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**EVENT
REPORT**

**Gender
Budgeting 2023-2024 Challenges
and Future Trends**

The poster is for a virtual panel discussion organized by JGI JAIN Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education. The event is titled "GENDER BUDGETING 2023-2024 Challenges and future trends" and is held on 8 March 2023 from 03:30 pm to 05:00 pm. The poster features a blue background with a white scale of justice icon. It lists three panelists: Prof. Dr. Lakshmi B. Chatterjee (Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi), Laurence Bernier (M. Sc. Economics, former international Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advisor, ODI, Advisor to Forum of Federations, Canada), and Dr. Spandan Singh (Director, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore). The moderator is Dr. Debangana Chatterjee (Assistant Professor, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education). The webinar is coordinated by Dr. Radhika Pyalwan (Assistant Professor, JGI, Deemed-to-be University, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, CoRSE, JAIN). The event is held on Zoom, and registration details are provided.

The event commemorated the very occasion of International Women’s Day- the same day when many parts of India are celebrating, immersed in the colours of Holi. It is a day to commemorate the strengthening of the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. The moderator of the session, Dr. Debangana Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of the Centre, began the session by tracing the origin of the day in the labour movements of North America, Europe and Soviet Russia during the early 20th century. The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), rightfully takes pride in being able to rally behind the global efforts towards gender equality.

Gender gaps exist in every sphere, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, public life, etc. Gender budgeting as a fiscal policy aims to promote equality through government budgeting. Incorporating gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and reforming

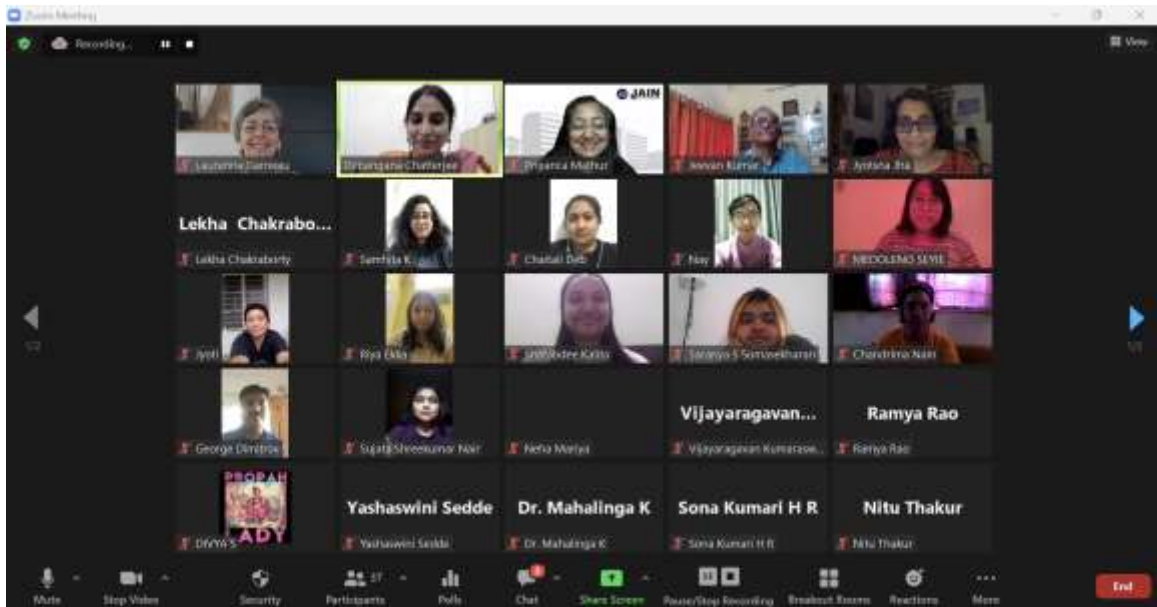
the revenues and expenditures and being sensitive to gender-based concerns are some of the crucial ways to achieve gender mainstreaming. This is where panellist Laurene Garneau who is a Senior Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advisor and is currently associated with the Forum for Federations (FoF), Canada, discussed the broad domain of Gender Responsive Budgeting while highlighting some of her experiential accounts from Canada. She specifically mentioned how effective GRB implementation may enable marginalised communities as a whole. She also noted that while the budget is an instrument towards achieving gender equality, it requires synergy among social, political as well as economic spheres.

In India, gender minorities lag behind various socio-economic indicators. This seeks special attention, given the lack of access to resources and existing vulnerability- stemming from both the societal and institutional structures. Eminent panellist Dr. Lekha Chakraborty, Professor at NIPFP and elected Member of the Governing Board of Management, International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Munich, who has been instrumental in framing India's first GRB framework in 2004. India released a gender budget from 2005 onwards and since then the Union budget on gender has been between 4-5 per cent of the total budget. She indicated that this highlights not only the concern for lack of proportional budget allocation but also there are issues of underutilization of allocated funds. She also highlighted the efficacy of GRB in increasing the rates of education among women and mentioned the tools of effective decentralisation mechanisms where more participatory approaches are taken in making public expenditure decisions.

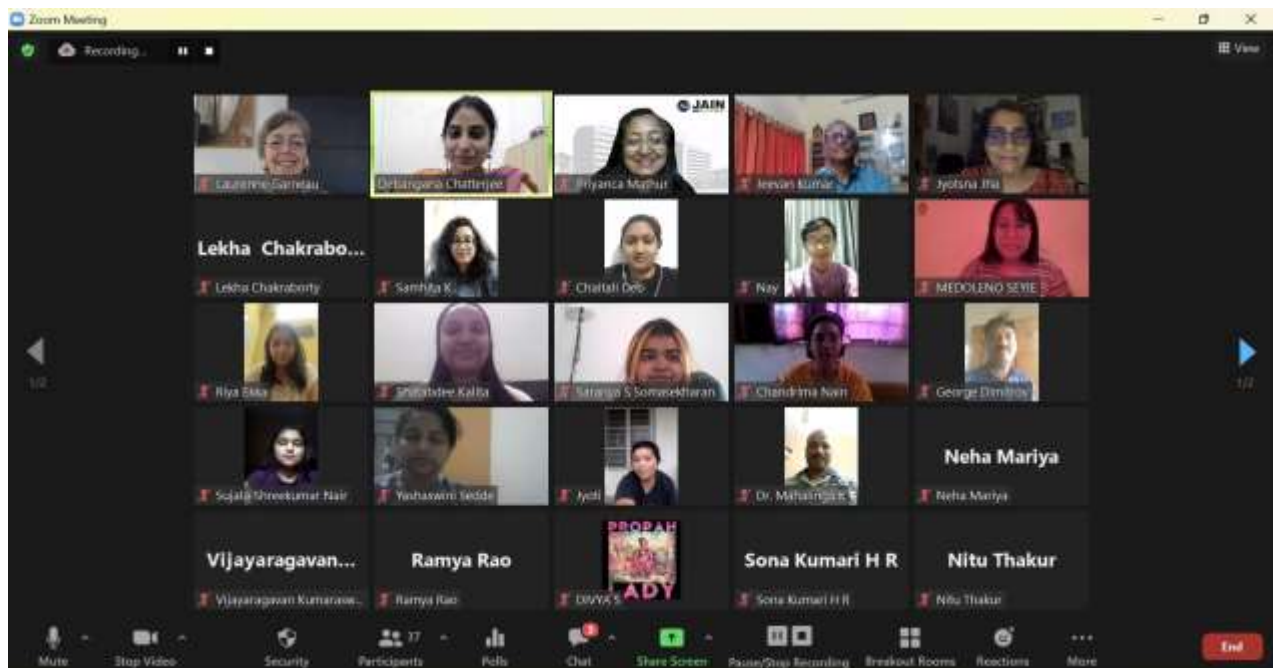
Dr. Jyotsna Jha, who heads the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), located in Bangalore, mapped the issue of GRB along the political and economic lines. With a strong feminist stance, she called out the lack of political commitment and the inadequacy of a holistic approach in defining both 'gender' and 'responsive'. Beyond the cursory implementation of Gender Budgeting, she sought for strengthening the institutional framework for implementing GRB and comprehensive accumulation and analysis of adequate data, especially pertaining to the state of the informal sector.

Overall, the session contributed in making meaningful engagements along the lines of GRB and the related gender-based approaches, as the participants posed critical questions on the

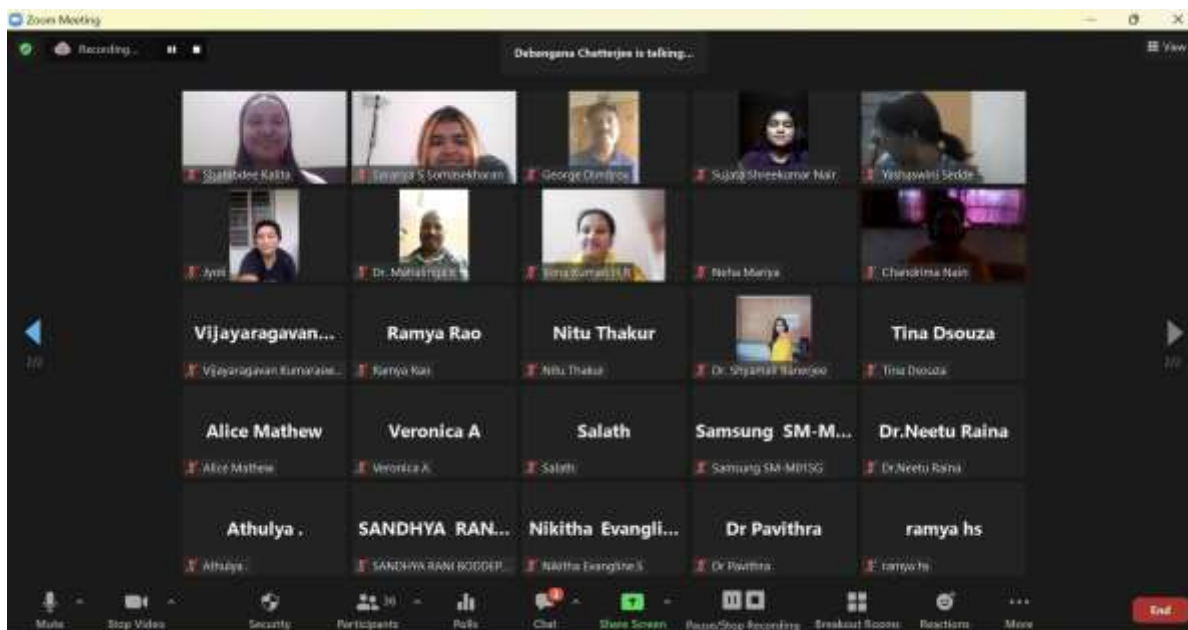
possibilities of reform in GRB, its linkages with political participation, and the paradigm of state-led development etc.



Participants during the panel discussion



Participants during the panel discussion



Participants during the panel discussion

Brief Profile: Resource Persons

1. Laurene Garneau

Senior Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advisor and is currently associated with the Forum for Federations (FoF), Canada. She is a Canadian professional who worked for over 30 years for the Government of Canada.

2. Dr. Lekha S. Chakraborty

Lekha S. Chakraborty is a Professor at NIPFP and elected Member of the Governing Board of Management, International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Munich -the world association of public finance economists. She is a pioneering economist in institutionalising Gender Budgeting in India, with Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India in 2004. Her latest book *Fiscal Policy for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific: Gender Budgeting in India* was published recently by Palgrave Macmillan.

3. Dr. Jyotsna Jha

Trained as an economist, Jyotsna currently heads the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), located in Bangalore, India. She completed her doctorate from JNU in 1995 and since

then, she has led several research initiatives, has written a few co-authored books and contributed chapters on issues related to equity in education, gender, women's empowerment and public finance. In recent years, she has worked on a wide range of public policies and finance issues, including gender budgeting, health finance and public spending on children.