

# T13P02 / Gender Inequality and Public Policy in Asian Societies

**Topic :** T13 / Gender, Diversity and Public Policy

**Chair :** Arunoday Bajpai (Agra College Agra, Dr BRA University, Agra (India))

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Gender inequality continues to be a major challenge before the public policy makers in all societies. In recent times, the issue of gender inequality received international attention in 1970s with the organization of the first World Conference on Women in 1974 in Mexico and adoption of the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979. These initiatives spurred the policy interventions at the national level to address the issue of gender inequality in Asian countries also. The policy approaches to gender equality ranged from welfareism in 1950s and 1960s, Women in Development (WID) in early 1970s, Women and Development (WAD) in second half of 1970s and Gender and Development (GAD) in 1990s. The Women Empowerment is the most strategic element of GAD approach. In order to accelerate and coordinate the global efforts for women empowerment, the United Nations General Assembly created a new entity 'UN Women' in 2010. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted during the fourth world conference on women in Beijing in 1995 is considered the key global policy document on gender equality.

The unlocking of half of the human resources is crucial for the success of democracy and development in Asian societies. The global and national policy interventions in the field of women equality have gone hand in hand for last five decades. The public policies addressing gender issues in Asian societies have suffered formalism and poor implementation due to deep rooted socio-cultural biases, lack of skill and literacy, economic independence and awareness. The gap between the declared objective and policy outcome are on higher side in gender related policies, because policies failed to address the required attitudinal and cultural change in the society. It needs to be reiterated that the sex (male/female) is a biological category, whereas gender is a socio-cultural category, which assigns inferior role and position for women in society. The gender issues crucial for policy domain in Asian societies are education, health, skill and employment, participation in decision making at various levels, domestic violence, environmental concerns, various forms of discrimination within and outside family and so on. In this background, the panel on 'Gender Inequality and Public Policy in Asian Societies' is proposed to realize the following objectives:

1. To examine the various policy approaches relevant for public policies on gender equality in Asia.
2. To analyze the status of engendering of public policies in contemporary Asian societies.
3. To understand the socio-cultural context of Asian societies as an operational environment for public policies on gender equality.
4. To suggest measures and innovative practices to improve the formulation and implementation of public policies on gender issues in Asian countries.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Scholars are invited to contribute research papers in the panel titled 'Gender Inequality and Public Policy in Asian Societies', which has following sub-themes:

- Theoretical understanding of contemporary policy approaches to gender equality with focus on Women Empowerment.
- Gender Budgeting as policy tool for gender equality in Asian societies.
- Socio-cultural context and gender policies in Asian societies.
- Participation of women in the formulation and implementation of gender policies.
- Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and gender policies.
- Bridging the gap between targets and outcomes in gender policies.
- Information Technology and effective implementation of gender policies.
- Innovation and improvement in gender policy process in Asian societies

The papers with field experience and comparative perspective between different social settings will be encouraged.

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## Session 1

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 4 - 1)

### Discussants

Smita Mitra

Nemi Chand Goliaya (PGGCG-42 Panjab University Chandigarh, India)

### Gender Equality in Japan :Internal Policy Processes and Impact and Foreign Implications

joyce gelb (CUNY NY)

Naoko Kumagai (International University of Japan)

### Why can women not access of Work-Life Balance policy: Focusing on a Male-Centered Organization and Gender Discrimination

HWAYEON KIM (Center for Public Human Resource Development, SKKU)

Sung Min Park (Sunkyunkwan University)

### Muslim Women Political Representation in Pseudo Democracies

Faiza EL-HIGZI (University of Queensland Australia)

### CONTEXTUALIZED ANALYSIS OF A CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN INDIA

Renu Kapila (Punjabi University, Patiala -Punjab. (India))

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## Session 2

Friday, June 30th 13:45 to 15:45 (Block B 4 - 1)

### Discussants

Renu Kapila (Punjabi University, Patiala -Punjab. (India))

Smita Mitra

### Gender Inequality and Pension Reform in Kazakhstan

Saltanat Janenova (Nazarbayev University)

Elena Maltseva (University of Windsor)

### An Assessment of the Impact of GAD Programs on Retention Intentions of Female Uniformed Personnel of the Philippine Navy

Michelle Castillo (University of the Philippines Diliman)

### Secrets of gender equality and women's empowerment in Bangladesh: Grameen Bank Experience

Nawaz Faraha (University of Rajshahi)

### Women and Disasters: A post-tsunami (2004) case study of India, in accordance with United Nations

Arti Devi (Jawaharlal Nehru University)