

SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: Are Women's Issues Synonymous with Gender in India? Looking Across Geographic Space

Speaker: Nira Ramachandran, ICSSR Senior Fellow
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Date & time: Friday, 3 February, 2012 at 3.30 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, North Campus, Delhi-110 007

Chair: Professor Sanjay Srivastava, Institute of Economic Growth

All are welcome.

(Vikram Dayal)
Seminar Convenor

Abstract

Gender studies in Asia as in the rest of the world tend to focus almost exclusively on women and their disparate social status, and unequal access to healthcare, education facilities, assets and economic opportunities. While the need for such a focus is undeniable in the effort to restore balance to the heavily skewed gender equation, the perception that “gender” connotes the balance of power between men and women, not a focus on women alone tends to have been lost along the way. Gender disparities are unacceptable, but equally unacceptable is a single minded focus on women in scenarios where men may be equally vulnerable. This paper will attempt to shift the focus back to the significance of the gender equation by assessing the intensity of gender disparity across geographic space, and enquiring into the reasons for these persisting inequalities. A basic question which needs to be answered is whether women are equally unequal across geographic space. India with a multitude of distinct regional contexts provides a good testing ground. As the states of the Indian Union tend to have distinct regional entities, inter-state gender disparities would reflect both economic and socio-cultural diversities grounded in historical realities.