

# Integrating Gender in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan: Focus on SDG-5



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## Why integrate Gender in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)?

**Integrating gender in GPDPs will help:**

- Ensure gender justice and promote gender equality
- Address discriminatory social norms and practices
- Enhance the value of women and girls
- Help realize the Vision of Sustainable Development Goal-5

## How to integrate gender in GPDP?

**Spread awareness among the Panchayats to:**

- Address different forms of discrimination against women and girls
- Commit to end all types of violence faced by women and girls in public and private spaces
- Address harmful practices such as Gender-Biased Sex Selection (GBSS), child marriages, witch–hunting, dowry, etc.
- Promote full and effective participation of women and girls in political, economic and social life
- Ensure access of women and girls to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through provision of support services
- Ensure equal rights for women in economic resources: e.g. land, finances, credit, etc.
- Promote gender friendly technology to reduce burden of women's work
- Enforce laws, policies and programmes for the empowerment of women and girls
- Ensure the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans with the involvement of women and girls
- Enable the organization of Mahila Sabhas in order to promote women's participation and understand their needs and concerns
- Ensure all Goals of SDG 5 are localised in GPDP

## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls

- Mobilise families and community to celebrate the birth of a girl child
- Ensure all girls complete school as per The Right To Education Act, 2009
- Initiate community level actions to ensure improved value of women and girls
- Activate Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committees (VHNSCs) to ensure health, immunisation, nutrition of women and girls
- Ensure women and girls are aware of their legal rights and protection services
- Ensure access of women and girls to social security schemes across all age groups
- Promote skill development and livelihood opportunities for women and girls
- Ensure land rights, financial support and credit linkages for women and girls





## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

- Create safe spaces for women and girls through safety audits and ensure compliance through street lights, community vigilance, etc.
- Ensure Mahila Sabhas to understand causes and develop strategies to prevent and respond to violence
- Involve local organisations/groups to work with men and boys around issues of positive masculinities and gender equality
- Create awareness on rights, entitlements, laws for women and girls and ensure availability of protection mechanisms.
- Create awareness about Protection Officers and their role in supporting survivors of violence
- Blacklist and boycott perpetrators of violence against women and girls from development benefits
- Develop Panchayats to eliminate violence against women and girls



**Violence Free Panchayats:  
Girls Safe & Secure**

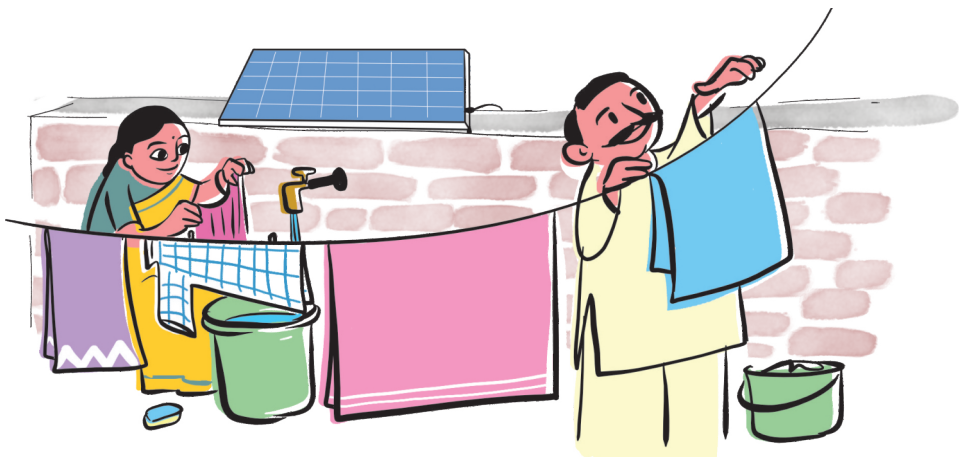
## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.3: Eliminate harmful practices against women and girls

- Undertake campaigns to inform communities about the illegality of Gender Biased Sex Selection through counselling pregnant women and their families
- Map sonography centres in the area and ensure their compliance with the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994. Also ensure that illegal sonography services are not provided
- Promote pledge-taking in Bal Sabha, Mahila Sabha, Ward Sabha and Gram Sabha for ending child marriage
- Address reasons for school dropout: lack of transportation, toilets, women teachers and invest in building vocational skills of girls to equip them to say no to early and forced marriages
- Ensure access to Child Marriage Prohibition Officers and activate Village Child Protection Committees
- Create dowry free villages by spreading awareness through organising awareness rallies and mobilizing the youth to boycott this malpractice
- Organise monthly legal literacy camps for women and girls at Aanganwadi Centres to spread awareness on their rights



## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care work and provide support services

- Facilitate community appraisal of daily time-investment of women and men in domestic work
- Encourage men and boys to share household work to reduce domestic work burden of women and girls
- Develop community support infrastructure and services to lessen the work burden of women, such as:
  - Old age homes/day care centres for the elderly
  - Creche/child care facilities
  - Animal grazing farms/animal hostels
  - Household water supply to reduce daily drudgery of women
  - Fuelwood and fodder plantations on farm- boundaries for easy access to these resources to reduce drudgery of women
- Promote clean and renewable energy sources, such as solar/wind/ bio-mass energy to facilitate smokeless cooking environment for women and reduce respiratory distress
- Promote Gram Sabhas to discuss and recognise women's contribution to the village economy through farm work, animal care work, collection of fuel wood, fodder, water, minor forest produce, etc



## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.5: Women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life

- Ensure active participation of women elected representatives in Panchayats by providing appropriate training, information, guidance and mentoring support
- Reduce the participation of male relatives of women elected leaders by not allowing them to proxy for the elected women
- Promote organisation of Mahila Sabhas to understand development needs of women for GPDP
- Ensure women and girl children enjoy property-ownership rights in family inheritance of property
- Undertake community campaigns on joint registration of property
- Link women SHGs (Self Help Groups) and self-employed women with market linkages, bank-credit, insurance etc
- Ensure participation of women in all caste and community Panchayats for ensuring gender justice



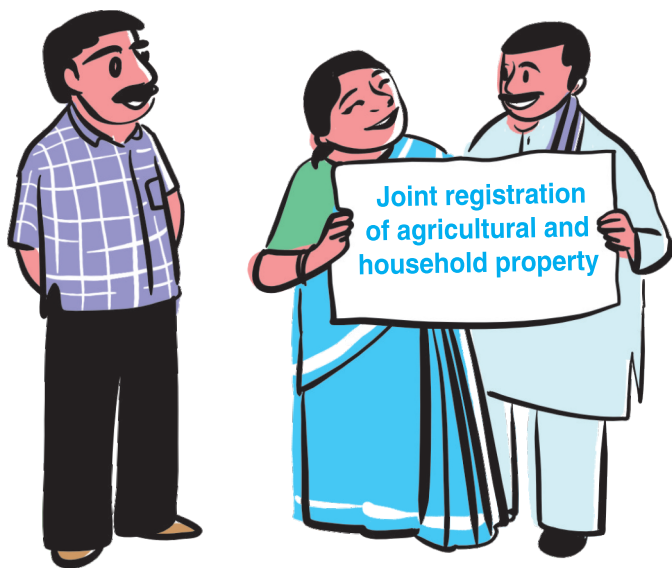
## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5.6: Ensure women's access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Ensure effective functioning of Sub-Centres and regular visits by ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) to villages
- Ensure regular contact of ASHA workers with women and adolescent girls
- Create awareness about availability of a range of sexual and reproductive health services - RTI/STD, safe and legal abortion, contraceptive services, maternal health care, at health facilities and rights of women in accessing these
- Promote access by adolescent girls to life skills education with a component of comprehensive sexuality education
- Promote gender and rights issues in the uptake of contraceptives – availability of a basket of contraceptives, availability of quality services, informed choice , consent, counselling
- Encourage male responsibility in contraceptive use



## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5a: Women's equal right to economic resources

- Promote equal ownership rights of women in farmland by giving joint title (Pattas)
- Undertake community campaigns on joint registration of agricultural and household property
- Ensure daughters have equal succession rights in ancestral property
- Ensure equal wages to women, at par with men, in farm-work, construction work and other labour-work of daily-wages
- Promote financial support from Banks for Women-Self-Help Groups and self-employed women
- Enable women's participation in getting access to bank accounts, by providing facility for zero-balance accounts to be opened for them
- Promote women's participation in Natural Resource Management through their membership in Common Property Resource Management Committee, Joint Forest Management Committee, Watershed Management and Water Management Committees, Bio-Diversity Management Committee, etc.





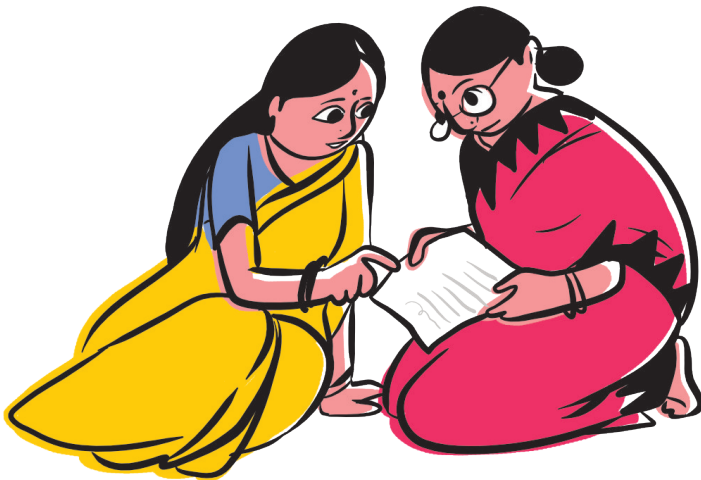
## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5b: Enhance use of enabling technology to empower women

- To reduce the work-burden and drudgery of women, promote enabling technology based on solar, wind, bio-mass energy
- Ensure household water supply, electricity connection for every house
- Promote digital and computer skills for women and girls
- Use information and communication technology for empowerment of women and girls through online marketing of products of SHGs, linkage with helplines and protection services, online counselling and legal aid, etc.
- Use mass media to create awareness on women's rights



## Role of Panchayats in addressing SDG Goal 5c: Enforce policies and laws for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women

- Build public-awareness about programmes and laws for women and girls through use of Information and Communications Technology
- Promote the enforcement of national and state policies, programmes, schemes and laws made for women and girls in the panchayat
- Integrate gender in the constitution and functioning of Gram Panchayat level Standing Committees
- Integrate gender audit along with social audit to ensure enforcement of all laws and programs for women and girls



**Enforce all laws for women**



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