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SUB-DOMAIN: HUMAN SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PANEL TITLE:

WOMEN IN TRIBAL FAMILIES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONVENOR: DR. JYOTIRMAYEE UDGATA

CO-CONVENOR: DR. SARITA MISHRA

ABSTRACT

The Sustainable Development Goals given by the United Nations aims to build a world, where there is no poverty, hunger, or disease, where all women and girls have the same rights as men, where the environment is safe, and everyone has access to good education and financial security. It envisions a world that would be equitable for all. There would be no discrimination because of colour, ethnicity, cultural identity, or on account of any social, physical, or mental challenge. The world must become inclusive and more sustainable, peaceful, and enriched. These are just a few parts of an ambitious, global vision that wants a world in which "no one will be left behind." Advocacy and actions for bringing equity must start from the basic unit within our social system that is family. Odisha is home to more than 95,90,756 indigenous people that constitutes 0.79 % of the total population of the country and 22.84% of the state's population. These culturally enriched people with exclusive knowledge systems continue to remain at the margin of the society. Several interventions have been made by the Centre and the state to improve their quality of life, but poverty, malnutrition, high infant, and maternal mortality rates remain rampant among these people. Low literacy rate particularly among women threatens their ability to fight erosion of their cultural and traditional agricultural practices and impinges their health. These women are especially vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation from both inside and outside their communities, even though they play a key role in building human capital. The framework for the Sustainable Development Goals gives us a chance to deal with these problems and make sure that indigenous people are not left behind. This panel proposes to discuss intervention strategies that would help strengthen indigenous women's agency to help further the goal of equitable world.

Keywords: Indigenous people, tribal women, Entrepreneurship development, Health and Wellbeing, Food security, Indigenous culinary practices for sustainability

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