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

Congratulations you are blessed with a girl child
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