

Newsletter

Clinical Development Services Agency



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Dear Reader,

In urban areas, women have made great strides in the work place and the gap in inequalities have narrowed. Women have caught up with men in terms of education and are more ambitious and confident than their mothers and grandmothers. In the places I have worked, I have had more than 50% women colleagues working with me at junior and mid-level. Probably due to sacrificing nature, care giving responsibilities, male chauvinism, long work hours, long drive to work places, ambition and career oriented, women retreat and spend more time with family. A turn around is required in terms of thinking in both the genders. Emphasis on gender equality and women empowerment policy from the government can further narrow the gap in inequalities and discrimination.

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Does Gender Really Matter?

Smita Verma PhD Sociology

Another discourse on why 'Gender' matters? Of course it does, as it is one of the organizing ideologies which not only shape our edifice, identity and base for social interface in society but also provides foundation upon which power and resources are allocated. It might sound intricate and tedious but the unease is crucial and the journey for understanding gender and debating gender parity is equally challenging. Since last two decades there is serious discussion and deliberation on the growing tentacles of gender and discrimination. But the struggle for equality and equity still seems farfetched. Gender as a category operates in the lives of all women. With the opening of opportunities and capacity with globalization and liberalization, the participation of women in all fields of higher education has been amazing. Yet the dialectics in the dramatic change in women's student numbers as compared to number of women in senior leadership positions across professions-corporate, academia, state remains wide. As appears from the existing documents the 'glass ceiling' has become more complex—a labyrinth which can be seen in countless systems: underrepresentation at the management /leadership level, gendered pay gap, occupational ghettoization, discriminative corporate procedures, lack of attention to the gender specific

needs of women, sexual harassment, exclusion of women from informal networks to cite some of the concerns.

Therefore, understanding why women are underrepresented in leadership positions in public and private offices is vital and requires questioning if this is a sign of gender role and ideology typecasting. The aspiration to assume the responsibilities is high but the denial of opportunities on one or the other pretext raises question on the dictum of equality for all. The concern is not just on the process of gender inclusion/ exclusion in organizations but on the deep rooted process of socialization which ingrains distinct gendered roles since childhood.

We claim to be one of the largest democratic country in the world but still we are unable to give fifty percent of representation for women in the democratic institutions like Parliament and State Legislatures.

Despite astounding outpouring research and commentary on gender inequality over the past few decades, our understanding of what causes gender inequality remains blurred and unclear. Scholars, professionals and commoner's knowledge of 'gender' rest on extremes. Gender as destined and synonymous with woman; on the other hand hard reality along with its complexity

and convolution, thus belittling the anxiety –We ought to recognize gender as man and woman in relation with each other to make the parity work. An understanding of how do various institutions and social practices reinforce gendered norms and at the same time addresses the question of 'equality' and 'equity' in the contemporary society is essential. The rigid gender roles and classification adversely influences both the gender. However, being a patriarchal society it becomes cumbersome for women. It calls for taking action to gender sensitize the workplace. Gender sensitization, both vertical and horizontal in all organizational spaces will help in addressing the 'Gender Issue' in 'Global' context. Gender equality is not just a woman's issue or a man's issue. Rather it is the responsibly of both sexes to work towards a more balanced society where individuals are free to be who they are without being labelled, harassed or judged. This would help in not just promoting gender equality but also harnessing their skills to the best. It would go a long way in formulating public policy and advocacy for the State for achieving a gender just society.

Associate Professor, P.G. Department of Sociology and Women Studies, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow.

Trainings and Programme Conducted by CDSA

Sucheta Banerjee Kurundkar & Neha Mishra

CDSA has conducted overall 53 training programs, of which 3 trainings were in between September 2009 and March 2012; 10 in FY 2012-13; 14 in FY 2013-14; 17 FY 2014-15 and 7 in this financial year till September 2015.

- 3573 participants from 523 Public and Private Institutes and Organizations have benefitted
- 535 International and National faculty

In our initiative to strengthen and empower Institutional Ethics Committee Members and Investigators on Current Regulatory Requirements, CDSA planned to continue its nation-wide awareness programs in the year 2015-16 as well. We have completed 12 programs successfully in the national series till date - Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Pune, Kolkata, Dibrugarh, Mangalore, Bangalore, Chennai and Lucknow. Four such programs are in pipeline. BIRAC and CDSA have jointly planned to conduct a Regulatory Series Workshop in South India. This program emphasizes on demystifying the regulatory requirements for new drugs (Hyderabad), biopharmaceuticals (Bangalore), phytopharmaceuticals (Mumbai), medical devices & in vitro diagnostic kits (Chennai). Out of these, we have successfully completed first program of this series at CDSCO Bhavan on September 4, 2015.



EC Program at Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute



GCP & EC program at Govt. Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai

"Thank you so much for this excellently organised workshop! I'm amazed to see your team's efficiency"

-Dr. Vignesh, Participant at BIRAC-CDSA Workshop at Hyderabad in Sep, 2015)

"I am personally thankful to both of you and your team for the learning that we have taken from the two days course. The arrangements were flawless and the program was very well timed and managed. I hope this city would again be lucky to have you foot fall once again"

- Anirban Pal, Principal Scientist, Bio-prospection, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow

"After seeing your CME program, its scale, its content and extent, many say they r shy to organise any CME in future, your CME has become the benchmark here"

- Dr. Ramachandra Bhat, Prof & Head, Pharmacology, Govt. Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai

UPCOMING EVENTS

| No. | Dates | Training Title | Venue |
|-----|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Oct 15, 2015 | One Day Regulatory Workshop on "Regulatory Requirements for Biopharmaceuticals" | C-CAMP, Bangalore |
| 2 | Oct 16, 2015 | Workshop on Regulatory Requirements & Clinical Development for Med-Tech Innovators | C-CAMP, Bangalore |
| 3 | Sep 10 – Nov 7, 2015 | Manipal University - CDSA Bioethics Certificate Course | Manipal University, Manipal |
| 4 | Dec 1 - 4, 2015 | Essentials of Statistics and Clinical Data Analysis using R | ICGEB, New Delhi |

Check it Out

Jasmine Sharon Luke

Papaya leaf to Dengue treating Pill: Micro Labs

Cariprill – a drug to treat dengue, manufactured from carica papaya leaf extracts has been launched by Micro Labs, Bengaluru based pharmaceutical company. This drug has been approved by the regulatory authorities and released in market on 30th September 2015; it helps in increasing the platelet count in the patients suffering from dengue. Cariprill has no side effects with the dose of 1100mg to be consumed thrice a day for a period of five days. Price of each pill is 25 INR.

<http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/pharma/micro-labs-launches-pill-made-from-papaya-leaf-extract-to-treat-dengue/49182352>

Draft Version of Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill

The draft Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Bill, 2014 has been issued by the Union Health Ministry. This bill aims to regulate and supervise the ART Clinics also known as infertility clinics and reproductive technology assisting banks. Once the Parliament of India approves the bill, then it will serve as a national regulatory framework for strict supervision and inspection of infertility centres.

<http://www.icmr.nic.in/dhr/ART%20Bill.pdf>

Ethics Guidelines for Biomedical Research involving Children

A need was felt to develop comprehensive detailed guidelines pertain to ethics in biomedical research in neonates and children. The draft guidelines have been developed after the expert group discussions and consensus development and open for comments till 15th November 2015.

<http://www.icmr.nic.in/guidelines/draftNational%20Ethics%20guidelines%20of%20Biomedical%20Research%20Involving%20Children.htm>

Indo-US research team identifies gene target for treatment of Colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer affecting men and second most common affecting women in the world. "We have reported that the SPINK 1 gene is a potential therapeutic target in colorectal cancer (CRC)," Bushra Ateeq, lead author of the study and assistant professor, department of biological sciences and bioengineering at IIT-Kanpur, told IANS on the phone. "In the light of increasing resistance to therapies (such as the anti-EGFR therapy) against CRC, we feel that targeting SPINK1 protein may be a tenable treatment option in CRC patients, the team is now focusing on the mechanisms to target the SPINK1 gene.

<http://www.medindia.net/news/india-us-research-team-identifies-genetic-target-for-the-treatment-of-colorectal-cancer-153217-1.htm>

India to develop guidelines on Antibiotic prescription, utilization to retard antibiotic resistance

WHO's South East Asia's Regional Committee held a meeting at Timor-Leste stated that India will soon issue guidelines on the consumption and prescription of antibiotics and its misuse.

<http://www.medindia.net/news/india-to-issue-guidelines-on-usage-of-antibiotic-medicines-to-reduce-its-misuse-153172-1.htm>

Focus on neglected tropical diseases – WHO

WHO has raised an alarm for renewing commitment and focus on strategies and efforts to eradicate Neglected tropical diseases include Kala azar, Leprosy, Yaws, Lymphatic filariasis and schistosomiasis.

<http://www.indiamedicaltimes.com/2015/09/10/who-calls-for-focus-on-neglected-tropical-diseases/>

International Training Programme on Leadership & Career Development for Women Scientists/Technologists

By Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India & Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF), New Delhi DST designed "KIRAN-Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing" to provide an integrated enabling & supportive framework for gender mainstreaming of women in science, technology & innovation. As a part of this initiative over 1000 women scientists had been trained.

This year in the months August and September, DST in collaboration with IUSSTF and CoACH international conducted training programme at Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, Pune and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati where I (Pawandeep Kaur Dhawan) and my colleague Sucheta Banerjee Kurundkar participated. The programme taught necessary skills to be successful in career to all women participants like negotiations, networking, administrative skills, etc. We met many women scientists across the country who had shared their inspirational success stories.



Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, Pune



Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati