FOREGROUND

Promoting gender equality has been a key priority of the Government and is also plays a focal role in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda 2030. Gender statistics cuts across all areas of official statistics and provides a lens for policy makers to evolve targeted strategies to address gaps and bridging the gender-based disparities. The National Statistical Office has been bringing out "Women and Men in India" as an annual publication since 1995 and the current issue is the twenty first in the series. In each release, efforts are made to improve its coverage and presentation by incorporating latest available information in different domains of the Government and also based on the inputs and feedback of the varied users. In the current issue, information on a minimum set of gender indicators has been incorporated in the publication so as to accelerate existing efforts to generate internationally comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership.

I am confident that this publication would be useful to planners, policy makers, researchers and academicians to recognize the impact of policy interventions and suggest measures to reduce gender disparities as India moves towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to comments and suggestions for improving the quality and coverage of information presented in this publication.

(Pravin Srivastava)

Dated: 31.03.2020
Place: New Delhi
Gender equality has been widely recognized as a prerequisite for achieving national and international development goals. Gender statistics provide the present status of the socioeconomic situation of women and men, and girls and boys. It’s also providing an essential tool for raising awareness about gender issues and highlighting concerns about gender disparities.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has endeavored to focus in this publication on such crucial statistical indicators of socio-economic relevance as are deemed best in portraying gender inequality, gender bias and gender discrimination. The statistical tables of these indicators provide footprints of progress of the country for tracking by national and international agencies. NSO has been bringing out a publication entitled "Women and Men in India" on annual basis. The current issue is the twenty first in the series and efforts have been made to improve its coverage and presentation by incorporating latest available information published by the different Ministries/Departments/Organizations.

The publication has been prepared in the Social Statistics Division of the National Statistical Office under the overall supervision and guidance of Dr. Shailja Sharma, Additional Director General. I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for the team of officers for their contribution in bringing out this publication.

I hope that the publication would be useful to the users and feedback on improving future publications are solicited.

(Tapas Kumar Sanyal)

Dated : 31.03.2020

Place: New Delhi
MESSAGE

The publication ‘Women and Men in India’ presents a holistic view of the situation of women in India and includes data on major indicators pertaining to women and men. In the Beijing Declaration adopted in the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), participating Governments "determined to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity". Government of India too, recognizes that development cannot be sustainable or equitable unless it accounts for gender, and women in particular would be the worst casualties of such unfair progress. It is well known that women’s issues are complex, not easily recognized and often reflect conditions of grievous social evils. In developing countries like India women contribute to local and national development in a very big way despite being under-nourished, underpaid and over-worked. Furthermore, when one takes into account the multiple roles of women, one tends to ignore women’s non-domestic roles working double-shifts with their unpaid domestic work.

Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is dedicated to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), constituted by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), has also developed global minimum set of gender indicators for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics. The country is making efforts to compile appropriate gender statistics to report the data on globally and nationally identified indicators which helps in pursuing the SDG’s underlying objective of “Leaving No One Behind”.

The Social Statistics Division (SSD) has endeavored to focus in this publication on such crucial statistical indicators of socio-economic relevance as are deemed best in portraying gender inequality, gender bias and gender discrimination. The engendered statistical tables of these indicators provide footprints of progress of the country for tracking by national and international agencies.

I hope the publication would be extremely useful to planners, policy makers, research workers and academicians. Suggestions for improvement in the publication will be highly appreciated.

(Shailja Sharma)

Dated: 31.03.2020
Place: New Delhi
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