

Congratulations for seeking Govt. Sponsored Project

Name: **Dr. Sujata Priyambada Dash**

Department: **Management**

Project Title: **Designing and evaluating a holistic leadership training program to empower rural women for gram panchayat governance and cooperative entrepreneurship development**

Funding Agency: ICSSR

Sanction Amount: 1000000 (in Lakhs)

Sanction Letter No.: 111/WLD-2025-1511/SCD Dated 18.09.2025

Tenure: 1 Years

Abstract:

This project outlines a holistic leadership training program to empower rural women to participate effectively in Gram Panchayat governance and cooperative entrepreneurship development. The project addresses systemic barriers such as gender bias, limited access to resources, and socio-cultural constraints, aiming to foster inclusive grassroots governance and sustainable economic growth. Integrating capacity-building, mentorship, and participatory learning will transform rural women into confident leaders capable of driving community development and equitable decision-making. The main objectives are to enhance women's leadership in Panchayats by imparting orientation programme. Thereby, enhancing economic empowerment through Cooperatives by promoting women-led cooperatives through developing poultry, dairy, and forest produce cooperatives. This will improve market access and income stability. The strengthening of financial autonomy will be conducted by providing training in financial budgeting, and entrepreneurship to reduce dependency on male family members. This will also enhance capacity building and skill development by fostering mentoring networks. The mixed-methods approach would be applied through participatory workshops, skill development, and community engagement. The significant outcomes will be empowering women leaders to drive transparent service delivery, prioritize marginalized groups, and strengthen accountability.

Keywords: Holistic Leadership Training Program, Gram Panchayat Governance, Cooperative Entrepreneurship Development