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International Conference on Sustainability Education

## **Special Thematic Session and Panel Discussion**

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

4:00 PM onwards

**Venue:** Indian Habitat Centre, Stein Auditorium

Discover insights and contribute to the conversation on sustainability education as part of Mobius Foundation's flagship campaign,



In partnership with



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session

### VIRAM: AGENDA SUSTAINABILITY

Climate Action, Sustainability and Population Dynamics: Placing Girls and Women at the Centre  
Venue: IHC, Stein Auditorium

#### BACKGROUND

Over the past five decades, global population has doubled, the extraction of materials has tripled and gross domestic product has quadrupled. The extraction and processing of natural resources has accelerated over the last two decades, and accounts for more than 90 per cent of our biodiversity loss and water stress and approximately half of our climate change impacts. Over these last 50 years we have not once experienced a pro-longed period of stabilization or a decline in global material demand. (*Ref: Global Resource Outlook*)

According to global projections by the United Nations' International Resources Panel, less than one-third of the anticipated increase in the use of natural resources till 2050 would be the result of population growth, while the remaining (more than two third) would be due to increase in per capita consumption with rising prosperity. Limiting unsustainable patterns of production and consumption will be essential to achieve SDGs.

More than half the world's population today live in cities, and another 2.5 billion people are expected to join them by 2050. The frequency of torrential rain and storm surges is on the rise in big, densely populated cities like New York, Mumbai and Jakarta, hitting those living in marginalized, informal settlements like slums the hardest. Desertification swallows arable land needed to feed swelling urban populations. And sea level rise threatens everyone living in coastal areas, delta regions, and small-island countries.

Climate change is the foremost crisis of the 21st century, with devastating environmental, economic, and social impacts. It has specific direct and indirect impacts on girls and women and gender-diverse people, affecting the realization of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Unequal power relations and historical and structural inequalities have created barriers to gender equality, including limited access to financial and other resources needed to adapt to climate change and maintain good health.

Efforts to address climate change must take an intersectional approach because climate change impacts each person differently depending on their race, ethnicity, citizenship status, migrant status, refugee status, class, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographical location, and sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.

## **NEED FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

While women and girls experience disproportionate impacts from climate change, risks are grave for older women, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women, and those living in rural, remote, conflict and disaster-prone regions. Climate action and sustainability are critical issues that require immediate global attention and collective efforts. However, by placing women at the centre of climate action, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Education plays a crucial role in raising awareness, fostering understanding, and driving positive change. To maximize the impact of education on climate action and sustainability, it is essential to prioritize the integration of these topics into formal and informal education systems, involve diverse stakeholders, and promote interdisciplinary approaches. By empowering individuals and communities with knowledge, skills, and a sense of responsibility, education can foster a sustainable future for generations to come.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the session is to trigger a dialogue among the participants by sharing knowledge, experience and challenges due to climate change, and making recommendations, keeping women and girls at the centre of discussion.

- To understand and highlight how climate change affects girls and women. Understanding key challenges that girls and women face in the wake of climate change and natural disasters
- To discuss and share how sustainable and resilient practices and solutions on climate action and sustainability can help women to cope up with the challenges. Share selected good practices and community-based approaches from the field.
- To identify strategies that promote awareness among adolescent girls on climate action and sustainability to prepare them to cope up with their vulnerability.
- To make recommendations for policy makers, educators, civil society organisations (CSOs) and communities to mobilize collective climate actions and sustainability in favour of girls and women.

<b>PROGRAMME SCHEDULE</b>	
On 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept at 4:00pm in IHC, Stein Auditorium New Delhi.	
<b>TIME BAND</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
4:00 – 4:05pm	Inaugural welcome by the Emcee introducing campaign
4:05 – 4:10pm	Opening remarks by Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman, Mobius Foundation
4:10 – 4:40 pm	<p>Introduction of moderator and panelist by emcee Panel Discussion – English</p> <p><b>Title-Climate Action, Sustainability and Population Dynamics- Placing Girls and Women in focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India</li> <li>• Mr Alistair Currie, head of campaigns and communications, Population Matters, UK</li> <li>• Ms. Nandita Bajaj, Population Balance, USA</li> <li>• Mr. David R.T Richardson, CEO, Population Crisis, UK</li> </ul>
4:40 - 4:45pm	Audience open questions to panelists
4:45 – 4:50	Break/ Changeover
4:50 –5:20pm	<p>Introduction of moderator and panelist by emcee Panel Discussion – Hindi Hindi Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Title- जलवायु, जनसँख्या और जीवन</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Govind Singh, Dean, Research Studies, Indian Institute of Mass Communication</li> <li>• Dr. Ram Boojh, CEO , Mobius Foundation</li> <li>• Mr. Akash Ranison, Environmentalist and Social Media influencers</li> <li>• Ms Huma Masood, Senior Gender Specialist, UNESCO-India</li> </ul>
5:20- 5:25	Audience open questions to panelists
5:25- 5:30 pm	Closing remarks Mr. Ram Boojh
5:30-5:35	Closing address by emcee