

FICCI-KAS Virtual Dialogues: The New Normal Series

Dialogue Two: The New Normal and Evolution in Gender Roles The Gender Lens to COVID-19

Friday, May 8, 2020; 1100-1245 hrs

Join Zoom at: <https://ficci.zoom.us/j/84343408841?pwd=cW9LaWI0SVJNTDNSQ3d2ODdwVHU0UT09>

Meeting ID: 843 4340 8841

Password: 020758

The Dialogue would be live streamed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXkeoWVZEqQ>

Background

FICCI in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organises the FICCI-KAS Virtual Dialogue Series on topics of strategic, geo-economic and contemporary relevance. The FICCI-KAS virtual dialogue series is a proposal to stay connected and ideate on vital issues and concerns of today's challenges faced by society.

Context

Given the global pandemic outbreak, we are faced with the 'New Normal' in all aspects of our societal living. The impact of COVID-19 across the global economy will be overwhelming. ILO has estimated that full or partial lockdown measures now affect almost 2.7 billion workers, representing around 81% of the world's workforce, while the IMF projects a significant contraction of global output in 2020¹. COVID-19 is lurching the world economy towards a global recession, which will be strikingly different from past recessions.

The 'New Normal' series second dialogue will look at the impact of corona outbreak through a gender lens. Globally, all countries are grappling with the impact of the global pandemic of covid-19 and trying to contain the spread of this pernicious virus. Research suggests that women could be impacted through his crisis disproportionately and that

¹ ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Second edition Accessed at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_740877.pdf

gender gaps can easily widen due to this global pandemic impacting the gender equality outcomes arrived at through many decades of upholding economic empowerment by various state and non-state actors.

According to a UN report released in April 2020², limited gains made in the past decades for gender equality are at risk of being rolled back. As per the UNFPA report launched in March 2020³, women represent 70 percent of the health and social sector workforce globally and special attention should be given to how their work environment may expose them to discrimination, as well as thinking about their health and psychosocial needs as frontline health workers. Both these reports specify that across every sphere, from healthcare to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their gender⁴

This global pandemic is not only a challenge for health systems across the world in various countries but stands as litmus test for enduring human spirit. Complete recovery from this virus must lead us all citizens to a more equal world which is resilient to future crises. The recovery fiscal stimulus packages and emergency protocol measures taken by India and all global nations to address public health gaps have been put constituted to mitigate the impact of this pernicious virus.

It is vital and important that all national policy responses place women and girls championing the cause for inclusion, representation, rights, social and economic outcomes, equality and protection- at the fulcrum if they are to have the essential impacts. This ideation and implementation is not just about correcting long-standing societal gender inequalities but also about creating a more fair and resilient life world for all global citizens. This centrality of notion stated above is in the interests of not only women and girls but also boys and men. The gender equation will be the hardest hit by this pandemic, but this may serve as a backbone of recovery in various communities across the globe. Every policy response brought about by state and non-state actors that recognizes these factors will be more attuned to the needs of the society.

Objective

² Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women, United Nations Accessed at

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_women_9_april_2020.pdf

³ UNFPA Report on Gender “ COVID-19: A Gender Lens, Technical Brief, Protecting Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights, And Promoting Gender Equality” https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf

⁴ Ibid

The impact of COVID-19 across the global economy will be profound and so will the impact on the gender equation if we look through the gender lens for adapting and recovery from this war against this virus. The FICCI-KAS Second Virtual Dialogue in the New Normal Series **“The New Normal and Evolution in Gender Roles: The Gender Lens to COVID-19”** aims to look at the new normal and how this impact gender roles in our societies. The invited speakers would discuss the ramifications for ease of access to resources and opportunities for women and girls who constitute roughly 50% of population of the 7.6 billion regardless of gender difference within the limitations of global lockdown and covid-19 restrictions.

The dialogue seeks to examine the following queries:

- Women could be affected through this crisis disproportionately and that gender gaps can easily widen impacting the gender equality outcomes arrived at through many decades of upholding economic empowerment by various state and non-state actors. How does society grapple with the gender equation in this regard?
- Women represent 70 percent of the health and social sector workforce globally and special attention should be given to how their work environment may expose them to discrimination, as well as thinking about their health and psychosocial needs as frontline health workers. How does healthcare sector impact women and girls? Would society be able to offer unconventional and innovative solutions to solve this imbalance?
- It is vital and important that all national policy responses place women and girls championing the cause for inclusion, representation, rights, social and economic outcomes, equality and protection- at the fulcrum if they are to have the essential impacts. How would society need to be transformed to make this possible?
- The gender equation will be the hardest hit by this pandemic, but this may serve as a backbone of recovery in various communities across the globe. Every policy response brought about by state and non-state actors that recognizes these factors will be more attuned to the needs of the society. What are the greatest challenges to leadership in times of disproportionate impact on women and girls? What would be some of the strategies and policies required towards evolving an equal world through resilient leadership?

About the FICCI-KAS Webinar Series

The FICCI-KAS Dialogue Series is an endeavour to bring together thought leaders, opinion shapers and subject experts to discuss topics of contemporary interest that are of high geo economic and strategic relevance to India and the world. The Dialogue Series also covers topics of relevance to Indo-German cooperation.

About the Partners

FICCI-Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community. FICCI's vision is to be the thought leader for industry, its voice for policy change and its guardian for effective implementation.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic principles underlying the work of the Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The KAS is a political foundation, with a strong presence throughout Germany and all over the world. We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations building strong partnerships along the way. In particular we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation at the national and international levels on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners we make a contribution to the creation of an international order that enables every country to develop in freedom and under its own responsibility. The

Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

- Political Dialogue and cooperation
- Foreign and Security Policy including Energy Policy
- Economic policy and management
- Rule of Law
- Media and training programmes for students of journalism

In implementing its project and programs the Foundation cooperates with Indian partner organisations, such as think tanks, Government and Non-Governmental Institutions.