



## Solution Exchange An Initiative of the United Nations in India

In a country as large and vibrant as India, development workers operate in knowledge-rich environments where continuous experimentation and implementation of innovative ideas goes on. While some of this knowledge has been codified and shared, much of the larger pool knowledge gained through these experiences remain undocumented, out of the reach of practitioners, and in danger of being forgotten.

Attempting to harness this knowledge, the United Nations agencies in India support this knowledge-sharing initiative to help improve development effectiveness in support of achieving the objectives of India's Five-Year Plans and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UN's Solution Exchange initiative builds **Communities of Practice** (CoPs), by connecting people with similar concerns and interests through email groups and face-to-face interactions. The objective is to leverage India's knowledge pool to help ensure that no one "reinvents the wheel."

So far, Solution Exchange in India has established eleven Communities of Practice:

AIDS	Gender
Decentralization	Health - Maternal and Child Health
Disaster Management	ICT for Development
Education	Poverty – Microfinance
Environment – Water	Poverty - Work and Employment
Food and Nutrition Security	

Two new Environment Communities on "Clean Technologies" and "Sustainable Environment" will be launched in the near future.

Members use the Solution Exchange platform to share knowledge and experiences with colleagues facing professional challenges, offering them a range of options from first-hand field experience or existing research. In this way, Solution Exchange is channeling the power and passion of the CoPs into more effective development interventions, and helping to reach India's development goals and the MDGs.



## Solution Exchange for Gender Community

**Community start date** – 16 June 2005

### **Focus**

The Gender Community promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in India, focusing on increasing development effectiveness to improve the gender and girl child situation, promote a rights-based approach to development, and ensure gender mainstreaming.

### **Issues Covered**

- Gender disparity in sex ratio school enrolment, literacy levels and wages
- Issues of indigenous women
- Women's employment and livelihood opportunities in specific sectors
- Women and health
- Trafficking of women and children
- Violence and vulnerability of women in crisis situations
- Rights-based approach
- Women's participation and decision-making in governance
- Social security for women, including the elderly and women headed households
- Engendering policies, programs and institutions (i.e. gender budgeting)

### **Community Leaders**

- Civil society and non-governmental organizations
- Government of India
- Academic and research institutions
- UN agencies

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### **For further information about the Gender Community Contact:**

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Go to <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/>  
and click on the **Gender Community** link

Read Consolidated Replies of queries discussed on the Gender Community from June 2005 till May 2007 by clicking on the topic links below. Please note that these documents are covered by a [Creative Commons](#) license.