P1. Women Empowerment & Employment

Mission-

Achieving greater gender equality remains a big challenge, notwithstanding the important gains that have been made in women's education and employment outcomes in recent history. The issue women face, mostly in rural areas, is wanting to control their finances but not having the opportunity. Literacy education is very low due to the remoteness, lack of opportunities earlier to study, or the case when women are married off by their parents at a very young age.

Context -

Women are aware that if they had control of their finances, the decision-making would definitely go to them. Women remain under-represented as entrepreneurs. When asked, fewer women than men say they would prefer to be self-employed. As they frequently divide their time between working and caring, women's businesses are usually on a smaller scale and in a limited range of sectors. They often have less experience when they start up a business and are also less likely than men to borrow money to finance their business.

- Some of these factors contribute to women entrepreneurs frequently earning 30 to 40% less than their male counterparts.
- Female-owned businesses make a key contribution to household incomes and economic growth.
- There is a clear need to provide more and better information about entrepreneurship as an attractive career option, both for young women in school and for women outside the labour force who are considering starting or getting back into work.
- Policies for female-owned enterprises should not exclusively target start-ups and small enterprises, but include instruments to stimulate high-growth firms as well as growth and development in medium-sized and larger businesses.

Problem Statement -

One of the main challenges when considering how to boost female entrepreneurship is the lack of solid, reliable and timely data. Hence, the need to collect more gender-specific data in this area. Participants have to come up with technical hacks that would contribute towards collection, organisation and modelling the data to make it efficient to use. Solutions must make up for the lack of opportunities and tackle other challenges by including innovations that may aid in providing better aids for promoting women empowerment and entrepreneurship even in remote rural areas.

Additional Considerations -

Active government schemes helpful for a particular group of women, business type, etc in their immediate context need to be included to break the perception that women in entrepreneurship.

P2. Remote Education

Mission -

Invigorating STEM education among women in rural India. Basic digital literacy, coding ability, creating apps and designing business models are simple skills that all children, especially girls from marginalised families, need to be exposed to make them a part of the digital revolution. Our mission is to address the barriers that keep marginalised children, especially girls, in rural and remote geographies from pursuing STEM.

Context -

Computer science? That's boy stuff. Or so Akriti, aged 15, believed while deciding her stream in 10th grade. "I thought I'd be terrible at it", she says. Her school in Khapra, on the outskirts of Bhopal, didn't offer comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) classes.

According to UNESCO, only 30% of all girl students in India selected Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related fields in higher education.
This is partly because of gender stereotypes and low expectations that keep girls away from the higher paying science and technology sectors. Work on STEM-based skill development dimensions must start early; Grades 6 to 8 act as a foundational period for nurturing leadership skills, scientific enquiry and innovative thinking, which become the building blocks enabling the next generation to contribute in the future.

However, the major challenges faced currently are:
● Infrastructure for children to take the first steps to experience science is missing.
● Skilled teachers aren't available in rural areas to impact and encourage STEM education.
● Positive role models for girls in their immediate context aren't present to look up to.
● Social norms in these areas have led to high dropout rates among girls.

Problem Statement -

Participants have to develop technical hacks that would contribute towards bridging the STEM gap and providing quality education to women in these rural areas through remote learning. Solutions must make up for the lack of infrastructure and tackle other challenges by including innovations that may aid in providing learning modules, career counselling, hands-on STEM experience, etc. in remote areas.that would contribute towards women's education and/or overall development.

Additional Considerations -

Positive role models for girls in their immediate context need to be created to break the perception that girls cannot learn STEM.

P3. Women Safety

Mission -

There has been an increase of 15.3 percent in crime against women in 2021 as compared to a year ago, with the number of incidents of such crimes per 1 lakh population also witnessing a rise of 8 per cent across India, says the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Similarly, the rate of crime against women also went up from 56.5 percent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent in 2021 with the maximum number of such cases (31.8 per cent) falling under the "Cruelty by husband or his relatives" category. Certainly, the acceleration of crime against women is petrifying and thus, gives rise to our sole mission- protecting women against crimes without cutting off their wings.

Context -

India is home to 662.90 million females where women from different fields have made the country proud. Every minute of the day, violence is devastating the lives of millions of women and girls around the world. It is a global crisis, already affecting one in three women in their lifetime, devastating their lives and fracturing communities.
International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) founded in 2001 in Chennai, PCVC creates and extends support services for women affected by domestic and interpersonal violence. PCVC designs and offers a comprehensive set of services for women who are in situations of violence, discrimination and abuse.

The loopholes found in ensuring women safety in India can be:

- Patriarchal mindset
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Lack of Awareness
- Complacency
- Delayed judgements

Problem Statement -

Changing mindsets and spaces is necessary if a more rounded goal of positive as well as negative liberty is to be aimed for India's women. Technology can provide a certain degree of negative liberty and perhaps some feeling of safety. While this sense of safety can be seen as a part of empowerment, it should not be mistaken for empowerment itself.
The participants have to come up with technical hacks in which they can help the PCVC Foundation to strengthen their reach with the help of technological advancement. Participants must ensure that in their proposal the safety of women doesn't become an excuse to curb women's movement and freedom.

Additional Considerations -

The ideas may range from amendments of acts, smart policing, installation and maintenance of infrastructure to applications sending SOS when in danger.

P4. Open Innovation

This track is meant to spark ideation by participants to solve some genuine problems faced by women in their daily course. Participants are free to choose problems that do not fit any of these tracks as well however they must align with our theme.