Why World Needs More Women Entrepreneurs in Leadership

Innovations for New Identities for Women Entrepreneurs

Let the Focus be on Employable Skills

FinTechs Changing Financial Ecosystem in India

Financial Arm to Innovative Startups

Bringing Ancient Spiritual Wisdom to Businesses

The Future of Indian Crypto Currency

Rethinking Population Dynamics for SDG Realization
The world’s population increase to 2050. According to a new study from the University of Washington, however, several developing nations may find their so-called demographic dividend much less of a boon than anticipated. Rapid population growth, developmental activities either to meet the growing population or the growing needs of the population as well as changing lifestyles and consumption patterns pose major challenge to preservation and promotion of ecological balance in India.

The world population has surpassed the 7 billion mark and is projected to grow to over 9 billion by 2043. Population trends today are characterized by an increasing divergence across countries and regions. Whereas many of the poorer countries continue to be characterized by rapid population growth, others that are more advanced in their demographic transition are experiencing rapid population ageing and even population decline in some cases.

10 years left to go, the international community must break its silence and tackle population growth if the Sustainable Development Goals are ever to be realised. There are many reasons for that, each Goal has its own drivers and obstacles, and a network of interrelationships between them (some positive, many negative) mean there are few simple answers and no magic bullets. The argument is not that tackling population growth will solve our problems but it is that failure to address unsustainable population which will prevent us from achieving many of those Goals, and that addressing population through ethical, empowering means will accelerate the progress of change.

The United Nations currently predicts that by 2027, India will overtake China as the world’s most populous country. Estimates suggest India and Nigeria will together add 470 million people in the next three decades — almost a quarter of
further action to address population growth; there will be two billion more people by 2050, and three-and-a-half billion more by 2100. It estimates just a one-in-four chance of our numbers reaching a peak before the end of this century.

Talking about tackling population growth is not about controlling the poorest or infringing on women's rights. In fact, it is about empowering women and communities, educating them and making sure their rights to know how, when and if to have a family are central to economic policies. Population needs to be reinstated on the global agenda, to come out of the shadows and an exclusively individual 'rights led' framework. While it must never be inconsistent with human rights, the value of ethical, empowering population action extends beyond individual benefits. It also derives an economic value. Today, there is still inadequate resourcing of these measures which is a social injustice, and a failure of the global community to recognise the human and socio-economic development value family planning represents to sustainable development.

Population dynamics do not only affect critical development objectives; they are themselves affected by social, economic and environmental changes. A growing body of evidence explicitly addresses the impact that continued population growth has on environmental crises, socio-economic development and people’s lives. World Scientists have warned that continued rapid population growth is a primary driver behind many ecological and even societal threats. Surprisingly the issue of population is not simply one of population growth occurring where fertility rates are currently high. We are already exceeding the capacity of the Earth to supply our needs and maintain planetary health: the primary driver of that crisis is overconsumption in rich parts of the world where fertility rates are currently relatively low. We are currently adding more than 80 million people a year to our global population. The UN projects that without

Population growth, population ageing and decline, as well as migration and urbanization, affect virtually all development objectives that are on top of national and global development agendas. They affect consumption, production, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protections, including pensions; they also complicate our efforts to ensure universal access to health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy. It increases pressures on the planet’s resources viz. water, forests, land and the earth’s atmosphere -- contributing to climate change and challenging environmental sustainability. However, population dynamics do not only affect critical development objectives; they are themselves affected by social, economic and environmental changes.

Investing in ethical, choice-based approaches to reducing population growth and achieving a sustainable population is a much needed yet ignored factor in today’s international policy dialogue. Too often population growth is couched or buried in general terms such as “family planning” and “empowerment” which obscure its importance and prevent the clarity of thinking and policymaking we need. If we want to see the absolute numbers of people, communities and habitats facing a survival crisis come down, population solutions must be more than about health indicators or individual rights, essential as those are.

Controlling the monster

Population dynamics are the result of individual choices and opportunities. To address and harness the
opportunities of population dynamics for sustainable
development, countries should seek to enlarge, not
restrict, individual rights. Countries should work to
expand people’s choices, resourcefulness, creativity and
resilience, by adopting policies that are human rights-
based and gender-responsive.

Human rights-based and gender-responsive policies,
such as promoting universal access to sexual and
reproductive health and rights, including voluntary
family planning, and to education, including
comprehensive sexuality education, can make a world
of difference for people and societies. Together, these
measures help to avoid unwanted pregnancies, reduce
teenage pregnancies, curb infant and maternal mortality,
and reduce gender-based violence and unsafe
abortions.

Rights-based and gender-responsive policies are critical
in a context of low fertility and rapid population ageing
or population decline. Policies addressing low fertility
should promote a better work life balance and ensure
access to essential services, such as child care and
social protections. Furthermore, non-discriminatory
policies are important to allow older persons to
contribute fully to society while at the same time
receiving the care, services and social protections they
need. Fiscal policies, social protections and non
financial support systems for families can influence
decisions about family size.

Create equitable, liveable and sustainable cities that can
accommodate increased demands for livelihoods and
services, while strengthening the linkages between rural
and urban areas, and promoting the sustainable
development of rural communities. By 2050 the global
proportion of people living in cities and towns is
expected to rise to about 67 per cent. The rapidly
increasing dominance of cities places the process of
urbanization among the most significant global social
transformations of the twenty-first century.

Strengthen national capacities to collect, use and
analyze population data and projections. People-centred
development strategies must systematically consider
changes in the number, age and location of people; and
use population data and projections to inform
development goals, targets and indicators, as well as
policies and programmes. Data producers should
systematically disaggregate relevant socio-economic
data by sex, age and location. Demographic transition
does not occur in isolation. Simultaneously, there are
ongoing economic transition, education transition,
health transition and reproductive health transition. All
these affect human development. If there is synergy
between these transitions; the transitions can be
completed rapidly; there will be substantial
improvement in human development and economic
development. The focus of planners, programme
implementers and the people during the next two
decades will have to be in achieving the synergy so that
the world can achieve rapid population stabilization,
improvement in economic social and human
development. Achieving sustainable global population
matters, if we do, we can all have the dignity, security
and wellbeing envisioned by the Sustainable
Development Goals. We must not fail.

Hesa launches Ubuntu Marketplace app for
women entrepreneurs

Hesa in collaboration with Ubuntu Consortium has developed a
marketplace application for the women led MSMEs. The launch was held in
the presence of the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj S. Bommai.

The app will allow women entrepreneurs to
display and sell their products, said the press
release.

To assist micro and medium businesses owned by
women the app will also provide technology &
market linkage capability. With this collaboration,
Hesa will be supporting the existing 22,000 and
more women entrepreneurs to create value in the
ecosystem.

Speaking on the development, Vamsi Udayagiri,
Founder & CEO of Hesa said, “Hesa's endeavour
has always been to uplift entrepreneurs and with
this launch we are more committed to empower
women entrepreneurs of micro to medium-sized
enterprises, who want to have a wider reach for
their products and services. We are looking to give
a wider reach to women entrepreneurs of Ubuntu
through our tech platform which will increase
their revenues by multi-fold.”

Hesa is a unified social, digital and physical
phygital commerce platform enabling digital
transactions of products and services in rural
India. (KNN Bureau)