



WEBINAR

Gender Impacts of Covid 19: Prevention and Mitigation

11 April (Saturday), 11.00 am – 12.30 pm



The devastating effects of Covid 19 have been felt across the world. According to the International Labour Organization, COVID-19 could render 25 million people unemployed and many more underemployed by virtue of reduced wages and working hours. This is especially critical in India where a large part of the population is either self-employed or dependent on daily wages for their subsistence.¹ According to the last published Census of India data, there are as many as 480.2 million workers in India. Of these, 93 percent are in the informal sector.²

While the emergency lockdown was an unprecedented measure that might have been necessary to be implemented at the time, it is having a disproportionate impact in the lives of workers in the informal sector. However, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic is not gender neutral.

The world is witnessing an unprecedented spike in the reporting of intimate partner violence in the lockdown situation. Dr. Tedros, the Director General of World Health Organization (WHO) and Director General of UN made a global call to include services in response to domestic violence as an essential service. In India, the National Commission for Women (NCW) reported having received 257 complaints of domestic violence in the first 10 days of the lockdown, an increase of 161 cases from the first week of March during which NCW had received 116 complaints of crimes against women from across the country. With the available reporting options under the current scenario only being through social media, email or online registration, women with no access to phones and technology find themselves helpless in the new normal way of life.

The ubiquitous absence of women in the stories being reported from across the country is telling. An estimated 94 percent of India's women who are employed in the unorganised sector³, with life in lockdown, it is difficult to fathom what the extent of this devastation has been in their lives.

The virus knows no gender, race or religion. Yet, it has managed, in one fell sweep, to render almost invisible the women who make up more than half of the population of the country. Young girls in rural Haryana report that they fear it will destroy and reverse the progress that they have made towards equalising gender relations at home and public spaces. The inadequate focus on women in the management of the current crisis situation threatens to undermine generations' of work on gender equality and women's empowerment. Given this scenario, there is no telling its effects on the Post Covid situation.

In this backdrop, PRIA International Academy (PIA) and Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF) will host a Webinar on **“Gender Impacts of Covid 19: Prevention and Mitigation” on 11 April (Saturday), between 11.00 am – 12.30 pm.**

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/how-india-can-show-leadership-in-addressing-covid-19/>

² <https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/03/supporting-informal-workers-covid-19-crisis/>

³ <https://thewire.in/women/indian-women-work-care-informal-sector>

This webinar will explore the gender impacts of the enforced lockdown, and beyond, in the lives of women and girls:

- What challenges women and girls are facing and what are the threats to their safety in the current scenario – during migration, in their home, in isolation wards and quarantine?
- What are the effects of lockdown on the way women and girls are accessing essential services, health, government sponsored relief and entitlements such as old age, widow pension, etc.?
- What concrete steps and guidelines can be practiced to ensure that women and girls do not face violence and harassment in this period of lockdown and its aftermath?
- What measures will support more active leadership of women in responding to situations in their communities as they deal with pandemic?

Panellists:

- Dr. Neelam Singh, Secretary/Chief Functionary, Vatsalya, Lucknow
- Dr. Indu Prakash Singh, City Makers Mission International, New Delhi
- Bhanuja Cheruvu, Director, Rural and Environment Development Society (REDS), Ananthapur
- Ms Anju Khewar, Programme Coordinator, State Health Resource Centre, Jharkhand

Moderator:

- Ms Nandita Bhatt, Director, Martha Farrell Foundation, New Delhi

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zig1n7F-SU6yDDg1CLMMLQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.