



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**  
(INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE BY THE ACT OF PARLIAMENT NO. 35/2012)  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SRIPERUMBUDUR, TAMIL NADU - 602105, INDIA

# **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)**

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022**

**Theme: "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"**

**8 MARCH 2022**

---

## **A BRIEF REPORT OF PANEL DISCUSSION**

---

**ORGANIZED BY**

Department of Development Studies  
**Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development**  
(An Institute of National Importance by Act of Parliament No.35/2012)  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India (GOI)  
Pennalur, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu – 602 105, India

**Programme Coordinators:** Dr. P. Sivakumar and Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna

# Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Theme: "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"

8 MARCH 2022

---

# PANEL DISCUSSION

---

### Introduction

In 1975, the United Nations named the year "International Women's Year" followed by the declaration March 8th as the UN Day for Women's Rights and World Peace in 1977. Since then International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide on 8<sup>th</sup> March every year under a new theme. The theme of Year 2022 is ***“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”***. The year 2022 is aimed to provide women and girls a voice and equitable participation in decision-making on climate change and sustainability in order to promote sustainable development and greater gender equality.

Keeping in view the agenda of International Women’s day, a Panel discussion on ***“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”*** was organized by the **Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD** on 08th March 2022 through video conferencing using Google Meet platform.

### Summary of the Programme

The programme started with the Welcome Address. Dr. P. Sivakumar, Head, Dept. of Development Studies, welcomed the Director, RGNIYD; resource persons; faculty members; administrative staff; students and all other participants to the programme. Following, Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD, delivered the Inaugural address. The Panel Discussion started with the moderator, Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Development Studies, providing an introductory note on the background of International Women’s Day and introducing the resource persons. Subsequently, Dr. Praveena Kodoth, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvanantharam, Kerala; Ms. Urvashi Parsad, Director, DMEQ, Niti Ayog, New Delhi; Ms. Piyali Sarkar Debnath, Training and Logistics Coordinator Ending Violence Against Women Unit (EVAW), UN Women have delivered lectures followed by Question-Answer Session and Discussion. The programme came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Development Studies. The minutes of the programme were recorded by Ms. Rimpi Arora, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Development Studies. The programme was attended by more than 160 participants.

### Welcome Address:

The programme started at 10:30 AM with the Welcome Address delivered by **Dr. P. Sivakumar**, Head, Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD. He briefed about the purpose and necessity of such webinars. Dr. Sivakumar extended a warm welcome to Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD and the resource persons, Dr. Praveena Kodoth, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvanantharam, Kerala; Ms. Urvashi Parsad, Director, DMEO, Niti Ayog, New Delhi; Ms. Piyali Sarkar Debnath, Training and Logistics Coordinator Ending Violence Against Women Unit (EVAW), UN Women and all the participants of the panel discussion.

### **Inaugural Address:**

In his inaugural speech, **Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb**, Director, RGNIYD greeted the resource persons and all participants and highlighted the importance of gender equality by emphasising on the role of women in all aspects of life ranging from family and community to social and policy levels. He stated that social development and sustainable development are impossible to achieve without the involvement of women in the decision making process. He further mentioned that the role of women as a decision maker in every sphere is very important, well recognized and their valuable contribution cannot be denied. However, they require more autonomy and more empowerment in every aspect of life including Parliament where the 30% reservation issue is much debated. He proposed that if that goal (30percent reservation in Parliament) is achieved, it would be a real initiative in order to ensure empowerment of women. He further explained that women representation in the Parliament would not only raise their voice but also lead to remarkable change in society. Subsequently, he also highlighted various issues/concerns like sexual exploitation, discrimination violence pertaining to women and marginalized girl children living in rural areas from his own research and field experiences. He stressed that women in rural areas are more prone to discrimination as compared to women in urban areas. It is because their voices are left unheard. He stressed that there is a need to focus more on actions instead of concerns or issues to improve the status of marginalized women. In other words, he stated that gender equality cannot be achieved without addressing the problems of marginalized women. He suggested that gender equality can be achieved only by providing employment opportunities to women and motivating them to form self-help groups to earn their livelihood and live life with dignity. Furthermore, he highlighted the role of international agencies, government agencies, self-help groups, NGOs and education not only in resolving the issues of marginalized women but providing a better environment to women in community is very essential. He concluded his speech by wishing the programme success and the statement that *“whatever we learn from the resource persons that translate in our actions and day to day life to bring the change in the life of the marginalized community”*.

**Panel Discussion:** The Moderator, **Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna**, gave momentum to the session by highlighting the historical relevance of celebrating the International Women’s Day. She also briefly talked about the impact of pandemic on gender equality. She further introduced the resource persons one by one and invited them to share their views on the observance of International Women’s Day. **Dr. Praveena Kodoth, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvanantharam, Kerala** delivered the first lecture.

In her lecture, Dr. Praveena Kodoth focussed on the fundamental concepts of gender and sex. She stated that understanding of these concepts is very important to have an encompassing idea of gender equality. She highlighted that transgender community is the furthestmost marginalized section of society amongst other groups such as the lower caste, aged and the disabled. She stated that it is essential to reflect on this most oppressed group, while they are forced to fit into the male-female binary. She further underlined some instances from the sports sector. She succinctly described the discrimination and contestation faced by transgender people based on gender binary and the socially constructed gender. She also mentioned that “*sex is not the pure physical category but it is the bodily signals and functions that defined as male or female*”. So, it is basically through gender lens that we define sex because we do not have undated access to the nature of biology and we understand nature of biology through already received social lens. She also discussed about gender stereotyping in sports i.e. how young transgender people are harassed and excluded from sports. She concluded her lecture by raising a critical question, whether sex is a social category. She further stated that based on observation it most visible to believe that gender as a social category has shaped scientific beliefs that sex is the definite basis of differences.

This was followed by the session taken by **Ms. Urvashi Parsad, Director, DMEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.** In her lecture, she highlighted the importance of reliable data pertaining to women and role of women in GDP and growth of economy. She started her discussion by stating gender as a complex and multi-sectoral issue. She stated that there are various types of discriminations and gaps prevailing on the basis of gender (male, female and others) but some progress has been witnessed in various sectors such as education and health of women. However, there is a lack of data pertaining to women on a regular basis. She further emphasized on the dedicated units for collecting the reliable data at central, states and local levels. She also elaborated about MoWCD which collects data pertaining to women from all different sources, analyses it and looks at various aspects of women belonging to different sections such as disabled, aged and pertaining to different religions. Subsequently, she mentioned the SDG Indices developed by NITI Aayog for collecting information regarding all the aspects of gender equality. She suggested that there is a need to bring all stakeholders together including the private sector which could help women to move on to a higher ladder. She ended her lecture by stressing on the need for collecting data, disseminating the information on public domain, facilitating the discourse and discussion on an everyday basis for a large-scale and sustainable change in society.

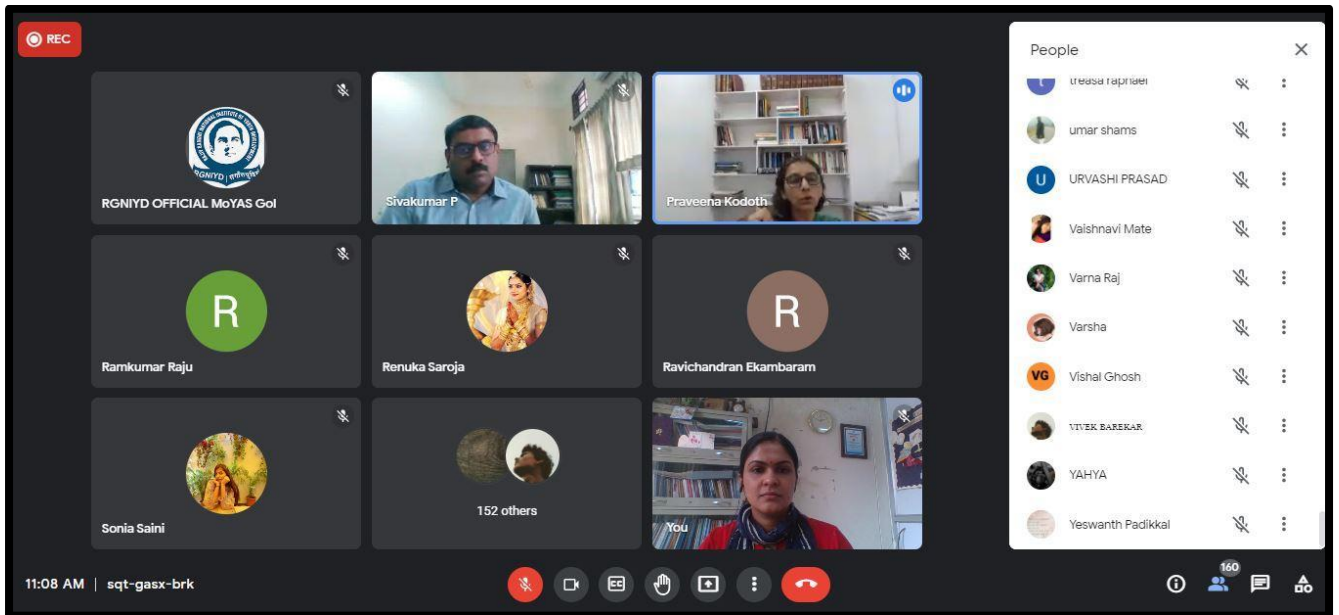
The next lecture was delivered by **Ms. Piyali Sarkar Debnath, Training and Logistics Coordinator Ending Violence Against Women Unit (EVAW), UN Women.** In her talk, she focussed on the impact of pandemic on violence against women and the key areas that need attention. She enunciated that the impact of the pandemic is not gender neutral as it pushed around 96 Million people into extreme poverty, out of which, 47 Million are women and girls.

She quoted the message of the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, who insisted that the world “**cannot emerge from the pandemic with the clock spinning backwards on gender equality**”. She also highlighted that various forms of violence such as sexual violence, domestic violence, cybercrime against

women, child exploitation and abuse, child marriages and trafficking, increased during the pandemic. She also stated that gender violence is the violence of human rights and it is the major public health challenge today. She highlighted that around one out of three women faced physical and sexual violence mostly by the intimate partner during the pandemic. She further mentioned facts and figures highlighting the extent of the problems related to women and children that arose during the pandemic. She stated that the Ministry of Women and Child Development reported that more than 800 child marriages were prevented in the first week of the lockdown and the Child Helpline was declared as the emergency helpline. Available data also showed that 40% women experience cyber violence and less than 10 % actually seek protection through the police. Subsequently, she also mentioned some of the ways and steps that were jointly developed including the technologically based solutions which can be used to women safety and empowerment. She ended her discussion by stating that **human development, if not engendered, is endangered.**

The discussion ended with the Question-Answer session with participants followed by detailed discussion. The programme ended with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Development Studies.

## PHOTO GALLERY



REC

11:08 AM | sqt-gasx-brk

Sivakumar P

Praveena Kodoth

RGNID OFFICI...

Ravichandran E...

Renuka Saroja

Ramkumar Raju

Sonia Saini

153 others

You

People

- Tharun R s
- treasa raphael
- umar shams
- URVASHI PRASAD
- Vaishnavi Mate
- Varna Raj
- Varsha
- Vishal Ghosh
- VIVEK BAREKAR
- YAHYA

REC

11:10 AM | sqt-gasx-brk

pallavi kumari has left the meeting

Praveena Kodoth

Sivakumar P

RGNID OFFICI...

Ravichandran E...

Renuka Saroja

Ramkumar Raju

Sonia Saini

154 others

You

People

- supreeta gupai
- Suresh Sundaram
- Tharun R s
- treasa raphael
- umar shams
- URVASHI PRASAD
- Vaishnavi Mate
- Varna Raj
- Varsha
- VIVEK BAREKAR

REC

11:15 AM | sqt-gasx-brk

URVASHI PRASAD

Sivakumar P

Ravichandran E...

Renuka Saroja

Praveena Kodoth

RGNID OFFICI...

Ramkumar Raju

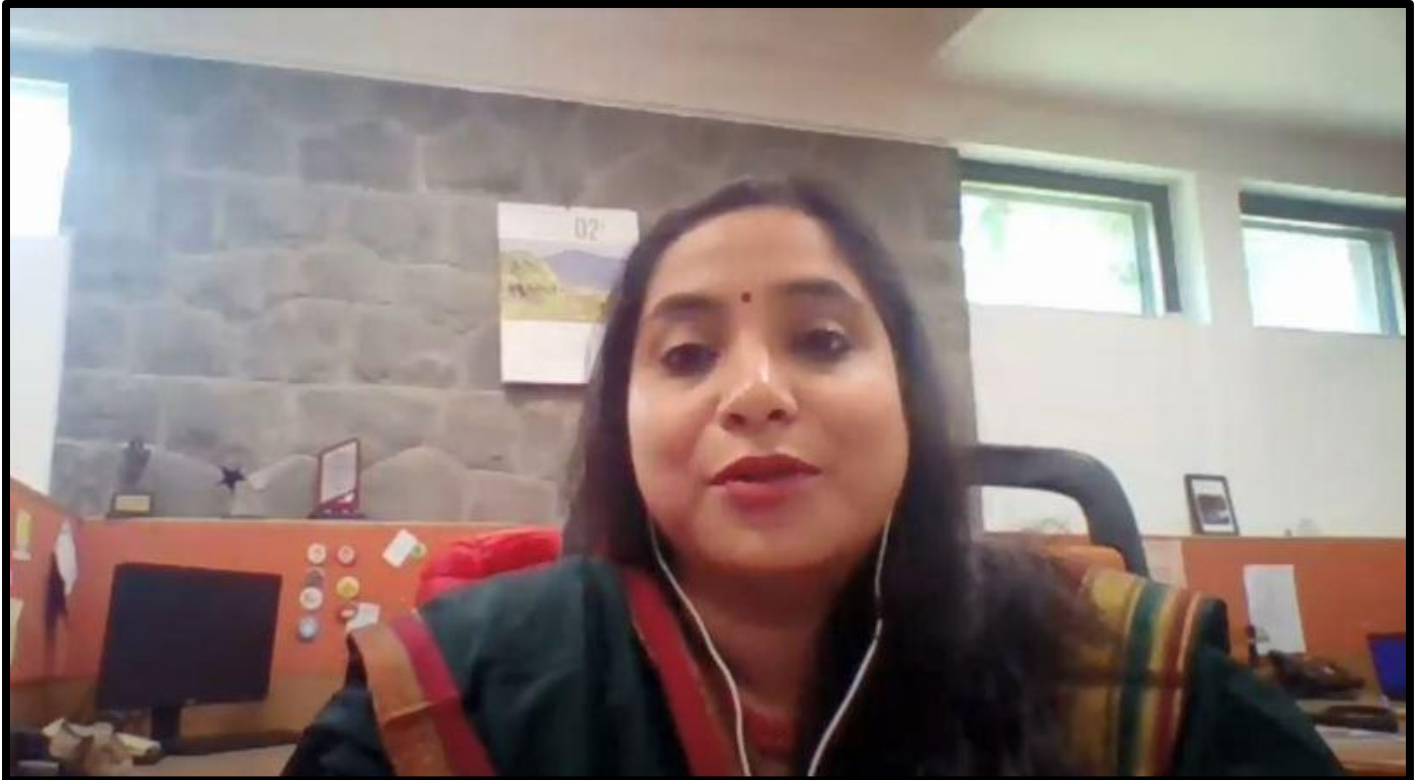
150 others

You

People

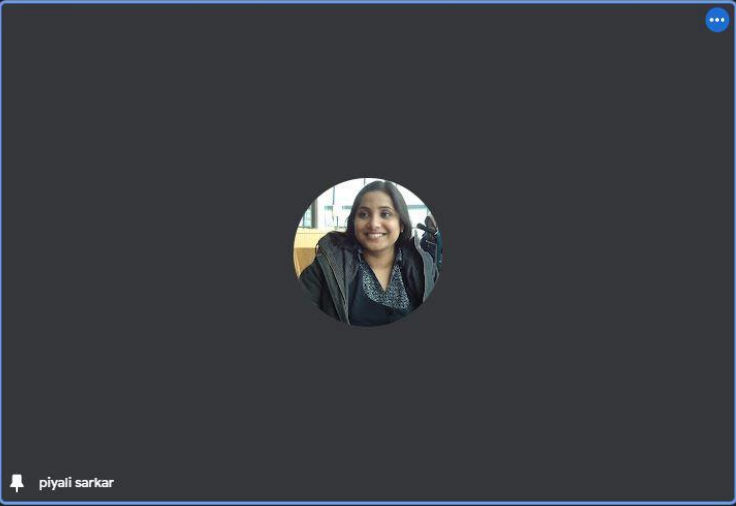
- Suresh Sundaram
- Tharun R s
- umar shams
- URVASHI PRASAD
- Vaishnavi Mate
- Varna Raj
- Varsha
- VIVEK BAREKAR
- YAHYA
- Yeswanth Padikkal







REC



piyali sarkar

11:34 AM | sqt-gasx-brk

Microphone, Video, Chat, Hand, Screen Share, More, End Call

Participants:

- Sivakumar P
- Ravichandran E...
- Renuka Saroja
- Praveena Kodoth
- RGNIYD OFFICI...
- URVASHI PRASAD
- 135 others

People

- SURESH SURESH
- Tharun R s
- umar shams
- URVASHI PRASAD
- Vaishnavi Mate
- Varna Raj
- Varsha
- Vishal Ghosh
- VIVEK BAREKAR
- Yeswanth Padikkal

REC



Vishal Ghosh has left the meeting

You

11:09 AM | sqt-gasx-brk

Microphone, Video, Chat, Hand, Screen Share, More, End Call


Participants:

- Praveena Kodo...
- RGNIYD OFFICI...
- Ravichandran E...
- Renuka Saroja
- Ramkumar Raju
- Sonia Saini
- Sivakumar P
- 152 others

People

- THARUN R S
- treasa raphael
- umar shams
- URVASHI PRASAD
- Vaishnavi Mate
- Varna Raj
- Varsha
- VIVEK BAREKAR
- YAHYA
- Yeswanth Padikkal

REC



Keerat P. Kaur

piyali sarkar

Sivakumar P

URVASHI PRASAD

Ravichandran Ekambaram

Renuka Saroja

RGNIYD OFFICIAL MoYAS Gol

107 others

You

12:12 PM | sqt-gasx-brk

Microphone, Video, Chat, Hand, Screen Share, More, End Call

In-call messages

Messages can only be seen by people in the call and are deleted when the call ends.

infrastructure and industrial growth etc

Arya Ss 11:50 AM  
I would like to ask a question to the piyali ma'am, Do you think violence against women will decrease if sex education comes to India? If sex education were to enter the field of education, how would it benefit women?

Rishi 11:53 AM  
I would like to ask a question to Piyali ma'am. How deep can national level or international level violence trackers go into the society to check violence and inequalities against women? Even if it can go deep among them, can it form a legally binding system where women will be safeguarded against all forms of violence?

Send a message to everyone

# PROGRAMME INVITATION



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

(INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE BY THE ACT OF PARLIAMENT NO. 35/2012)

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SRIPERUMBUDUR, TAMIL NADU - 602105, INDIA

**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)**

## **International Women's Day 2022**

*Theme: "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"*

**8 March 2022**

**Organized by**  
**Department of Development Studies**

### **Inaugural Address**



**Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb**  
Director  
RGNIYD



**Dr. Praveena Kodoth**  
Professor  
Centre for Development Studies  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



**Ms. Urvashi Prasad**  
Director, DMED  
NITI Aayog, New Delhi



**Ms. Piyali Sarkar Debnath**  
Training and Logistics Coordinator  
Ending Violence Against Women Unit (EVAW)  
UN Women

### **Panel Discussion** **Resource Persons**

**Programme Link:**

**<https://meet.google.com/sqt-gasx-brk>**

**DR. P. SIVAKUMAR**  
Programme Coordinator & Head  
Department of Development Studies  
Email: skurniyd@gmail.com

**DR. NIYATHI R. KRISHNA**  
Programme Coordinator & Assistant Professor  
Department of Development Studies  
Email: niyathi.iti@gmail.com

**[www.rgnlyd.gov.in](http://www.rgnlyd.gov.in)**

# PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Programme Schedule		
Time	Programme	Details
10:30 AM - 10:35 AM	Welcome Address	<b>Dr. P. Sivakumar</b> <i>Assistant Professor &amp; Head Department of Development Studies</i>
10:36 AM - 10:45 AM	Inaugural Address	<b>Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb</b> <i>Director, RGNID</i>
10:46 AM - 12:00 Noon	Panel Discussion on "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"	<b>Dr. Praveena Kodoth</b> <i>Professor Centre for Development Studies Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala</i>
		<b>Ms. Urvashi Prasad</b> <i>Director, DME0 NITI Aayog, New Delhi</i>
		<b>Ms. Piyali Sarkar Debnath</b> <i>Training and Logistics Coordinator Ending Violence Against Women Unit (EVAW) UN Women</i>
		<b>Moderator: Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna</b> <i>Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies RGNID</i>
12:00 Noon - 12:05 PM	Vote of Thanks	<b>Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur</b> <i>Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies RGNID</i>