



**BHARATIYA STREE SHAKTI**



## **REPORT ON NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE SEMINAR**

**“Smart Cities  
with Focus on  
Inclusive Gender  
Empowerment”**

**17th - 18th November 2016**



**Organised by  
Bharatiya Stree Shakti**

**in association with  
National Commission  
for Women**

**At  
Indian Institute of  
Public Administration,  
Delhi**

## Bharatiya Stree Shakti

(BSS) is a voluntary, autonomous and apolitical organization working for empowerment of women by promoting Gender Equality, Economic Independence and Education for women. Established in 1988, BSS believes in the principles of equality and cooperation amongst men and women focusing harmony in family.

The “Smart Cities Mission” is a flagship program of the Government of India. It talks about assuring livability, infrastructure and immense possibilities of development. Bharatiya Stree Shakti, believing in equal opportunity of development for women in smart cities, would like to draw attention of policymakers to address issues specifically related to women and eventually to family and society. Gender perspective in Smart Cities Mission will achieve inclusive citizen engagement. We believe “Smart Cities Mission” is not only about infrastructure, systems, profitability and self-sustenance but it is also about human resource development and conducive environment for family.

BSS had extensive brainstorming with National Commission for Women (NCW) on active contribution of women in Smart Cities Mission, both at conceptual and implementation level. To make “Smart Cities, Gender Smart” a two-day national level consultative seminar was organized on “Smart Cities with Focus on Inclusive Gender Empowerment” in association with NCW at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) Delhi on 17th and 18th November 2016.

City specific pre-seminar papers were prepared after brainstorming at local level in various states of India. Eminent speakers and participants were also from various cities and states.

The aspects covered in pre-seminar papers and group discussions during the seminar are listed below. We sincerely request Smart City Mission officials to address these concerns as:

- ◆ Safety in general and of women and children in specific.
- ◆ Gender Sensitization and Awareness
- ◆ Gender Budgeting
- ◆ To stop Feminization of poverty
- ◆ Economic independence and Financial Empowerment of Women
- ◆ Facilities and Opportunities for women entrepreneurship
- ◆ Infrastructure and Support services
- ◆ Public Health and reproductive health
- ◆ Water, Sanitation and waste management
- ◆ Affordable and safe Housing
- ◆ JAM Trinity (short for Jan Dhan Aadhaar Mobile)
- ◆ Grievance Mechanisms
- ◆ Rights of Women and inclusive environment for marginal groups
- ◆ Legal awareness



(Key Note Address by NCW, Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam)

## Summary of Seminar Proceedings

BSS Vice president Ms Nayana Sahasrabudhe delivered opening remarks as “Women are beneficiaries of this Smart Cities Mission and their inputs and potentials in this venture must be valued.” Gender awareness and gender sensitivity of Smart City Mission authorities (policy makers, decision makers and implementing machinery) is the biggest challenge in making smart cities, gender smart. NCW Chairperson Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam in her keynote address emphasized on comprehensive brainstorming prior to launch of any initiative or policy by the Government. She also appealed women to come out of comfort zone and perform active role in initiatives like “smart city project”. Mr. Sajeesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Smart City Mission Ministry of Urban Development, discussing “A Year of Smart City Mission” demystified many facets of 'Smart City Project'. Dr. Sushama Yadav, Chair Professor IIPA, talked about Gender Issues in Urban India. Ms. Rajyashree Kshirsagar, Freelance Journalist, clarified the concepts of Gender Budget as a component of participatory development. DR. K. K. Pandey, Professor, IIPA deliberated on urbanization and economic development of women. He mentioned that Sustainable urbanization emphasizes on

inclusiveness where women play a pivotal role. Dr. Maneesha Kotheekar, Organizing Secretary, BSS quoted with the reference of “National Policy for Women 2016” as “Elimination of all forms of violence against women through strengthening of policies, legislation, programmes, institutions and community engagement.” She also discussed facets of women safety, the major issue of the day. The concept of safety audit was unfolded by giving example of initiatives taken by Bharatiya Stree Shakti in Maharashtra and many organizations worldwide. Mr. Anand Shekhar in his session covered the aspects like women's safety, health, dignity and its association with Water and Sanitation. Ar.



Minal Patel focused on issues related to affordable housing and safety of women in smart cities. She emphasized on the need to create safe infrastructure, safe transportation, housing facilities, and various amenities to make women's life comfortable. Ms. Sulakshana Mahajan, a town planning expert and Consultant, Urban Development, Mumbai, explained women's participatory role in smart cities with respect to status of women in India. Dr. Sonali Sarnobat and Dr IlaGupta pointed out that public health and reproductive health facilities should be sufficient and efficient to cater the needs. Its affordability and the awareness on health and hygiene is a challenge. Ms. Sonali Patankar (Responsible Netism) and Ms. Usha Munshi (IIPA) deliberated role of Information Technology in Smart Solutions for City Development. Prof Medha Somaiya, Chair Professor, TISS, highlighted the challenge of an information and grievance redressal mechanism in the 'Smart City Mission'. While concluding the seminar Ms. Nayana, Vice President, BSS stated that seminar is just a beginning and there is a long way to go ahead to achieve the goal of sustainable and gender smart cities. She also assured that a national committee will be formed to maintain the regional representations for further brainstorming for Smart City Mission. Further she made a request to Government Officials for hand holding NGOs to conduct safe city audit, which will be a great achievement for organizations devoted to women empowerment.

## Action Plan

- ◆ To organize city level seminars on gender smart city
- ◆ To conduct safe city audit and implement on suggestions
- ◆ To appoint review Committee for effective implementation of Smart City Mission
- ◆ To ensure people's participation and women participation
- ◆ To create awareness amongst all stakeholders
- ◆ To conduct opinion polls

## The important recommendations submitted in the report are as under.

- ◆ The government should ensure women empowerment
- ◆ To inculcate gender perspective to Smart City Mission officials and stakeholders to resolve gender issues
- ◆ To ensure women participation in SPV- special purpose vehicle
- ◆ To designate / appoint Gender Officer in each Smart City Mission office.
- ◆ Gender Budgeting to ensure allocation of funds, Schemes for women and an assessment of outreach to women.
- ◆ Efforts to stop feminization of poverty i.e. to stop deprivation from resources, capabilities or freedoms and change in the levels of poverty biased against women or female headed households.
- ◆ To engage NGOs for conducting Safe city audit To appoint Smart City level review committee



(Participants of the seminar with BSS activists and NCW chairperson)

## We discussed these important issues of gender perspective of smart cities during the consultative seminar:

- ◆ Gender awareness training and sensitization of Smart City Officials; Policy makers, Decision makers and implementing agencies
- ◆ Special attention and priority to the basic needs of women and families at planning and implementation level.
- ◆ Gender budgeting – Allocation of funds for schemes for women, Analysis of the Policy, Planning and budgetary provisions on gender parameters with regular intervals, and quantifying how it is benefitting women.
- ◆ Special attention towards girl's education, employability and contribution in science and technology.

### **Economic Development**

- ◆ Job creation for all sections of women especially the migrants and from other deprived sections of society. create employment opportunities for women which should be reviewed intermittently.
- ◆ Municipality and women co-operative societies should create opportunities for Employment seeker and Employment generation.
- ◆ Promoting women and creating women friendly environment in workplace
- ◆ The capacity building of SHGs to get involved in Smart City Mission
- ◆ Placement agencies specifically for women
- ◆ Modern technology skills training for women and training in various fields other than women stereotyped fields
- ◆ Linking Smart City Mission with the JAM i.e. with Jandhan, Aadhar and Mobiles.

### **Entrepreneurship**

- ◆ Special considerations of women under MUDRA and training facilities for the same
- ◆ One stop guidance center for startups - licenses, finance, marketing, branding, standardization of product, packaging, advertising, patents, hall mark, IOS etc.
- ◆ Setting up counseling and training agencies for job oriented skill development of women
- ◆ Special Economic Zones for women entrepreneurs with facilities like health center, water, sanitation, and child care
- ◆ Women Haat – A permanent place in a market for selling products made by women

### **Safety of women**

- ◆ Preparation of safety manual
- ◆ Liquor Policy of the Smart City
- ◆ Conduct Safe City Audit of each smart City with participation of NGOs and allocate budget for the same
- ◆ Awareness of stakeholders like Media personnel, judiciary and police on safety issues.
- ◆ Effective complaint mechanism
- ◆ Fast track courts
- ◆ Effective implementation of Help line – to be publicized Help Line Number and attended by counselors 24X7
- ◆ Publicize various schemes and funds raised for victims.
- ◆ One stop centers.
- ◆ Encourage Women taxi drivers and 'women only' cab services with ensured safety.
- ◆ Action against female feticide
- ◆ Maintain sex ratio
- ◆ Working and disciplined Women desk in every police station
- ◆ Sensitization of Police personals and judiciary on women and family issues.

## Safe City Audit

**Safety Audit can be well explained as:**

- ◆ Participatory Tool used for collecting and assessing information about perception of safety in public spaces.
- ◆ Crucial assessing of the safety and accessibility of a city and its public spaces for women

It has been used in India and many other countries, Bharatiya Stree Shakti in Maharashtra to measure certain parameters including - Lighting, signage, isolation, escape process, maintenance, Openness, Visibility, Public Transport. We recommend to Smart City Mission to conduct a Safe City Audit of each and every smart city and ensure NGO participation.

## Infrastructure

- ◆ Family counseling centers at all police stations
- ◆ Family courts for redressal of legal family matters
- ◆ Bathing space in public toilets
- ◆ Sanitation – Domestic and clean toilets at public places
- ◆ Environment - Pollution free city, Gardens, Footpaths and walkways
- ◆ Clean cities- garbage management, bio-waste, medical waste, disposal of sanitary napkins
- ◆ Roads, water, schools, transportation, medical facilities etc
- ◆ Sports facilities: sports ground should be mandatorily made available to girls and women in smart cities or a separate ground with basic facilities of volley ball / basketball / badminton court should be made available if place available for some
- ◆ Every locality should have recreation centers/ rejuvenation centers especially for women of all ages and classes
- ◆ Networking of Smart City with adjacent villages – a showcase of RURBAN concept

## Housing

- ◆ Affordable housing to all especially to single women, working women hostels, hostels for girls ensuring basic amenities
- ◆ Registration and regulatory guidelines for private hostels of girl's/ women's, private day care baby-sitting centers, paying guest accommodations
- ◆ Short stay lounges for women at Railway stations and institutional areas
- ◆ Short stay homes for women in distress
- ◆ Incentives for offering safe and affordable dwelling for single woman
- ◆ Hostels for girl students and working women in required number
- ◆ Temporary accommodation
- ◆ Night shelters for street women

- ◆ Geriatric concerns need to be addressed in smart city. Day – care centers for old people, proper pension and other health and recreation facilities need to be maintained to support the elderly women in the cities.

### **IT awareness and training**

- ◆ Use of IT in safety
- ◆ Training facilities for Digital Literacy, Digital Safety and Digital Opportunities
- ◆ Provision of training of Computer for women of all ages- adolescents, middle aged women and old People.
- ◆ E-commerce and use of technology in improving lives.
- ◆ IT for complaint redressal.
- ◆ Training for and active involvement of women in, Pan City Smart Solutions

### **Public Participation**

- ◆ Women group representatives
- ◆ Self Help Groups and Slum Committee group representative,
- ◆ senior citizens

### **Participatory Decision Making**

- ◆ Use of women talent in Smart City Mission, so in nation building.
- ◆ Participation of women in decision making of municipalities and other civic bodies.
- ◆ Representation in stem bodies (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
- ◆ Equal representation of women councilors in city planning and in policy making.
- ◆ Review committees for Smart City Mission

### **Grievance mechanism**

- ◆ Separate team (24\*7) for speedy redressal of grievances registered by women
- ◆ Fixing Accountability for non-performance

### **Convergence of Schemes related to Smart City Mission**

- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana to facilitate housing for women.
- ◆ Swachh Bharat Mission
- ◆ Digital India
- ◆ NSDC- Skill Development
- ◆ HRIDAY
- ◆ AMRUT
- ◆ HUFA
- ◆ Jan-Dhan , JAM, Social security schemes



*BSS Vision:  
Gender Smart City Mission*

### **Meeting with Honorable Minister of Urban Development, Government of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu**

The report of the seminar proceedings which includes further action plan and recommendations was submitted to Honorable Minister of Urban Development, Government of India, Shri. Venkaiah Naidu. Further he directed it to Additional Secretary, Smart Cities. NCW Chairperson Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam and BSS representatives had meeting with Shri Sharma, where we have chalked out plan for further action.

On February 27th, 2017, a meeting with Joint secretaries of schemes Swachha Bharat, AMRUT, HRIDAYA and HUPA was called. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary Shri Sameer Sharma, MoUD, to ensure Gender Perspective to schemes and programs in convergence with Smart City Mission.

### **The points proposed by NCW and Bharatiya Stree Shakti in the meeting are:**

- ◆ Issue guidelines to Smart City Mission for inculcating Gender perspective at policy and implementation level
- ◆ Implementation of Gender Budgeting
- ◆ Special Gender awareness training for Directors of SPVs (Two from each city)
- ◆ Appoint / Designate Gender officer in SPV to monitor and coordinate gender issues
- ◆ Conduct safe city audit of each city with participation of VOs / NGOs
- ◆ Prepare a safety manual and ensure elimination of contradictory policies



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