

# India's Declining Female Labour Force Participation Policy Implications and Relevance

(National Workshop)

## *Background*

As part of the [Southern Voice State of the SDGs Initiative](#), the [Public Affairs Centre](#) explored the barriers to and enablers for the participation of women in India's workforce. The study titled, "Will women be a part of India's future workforce? The quest for sustainable and inclusive development", presents an India case study, examining the causes for the declining female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) in the country and its policy implications.

This study assumes importance in India for the following reasons:

- India's FLFPR has witnessed a rapid decline and is among the lowest among its South Asian counterparts
- Women in India are for the most part employed in low paying jobs with little or no scope for labour mobility. These jobs are characterised by the absence of social security and decent working conditions, serving as a double jeopardy for women.
- As India moves towards achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, it is imperative that all measures and initiatives are representative and inclusive
- With the economy of the country posited to become a global super power, inclusive development will be key
- The gender discrimination both visible and invisible in the country cannot be addressed without understanding its deep-rooted societal underpinnings. Initiatives must recognise and address this bias to achieve real change.

## *Objectives*

- Discuss the causes for the decline, in the light of India's flagship skilling programmes as well as the shifting development narratives towards the SDGs (#4, #5 and #8)
- Bring together diverse stakeholders from research and advocacy to discuss the way forward to bridge the gender gap in the workforce.

## *Expected Outcomes*

- Disseminate findings from PAC's India country case study on the barriers to and enablers of women's participation in the workforce in India
- Identify opportunities for new research in the areas of gender and work
- Explore and discuss the policy relevance of women's participation in the workforce in view of the SDG agenda.

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**Venue: Mobility India, Bengaluru**

No. 7812, 1st Cross, 1st A Cross Rd, Marenahalli, 2nd Phase, J. P. Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560078

**Friday, September 27, 2019**

Time	Description	Owner
9.30 to 10.00 a.m.	Registration	
10.00 to 10.05 a.m.	Welcome Address	Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, Head-Policy Engagement and Communication & Training
10.05 to 10.20 a.m.	Inaugural Address	Shri. P Manivannam, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of Karnata
10.20 to 10.45 a.m.	Presentation of Case Study	Aparna Sivaram, Programme Officer
10.45 to 11.00 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break	
11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Discussants	Ms. Uma Mahadevan, Principal Secretary, RDPR, Government of Karnataka Dr.Sudeshna Mukherjee, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, Bangalore University Antara Ganguli, Gender and Development Specialist, UNICEF
	Moderator	Dr. Meena Nair, Head-Research, Public Affairs Centre
12.30 to 1.00 p.m.	Interactive Session	Participants are welcome to share information, data and experiences
1.00 to 1.05 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	Aparna Sivaram, Programme Officer
1.05 p.m. onwards	Lunch	