

# **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**

## **Women as Catalysts of Transformation**

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## ***Preface***

As Bharat advances towards celebrating 100 years of independence in 2047, the government visualises a developed nation, with economic, social and political development across the board. This ambitious vision certainly demands a nation where women, representing half the population, rise above the patriarchal barriers and gender stereotypes and instead emerge as powerful leaders, representing themselves in diverse and/or male-dominated spheres and thus become a key driver of progress and contribute sizeably towards a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable economy. In this Viksit Bharat, with women successfully setting foot in diverse domains of economic growth, entrepreneurship, STEM, art, culture, and politics, it shall not be unfair to expect an exponential growth in their contribution to GDP, currently at 18%. As a nation, we have come a long way towards achieving gender equality, but more is yet to be achieved. The thought behind coming up with an edited book with prime focus on the role of women in Viksit Bharat was to encourage dialogue on gender biases and prejudices, appraise women's participation across domains, and contemplating the much needed, social support systems and legislative amendments towards progressive Bharat by its centenary.

We, as editors, had an ecstatic experience going through the chapters received from diverse groups of researchers, faculty and practitioners. The chapters speak volumes and present an array of realms where women have successfully registered their presence, whether it is health care, management, artificial intelligence, science and technology, or entrepreneurship. Besides this, there were chapters bringing to fore the real-life stories of women's resilience to challenge gender stereotypes and venturing into hitherto male-dominated areas like sports, entrepreneurship and administrative services. A good deal of chapters highlighted the progress of women in STEM fields, pointed out the gaps which still persist and provide an account of policy initiatives to bridge the same. To top all, we received chapters suggesting a plethora of recommendations, both social and constitutional, to deal with the issues like gender gaps, pay parity etc. to unlock the full potential of India's demographic dividend.

We would like to mention that editing this book has been a journey of learning, personal and philosophical growth and an experience to cherish. Our sincere thanks to all the academicians and practitioners who have penned their ideas and contributed chapters to make this endeavour a success. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude towards Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Toteja, Officiating Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College and Prof. (Dr.) Sadhna Sharma, Principal Shyama Prasad Mukerji College for Women for providing encouragement and support for the present endeavour. We also owe our appreciation to the publishers for bearing with us, as without their unconditional support the book would not have reached the present shape.

***Ms. Sangeeta Relan  
Dr. Anuradha Sarin  
Dr. Rashmi Goel***

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