

The National Gender Centre- NIAR, organised a 10 days Training of Trainers on "Gender & Governance" from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, with the goal of developing a core group of gender trainers in National and State level administrative institutions and sectoral training institutions so as to enhance gender equality and equity in policy, planning and implementation of development programmes. The training was attended by 31 government functionaries from 9 states. The participants varied from different training institutes of states ranging from State Institute of Health & Family Welfare, State Institute of Panchayati Raj, State Police Academy, State Institute of Disaster Management & Administrative Training Institute. The choice of participants was diverse as the issue of gender inequalities is all pervading and needs sensitization of each and every men, women and institutions.

The objective was to familiarize the participants with approaches to gender and development, to develop an understanding of gender analytical frameworks and application and use of conceptual tools, to share and exchange good practice in gender and development, to equip the participants with appropriate resource materials to conducting relevant gender trainings at their institutes, to oversee the development of gender training modules and their delivery. The training focussed on four specific themes in order to enhance the understanding of gender and development issues i.e.

- Violence Against Women
- Health & Nutrition
- Gender & Disaster Management
- Gender & Panchayati Raj

The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Sayeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission. She stated the importance of the training and said that women is a victim of patriarchy and faces multiple deprivations throughout her life. There is a need to bring about a systemic change and the inclusion of women should not be formal the inclusiveness should be complete i.e. Empowerment and participation of women at all level shall increase. She also stressed on the need to increase the funding for gender development. Gender specific programmes should be developed so that strategic gender needs/ issues can be addressed.

During the training, experts/ specialists like Sarojni Ganju Thakur, Flavia Agnes, Ratna Sudershan, Renu Khanna, Dr. P.M Nair and various serving government functionaries, having sectoral knowledge & NGOs experiences in addressing gender issues were called to deliver lectures and in particular to interact with the trainees. At the end of the training, the thematic modules developed by the teams were presented.

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