOMMENDATION 3

Women also need training and capacity development in order to avail the opportunities. Access to technology and the skills to use technology is also very important

RECOMMENDATION 4

Increase dialogue platforms for local service providers, private sector and public sector on key social constraints such as gender based violence, childcare and mental health well being. For example, employment conditions, occupational safety and health measures to address violence and harassment

RECOMMENDATION 5

Encourage more engagement between private sector, governments, the local labor market, value chains on the business case of gender equality especially the impact of gender-based violence, childcare, flexible working arrangements and mental health well-being

RECOMMENDATION 6

Governments to prioritise the collection of gender disaggregated data

RECOMMENDATION 7

Build trust with key policy makers, through evidenced based studies and promote the activities by the stakeholders through various platforms

RECOMMENDATION 8

Regarding stakeholder engagement, connect with existing networks, (organisations who have the resources), create space for dialogue with different actors to join the same events to start the dialogue

RECOMMENDATION 9

Consider leveraging government and private sector procurement opportunities to include women in value chains

RECOMMENDATION 10

Strengthen social protection measures to support care economy and informal workers