



Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust

“Building a world where every human being can achieve Total Consciousness”

In Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2015

Oral Statement - 60th Commission on the Status of Women

2016 Priority Theme: Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Each of the UN sustainable development goals—education, clean water, health habitat or peace—are fundamentally linked to women’s empowerment. Success must be nurtured, and it is women who nurture our families. Families comprise the society, societies in turn comprise nations, and nations the world.

For a harmonious and peaceful world, women must have full support for their growth and development as human beings. When a woman is empowered, the entire society is empowered. Multi-stakeholder participation is essential to achieve women’s empowerment: the family, government, civil society, policy makers, judiciary, financiers and all of the UN must come together and work for a gender responsive implementation of the 2030 agenda. Concrete, time-bound implementation and legislative actions are needed. The political representation should also reflect the proportion of women in the world. Political inclusiveness is a must for financial inclusion and empowerment. Every woman needs to have a place in these areas.

Total education is necessary for women to make decisions in every aspect of their lives so their thoughts, emotions and actions can influence their families and society in a positive way. Such education has to focus not only on objective knowledge but also the subjective factor.

As much as we need to empower women, and bring about a level playing field, we must not forget that women and men are different. Real empowerment will turn the woman into a perfect woman and a man into a perfect man.

Every citizen must work towards sustainability and peace, and this can only be achieved by realizing the power and ability contained within ourselves, not only outside of ourselves. Therefore more emphasis must be given to integrate the subjective knowledge and sciences, with objective ones. The Global Energy Women's Parliament, organized by the IVPT, calls upon all women to take the responsibility of global parliamentarians to raise the important issues and discover integrated objective-subjective solutions for a more sustainable, balanced and peaceful world.

In an increasingly materialistic society, woman has become a mere object of pleasure. She suffers immensely due to this objectification—but the entire human race also suffers when she does. Altering the situation means changing the way that men and women are educated, so that the subjective reality is integrated with the objective reality. This is where we need Education for Total Consciousness, an integrated way of teaching that has been developed by the great Swami Isa, the founder of the Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust in India.

In India, woman is traditionally revered in the form of the mother. Through this idealized role, she is the symbol of purity, abundance, sacrifice and love. She has many forms, including Mother Earth, Mother Nature, Mother India, Mother Ganga and the Divine Mother. She is overflowing with gifts, but she, too, has her limits. A balance must be struck in order to receive her gifts; they cannot be ruthlessly exploited before the mother herself runs dry.

The problems observed in the world today can be traced back to a deteriorating relationship between man and woman and between mother and her children. Our duty is to enable men and women to live and perform like genuine human beings, as perfect men and perfect women together creating a sustainable and peaceful world.

Thank you.