



*Roundtable on
Experiential Learning in
Empowering Women at Grassroots:
Innovative approaches and Challenges*

Date: September 21, 2019 (Saturday)

Venue: Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai



Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development

Madurai Symposium 2019

Fostering Development Knowledge

September 18 - 22, 2019 Madurai



Background

Women, as we all agree live in a Patriarchial System. In the society around us, we see many cases of domestic abuse and violence against women. In fact, the development narrative casts its opinions and perspectives evenly across a range of women, experiences and contexts refuses to delve deeper into women's life experiences, and is content to have counted women as participants, beneficiaries, victims, and case studies. Content to have counted her in, but not necessarily explored the complex socio-political, cultural and economic dynamics that she lives through everyday. Three and a half decades ago, there was an overall lack of consciousness, sensitivity, and understanding of how our well-oiled structures of patriarchy functioned within families, homes, villages, cities, and society at large. Women were indeed ignored. But this very ignorance generated a counter-intuitive process of delving deep into individual experiences, and unpacking patriarchy through them. (Source: Ms. Sushma Iyengar, KMVS, Idronline.org). United Nations in 2014 launched a campaign called, "He for SHE" with the goal of individual stand up and act against the negative stereotype and behaviour in any forms. The motto of the campaign was, "Gender Equality is not a Women Issue but human right's issue that benefits everyone"

Many in the society have opinionated views on women empowerment. Despite having global support in Sustainable Development Goals and United Nations initiatives, there remain many hindrances in holistic achievement of women empowerment. The literacy rate of women in India has steadily improved from 50.82% in 2016 to 62.98% in 2015. The empowerment process giving equal space for women to move up the ladder in social, political, technical, economical, environmental and cultural aspects are immediate need in the society. The alumnae of The DHAN Academy (TDA) as part of their 2+3 Curricula gained rich experience by directly involved in the processes of empowering women in many thematic areas and impact sustainable development. Come September 21, 2019 in Madurai Symposium, the graduate alumni of The DHAN Academy (TDA) who are working in development sector across the states would participate and present their innovative approaches, processes, practices in empowering women to achieve sustainable development. Their talks would also enlist the challenges they come across in the entire process of women empowerment. Centre for Research of TDA jointly with TDA alumni association would host a **Roundtable on "Experiential Learning in Empowering Women at Grassroots: Innovative approaches and Challenges"**.

Purpose

Sharing the experience and collective knowledge by different Alumnus in grassroot level initiatives and actions for

- ☞ women empowerment in terms leadership and governance,
- ☞ building social capital and bringing collective action helps in getting their entitlements, rights and bringing gender equality
- ☞ Advancing knowledge of women community in Nutrition and social security.
- ☞ Innovative approaches, techniques and use of digital technologies to overcome the challenges in the empowerment process
- ☞ Linking grassroot action and development intervention measures with Sustainable Development goals and
- ☞ Evolving knowledge dissemination products for learning process

Expected Participants

- ☞ The DHAN Academy Alumni and other college students

Expected Outcomes

Experiences about Professionals action at grassroot level

- ☞ In advancing Women leadership and governance,
- ☞ Innovative tools and techniques to achieve economical, nutritional and phycological well beings,
- ☞ Evolving knowledge products for learning as case materials/articles for academy course

Indicative Schedule

- ☞ Registration and Prayer
- ☞ Welcome address and Purpose Sharing
- ☞ Experience Sharing by Alumnus
- ☞ Lunch
- ☞ Group Discussion
- ☞ Consolidation and Lead Action Points
- ☞ Vote of thanks



Madurai Symposium 2019

Development Stakeholders gather biennially at Madurai in a development market place, “Madurai Symposium” to share, learn from each other experience and practices and explore opportunities for collaboration. The symposium attracts diverse stakeholders in development: Community Organizations, Civil societies/NGOs, Government, Banks, Insurance Companies, CSR Foundations, Donors, Philanthropists and Academia. The previous edition of 2015 saw participation of 10000 stakeholders and deliberated on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Madurai Symposium 2019, development stakeholders would get ample opportunities for deliberating on the issues of gender equality and equity in many conferences, seminars and workshops. Needless to say, these knowledge events would provide a stage to facilitate cross learning through best practices in the process of women empowerment.

The DHAN Academy

The DHAN Academy (TDA) is one of the premier development schools in India. It is dedicated to grooming development professionals who strongly believe the development of society as the sole mission of their lives. TDA conducts its flagship programme, 2 years full-time, residential Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Development Management and Community Health Management. So far more than 200 Alumni have passed out and working in 30+ NGOs across India. The Academy is also offers one-year Post Graduate Development Executive Education Programme (DEEP) for working professionals to build their conceptualization skills with management perspective. In addition to these long duration educational programmes, TDA offers 100+ short duration Management Development Programmes for practitioners in the development sector at the national and international levels.

Co-ordinators

Mrs. R. Sasikala, Faculty & Mr P Premanand, Deputy Director

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