

Discussion & Policy Recommendations on Gender Equality & Disability in Environment & Disasters Working Group Summit G20 by Exploring Womanhood Foundation

As per the report of gender equality by Universal ranger Support Alliance, there is only 11% representation of women in ranger community. Women across the world are underrepresented in decision-making positions related to environmental and sustainable development issues. Women also fall well behind men in achieving paid employment in natural resource management sectors. As per the definition of rangers as adopted at Chitwan declaration, the local communities who are working for biodiversity conservation are also termed as rangers. Being almost half of the world, we are only 11% in this profession. Exploring Womanhood Foundation also observed the need of strengthening & capacity building of women rangers in India and started the activities

There are women rangers doing excellent job for nature conservation but get side-lined in such male dominated work culture. If we can get best of the works from women rangers in limelight then only others can come to know about such activities. So we initiated an award with concept of “Van Durga” i.e “Goddess of Forest” in 2019. The details are provided below in udaharan.

Local communities are most important in conservation but least represented. Especially true for indigenous and rural women, who are often more marginalised in decision-making processes. Women’s particular roles and responsibilities within the household, community, and society lead women to develop unique knowledge related to biodiversity, shaped by their specific needs and priorities. They are thereby in a unique position to bring different perspectives and new solutions to addressing biodiversity concerns. EWF is working on principles laid by UN with declaring 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Helping Self Help Groups of women from local communities to get employment or skill development matters a lot for decreasing their direct dependency on forest. Increasing use of biodiversity by sustainable way and providing alternate employment will strengthen their beliefs on mother earth. Arranging workshops for skill development will cater their needs for better livelihood and life.

So we initiated VanDurga awards and details are as follows:

The Van Durga award is 1st of its kind in world!

Issue:

- 1) Only 11% women participate in the Biodiversity Conservation field as a Ranger
- 2) Most vulnerable group in climate change will be women

Scope of Work:

- 1) Felicitation of lady forest rangers for their extraordinary works & put forth Role models for others
- 2) Capacity building & Skill development of lady forest rangers
- 3) Awareness & Livelihood generation for SHG in forest fringe villages

Program:

Awards are declared for

- 1) Lady Ranger for conservation work
- 2) Spouse of Ranger for supporting & contributing in Rangers work
- 3) Women Self Help Group of forest fringe villages for supporting conservation

Outcome & Discussion:

- 1) Role model for biodiversity conservation.
- 2) Highlighting work & support for Rangers
- 3) Capacity building & Skill development of lady rangers
- 4) Support of locals for conservation
- 5) Raising voice to support for women in conservation at International, national platforms

Policy Recommendations:

- 1) Increasing more women in field of conservation of forest & natural resources.
- 2) Involving & benefitting locals (indigenous groups) through conservation by Capacity building and nature-based livelihood opportunities
- 3) To enhance women's role in biodiversity conservation, as women will create a more inclusive and sustainable approach to biodiversity conservation, including gender-responsive approaches that recognize and respect the role of women.

Submitted By-

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