

**Sunil Kumar**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



**Ajay Kumar Bhalla**  
Secretary  
Department of Home

**Sanjay Agarwal**  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers  
Welfare

**Atul Chaturvedi**  
Secretary  
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

**Rajesh Bhushan**  
Secretary  
Department of Health & Family Welfare

**Nagendra Nath Sinha**  
Secretary  
Department of Rural Development

**Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi**  
Secretary  
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

**Vini Mahajan**  
Secretary  
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

**Indevar Pandey**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Women & Child Development

**Rajesh Aggarwal**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Skill Development and  
Entrepreneurship

**Anita Karwal**  
Secretary  
Department of School Education & Literacy

**Sunil Barthwal**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Employment

**Jatindra Nath Swain**  
Secretary  
Department of Fisheries

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB

Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

### **Theme 9: Engendered Development in Village**

As you are aware, India is a signatory to United Nations 2030 Agenda for achieving inclusive, people-centric and holistic Sustainable Development through 17 identified Goals. To this extent, the Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", through "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach.

2. You will appreciate SDGs are cross-cutting in nature and a particular SDG can be mapped to many Ministries which can be addressed through various schemes. Keeping this aspect in view, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated thematic approach of relevance for Panchayats and villages through aggregating 17 SDG goals into 9 broad themes for localization of SDGs at grass-root level and their attainment through concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned stakeholders. These themes address more than one SDG and concern more than one Ministry/ Department. **Theme 9: Engendered Development in Village** addresses **Goal 1** - No Poverty, **Goal 2** - Zero Hunger, **Goal 3** - Good Health and Well Being, **Goal 4** - Quality Education, **Goal 5** - Gender Equality, **Goal 6**- Clean Water Sanitation, **Goal 7** – Affordable and Clean Energy, **Goal 8** - Decent Work and Economic Growth, **Goal 10** - Reduced Inequalities, **Goal 13** - Climate Change, **Goal 16** - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, that are obvious.

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3. It is necessary that Engendered Development in Panchayat is inbuilt in Gram Panchayats Development Plans (GPDPs) - that development in a village must take into account the needs of women and girls. If a Gram Panchayat (GP) resolves to transform itself with Engendered Development in Panchayat, it would look at *interalia*, addressing poverty and livelihoods through Self Help Groups (SHGs), women Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), social security and economic empowerment for vulnerable women, equitable access to resources, comprehensive coverage of health services to girl children and women in ICDS / Health Centers, supply of quality nutritious food to all children adolescent girls and women, equal access to education, provision of water and sanitation facilities, reduction in drudgery, safety and protection of girl children & women from all kinds of abuse, violence & exploitation, elimination of retrograde practices like child marriage, sex determination tests and addressing other social issues adversely affecting women.

4. Providing an enabling environment for efficient and effective working of Women Elected Representatives (ERs), and effective participation of women in decision making process, ensuring Mahila Sabhas are organised regularly, preparation of a gender budget by the Panchayat, integrating it and Village Poverty Reduction Plan into the GPDP and prioritizing its implementation with allocation of resources, accessing and effectively using the various resources and flagship schemes such as NRLM, Poshan Abhiyaan, Beti bachao Beti padhao, Women FPOs, JJM, SBM, PMUY, amongst many others are some of the areas for the village/GP to show good results if it is to achieve the goal of Engendered development in Village.

5. If a GP is to commit to become one with 'Engendered Development in Panchayat', it would require the full support of Departmental functionaries of Rural Development, School Education, Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Fisheries, New & Renewable Energy, Labour and Police department among others along with Panchayati Raj. In addition, if Non-Governmental organizations, Institutions, Community Based Organization and others working in the area are also involved in the task of facilitating the Gram Panchayat to undertake Engendered Development by working with the local community to bring about attitudinal and behavioral changes, then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 52 relevant Local Indicators in a Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in its report on 'Localization of SDGs in Panchayati Raj Institutions' which has already been shared with all States and stakeholders and is available on the web site of Ministry of Panchayati Raj: <https://www.panchayat.gov.in>.

6. It is suggested to all States/UTs to organize meetings of all Gram Panchayats during the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)* iconic week allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj between April 11 to April 17, 2022 followed by meeting of Gram Sabha on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day wherein GPs may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs and specially may be sensitized to focus on Engendered Development in Panchayat also. In this week, special Mahila Sabhas may also be conducted. All GPs in a Block/District, to workon attainment of **Theme 9: Engendered Development in Village**, would need to be provided special hand-holding support to work towards that

goal. Sensitisation for becoming a Gender Responsive Panchayat would be the first step in that direction. Thereafter, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and understood and resource mapping must be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government, other organizations, in a whole of society approach, including Training, IEC, Advocacy, Monitoring, Recognition, and finally culminating in the effective implementation of the Gender responsive Plan. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way in attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become one with Engendered Development in Panchayat, if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

7. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 9: Engendered Development in Village** is **Ministry of Women & Child Development**. All other Ministries and Departments, which are signatory to this Joint Letter, will provide full support under their ongoing schemes to this effort at the GP/Village level. We expect and hope that similar convergent action would be undertaken at the State and District level too and effectively communicated to all field functionaries and progress regularly monitored by High Level Committee constituted at State and District level, especially considering the commitment of States for Empowerment of Women.


With regards,



(Ajay Kumar Bhalla)  
Department of Home



(Atul Chaturvedi)  
Department of Animal Husbandry  
& Dairying



(Vini Mahajan)  
Department of Drinking Water &  
Sanitation



(Jatindra Nath Swain)  
Department of Fisheries



(Sunil Kumar)  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

To,  
The Chief Secretaries,  
All States/UTs

Yours sincerely,



(Sanjay Agarwal)  
Department of Agriculture and  
Farmers Welfare



(Rajesh Bhushan)  
Department of Health & Family  
Welfare



(Nagendra Nath Sinha)  
Department of Rural Development



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Ministry of Skill Development and  
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