

NIRDPR webinar on Barriers to Women Empowerment: Breaking the Glass Ceiling in the Post-COVID Period (12 March 2021)

The International Women's Day is celebrated every year at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad by the Centre for Gender Studies and Development. On this occasion, women from different walks of life, who have worked for women empowerment, to achieve success in their own field and inspired others working for justice and equality are invited by the Institute. Due to the COVID19 and related travel restrictions, the 2021 International Women's Day was merged with the weekly celebrations as a part of Amrut Mahotsav – India@75, launched by Govt of India to commemorate 75 years of independence. On this occasion a web-panel discussion on ***Barriers to Women Empowerment: Breaking the Glass Ceiling*** was held on the **12th of March, 2021**.

Hon'ble Deputy Director General, NIRDPR, Smt. Radhika Rastogi delivered the opening remarks for the program. Prof. Shantha Sinha, MV Foundation delivered the key-note address for the program. Three eminent speakers, namely, Smt. Kantha Singh, UN-Women, Dr. Papia Sen Gupta, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Dr. Aruna Bhikshu, University of Hyderabad shared their thoughts in a panel discussion followed by an interaction with participants.

			
Prof. Shantha Sinha, MV Foundation	Dr. Papia Sen Gupta, JNU, New Delhi	Smt. Kantha Singh, UN Women	Dr. Aruna Bhikshu, UOH, Hyderabad

The speakers pointed out the various societal and economic challenges women face due to gender-based biases in India. The participation of women is always in the set frame of strict gender roles, creating glass ceilings at every sector. The society's drive to judge women with different set of scales – treating women as Goddess rather than human is also responsible for perpetuating these glass ceilings. The speakers in the panel discussion shared their knowledge

and their own experiences to encourage discussions on multiple issues of legal, social and psychological challenges women face in their personal and professional ventures.

The webinar was jointly co-ordinated by Dr. N V Madhuri and Dr Ruchira Bhattacharya, Centre for Gender Studies and Development (CGSD).