

Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development

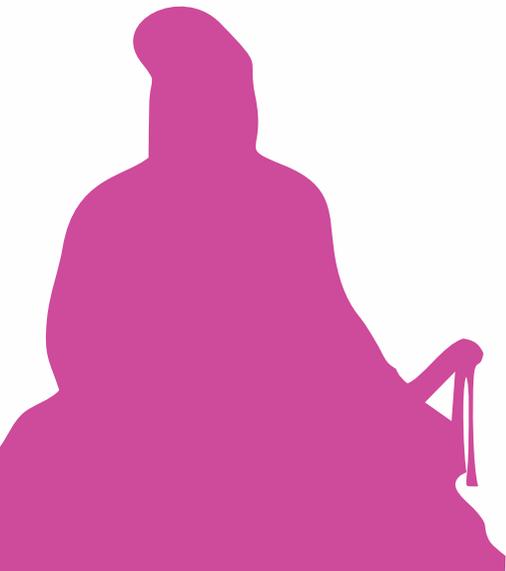


Seminar on Empowering girls through Skill Building on Healthcare

Madurai Symposium 2019

Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai
September 19, 2019, Thursday

Organized by
Sustainable Healthcare Advancement (SUHAM) Trust
(A Healthcare Initiative of DHAN Foundation)



Empowering women in Healthcare

'Women Empowerment is a process whereby women become and are able to organise their independent rights to make choices and to control resources which will assist in challenging and eliminating their own subordination'. Empowerment of women educationally, socially, economically, politically and legally is nothing but a continuous and systematic process to get a required transformation of society at all levels.

Economic empowerment is crucial for holistic Women empowerment. The comprehensive, evidence-based WHO report concludes strongly that investment in Human Resources for Health (HRH) will deliver good returns for the SDGs, women's economic empowerment, and inclusive economic growth. The High-Level Commission estimates that an investment into education, health and social services of 2 per cent of GDP could result in increased employment rates, of which 59 to 70 per cent of the new jobs would go to women (WHO, 2016, p.25). This increases inclusive economic growth, as investment in other sectors would not create as many jobs for women, and would also perhaps increase gender inequality. WHO suggests that the health sector contributes to women's empowerment, participation in economic and political life, and reduces poverty by contributing to livelihoods.



The WHO therefore takes a strong position that investment into the healthcare workforce disproportionately benefits women, as well as improving health outcomes. 200 million workers contribute to the health and social sector, one of the biggest and fastest growing employers of women (70% of the workforce). Yet, half of women's contribution to global health is unpaid. Without action, health coverage expansion may be thwarted by a shortfall of 18 million health workers. The traditional focus on women's health tends to emphasize only their healthcare needs. But women are important providers – as much as they are recipients – of healthcare in their homes and wider communities. This involvement is undervalued economically, politically and culturally. Data analysed from 32 countries, constituting about 52% of the world's population, and reported in the Lancet Commission on Women and Health, shows that women contribute around US\$ 3 trillion in healthcare annually.

Challenges ahead

Women play a vital role in the global healthcare workforce as nurses, midwives, community health workers and doctors. In some countries 90% of nurses are women. Although they are still less likely than men to reach senior positions in healthcare professions, in some countries (such as the UK), women now predominate in terms of medical school intake. This does not, however, translate to equality in terms of those who go on to practice medicine once trained, nor equality in pay. The report also documents the vital role that women play in healthcare that goes unpaid. This includes contributions made by women and children to giving care in the home. An ageing population, living longer but experiencing chronic diseases, means a larger demand for care, much of which is traditionally provided by women and children. Such informal care responsibilities, while enhancing the care provided to individuals and making significant savings in the formal care sector, can impact caregivers in a number of ways. As well as affecting their own health, it can also hinder their ability to take up educational, employment and social opportunities.

Healthcare Industry in India

Healthcare has become one of India's largest sectors - both in terms of revenue and employment. Healthcare comprises hospitals, medical devices, clinical trials, outsourcing, telemedicine, medical tourism, health insurance and medical equipment. The Indian healthcare sector is growing at a brisk pace due to its strengthening coverage, services and increasing expenditure by public as well private players. Indian healthcare delivery system is categorized into two major components - public and private. India's competitive advantage lies in its large pool of well-trained medical professionals. India is also cost competitive compared to its peers in Asia and Western countries. The cost of surgery in India is about one-tenth of that in the US or Western Europe.

The healthcare market can increase three fold to Rs 8.6 trillion (US\$ 133.44 billion) by 2022. India is experiencing 22-25 per cent growth in medical tourism and the industry is expected to reach US\$ 9 billion by 2020. There is a significant scope for enhancing healthcare services considering that healthcare spending as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is rising. The government's expenditure on the health sector has grown to 1.4 per cent in FY18E from 1.2 per cent in FY14. The Government of India is planning to increase public health spending to 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP by 2025. The hospital and diagnostic centers attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth US\$ 6.09 billion between April 2000 and March 2019. The sector with a \$100 billion remittance is the largest employer in the world. There is a huge opportunity in healthcare sector as World Bank predicts a shortage of 80.2 million workers by 2030 globally and India will need 2 million doctors and 6 million nurses by that time.

Healthcare sector is also by far the largest employer of women workforce in the world. A recent survey by Boston Consulting and CII States that Indian healthcare sector will generate 40 million new jobs by 2020.

The Seminar

The seminar on Empowering Women and Girls through Skill building on healthcare will provide thrust on understanding the present status and gaps aroused in the sector. As healthcare industry in India is growing, there is very high demand on the skilled work force especially women. The studies and reports expresses that 70-80 % of workforce in healthcare are women. This seminar would act as a platform to discuss about the scope and opportunities of skill building in healthcare industry towards empowering the girls and women socially and economically.

Objectives of the Seminar

1. Understanding the scope and opportunities of skill building in healthcare industry
2. Evolving strategies and mechanisms to mobilise and empowering women and girls in skill building on healthcare
3. Building networks to promote opportunities for skilling and placing healthcare personnel in the industry
4. Empowering women and girls towards addressing challenges and gaps aroused in the sector and work front.



Participants

The healthcare practitioners, students of paramedical colleges from various healthcare institutions, aspiring potential students, parents of students, community leaders, school teachers, academicians and academic institutions would participate in the Seminar. The eminent and professionals would participate as delegates and deliver addresses.

Programme Content and Structure

1. Lead paper presentation on the status and scope of healthcare skilling
2. Presentation and address by the delegates
3. Experience sharing by the academicians, academic institutions and skilled girls/ women working in the sector
4. Demand generation and linking opportunities
5. Networking institutions for supporting women and girls for empowerment through skilling

Date and Venue

The Seminar will be held on September 19, 2019, Thursday at Thamukkam Ground, Madurai, Tamil Nadu from 10.00 am to 04.30 pm.

For further information, please contact

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