

## The importance of women-led digital solutions

### Why in news?

The theme for International Women's Day 2023 is 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality', since women are left behind in knowledge of digital skills and access to technologies.

### Which areas required women led digital solutions?

- **PM POSHAN** - Under the [scheme](#), 3 million cook-cum-helpers play a critical role in preparing and providing hot, cooked meals to millions of school children.
- Nutritional improvement through the [mid-day meals scheme](#) is inextricably linked with food safety.
- Unsafe food served in schools has the potential to create a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, impacting school children who eat these meals.

*The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in partnership with the Governments of Odisha and Rajasthan has rolled out technology-based training modules.*

- **Digital literacy & food security** - The [National Family Health Survey-5 \(NFHS-5\)](#) indicates that 54% women and 64% children in India's urban areas are *anaemic*.
- In a pilot on financial literacy and digital literacy being implemented by the WFP with women *self-help groups* across low-income groups, nearly 70% of women wanted to acquire new skills.
- The women in training will be able to prioritise access to financial services, manage their own economic activities efficiently, take informed decisions on their livelihoods, food security, & nutrition.
- **Gender-responsive approach** - India accounts for *half the world's gender digital divide* given that only a third of all Internet users in the country are women.

*In Asia-Pacific, India has the widest gender gap of 40%, with Less than 32% of women in India own a mobile phone compared to over 60% of men.*

- **NFHS-5** - It shows that more than 18% of women between 15 and 49 years have a low body mass index while more than half the pregnant women in the same age group are anaemic.
- Access to digital literacy and platforms would create awareness about the gap and needs in the populations that are often on the margins of the digital revolution.

## What is the way forward?

- The women led digital solutions will infuse fresh energy and confidence in how women perceive and deliver their roles as nutrition champions.
- Women can harness digital tools for improving nutrition schemes and initiatives, while also using them to create economic opportunities that ensure long-term food and nutrition security.
- The need for inclusive technology and digital education is essential for a sustainable future.

## Reference

1. [The Hindu | The importance of women-led digital solutions](#)

