Using Safety Technology to Improve Training Opportunities and Labor Force Participation for Women

TTLs: Elisabeth Ninan; Girija Borker
Violence Against Women (VAW) in Public Spaces is a global concern that is increasing with rapid urbanization. Low female labor force participation rate (27%) in India are partially caused by lack of safety for women. **A lack of a Strong Public Response System warrants the need to consider and test private response system.**

A device-agnostic **mobile safety application** developed by an India based start-up, Leaf innovation. The application can be attached to a basic low-cost smartwatch or any mobile phone, enabling users to call for help through an alarm system. The project will run a 10-month pilot under the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) operation in India. The safety devices will roll out at randomly selected clusters of Industry Training Institutions (ITI) and to a sample of apprentices.

**Challenge**

**Solution & Technology Used**

**Implementation**

Quantitative assessment of the project’s contribution to improving women’s mobility in public spaces, skills acquisition, and labor force participation rates. **Improved women’s safety in India and beyond** in countries like Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Tanzania and many others where women face similar concerns.
The team produced a draft survey summary report on the effects of gender-based violence (GBV) on women’s safety perceptions, commuting behaviors, empowerment, and career aspirations.

- **Completed a baseline survey for the research**: Collected data on GBV statistics, commuting patterns, and future aspirations from 3,871 women trainees at 51 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR).
- **Finished a draft survey summary report**: The final report will be complete by the end of September 2020.
- **Built a technical implementation plan**: Outlined an engagement strategy with the prospective safety technology provider.

- Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship (Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) operation).

**DT4D Project Overview**

**India**

**Using Safety Technology to Improve Training Opportunities and Labor Force Participation for Women**

**Pilot Results**

**Key Accomplishments**

**Partners**
Next Steps & Beyond DT4D

• Due to Covid-19, the project's initial plan to pilot safety technology is on hold.
  • The lockdown and social distancing measures changed mobility patterns of female workers, which can contaminate the study results.

• Nevertheless, the team plans to use the research insights to mold the project into what the client deems fit.
  • The project team is continuing their engagement with the stakeholders in finding ways to apply the learnings from the baseline survey.
  • This may include evaluation of other interventions such as virtually-delivered employability skills/life skills modules for trainees.