



The Wicked Challenge

Leadership development often overlooks community-rooted Indigenous leaders and women; and fails to integrate their knowledge, collaborative dialogue, and grassroots voices—hindering progress toward the SDGs

BUT

Leveraging local leadership, Indigenous practices, and community-led governance offers a powerful pathway to scale climate resilience and sustainable development through collaborative, sovereignty-driven approaches.

# Engaging with policy and program dialogue on practices for community involvement in Sovereignty led Sustainable and Climate Resilient Development

Common agreement

- Women need both opportunity and agency.
- Gender norms, disabling spaces, and male-dominated decision-making restrict women's mobility and leadership.
- Gender equity must be inclusive and rotational.
- Local knowledge systems offer viable climate solutions. Representation (33% reservation for women) can empower indigenous women to lead local climate resilience efforts.
- Marginalized groups must be included in both philanthropic and policy spaces.
- True self-governance must ensure community control over resources and leadership that reflects the diversity of the population.



**Speaker**  
**Radha Chellappa**  
Executive Director, IWWAGE

*Achieving swaraj (self-governance) necessitates recognizing and addressing the everyday challenges of women*

- Climate-induced migration raises significant safety and security concerns, especially for adolescent girls. - families resort to child marriages
- Women, often left behind while men migrate for work, leading to increased care burdens and health issues
- Women possess traditional knowledge and sustainable practices but
- Adaptation to climate-induced changes requires mobility and skill-building, which is inaccessible to women



**Speaker**  
**Ashif Shaikh**  
Co Founder, Jan Sahas

*True commitment towards climate resilience should remain rooted in community-centric action rather than funding trends*

- Drought-driven migration affects 200-250 million people globally. 66% of migration is climate-induced, yet most welfare schemes don't address climate as a root cause
- India has ~7,000 central and state welfare schemes, but migrants face systemic exclusions
- In Delhi, heatwaves led to a ban on 18 occupational trades. There's a proposal placed to pay ₹6,000 to daily wage workers during extreme AQI levels
- Climate challenges require multi-stakeholder action



**Moderator**  
**Jagadananda**  
Mentor & Co-Founder,  
Centre of Youth & Social Development

NGOs, government, industry, philanthropy, and communities must collaborate

Potential Solution



Extension of local knowledge systems



Rotational, leaderships from the margins



Multi-stakeholder approach



Community-Centered Knowledge Systems