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BA Economics Honours | Semester V | Calicut University

Gender Analysis in Economics

Course Code: ECO5EJ301 • Module 1

Module I: Introduction to Gender Economics

Gender Economics investigates how socially constructed gender roles, power asymmetries, and institutional arrangements influence economic decision-making, resource allocation, and macroeconomic outcomes. Unlike biological sex (male/female physiological distinctions), gender refers to social norms, rights, obligations, and behavioral expectations attributed to masculinity and femininity across cultures.

Unit 1, 2 & 3: Scope and Global Milestones of Gender Mainstreaming

Mainstream neoclassical economics historically treated the household as a monolithic, benevolent black box (unitary household model), ignoring intra-household bargaining and unpaid reproductive labor. Gender economics corrects this analytical blindness by examining:

- Intra-household bargaining power, female autonomy, and resource distribution.
- Unpaid care work and social reproduction.
- Systemic labor market segmentation and wage disparities.

Global Milestones:

- **CEDAW (1979):** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—the international bill of rights for women adopted by the UN General Assembly.
- **Beijing Platform for Action (1995):** Established *Gender Mainstreaming* as a global strategy for promoting gender equality across all public policies and programs.
- **UNDP Indices:** Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII), and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM).
- **UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5):** "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" by 2030.

Unit 4, 5, 6 & 7: Gender Mainstreaming, Constitutional Reforms, and Demography in India

India's institutional framework incorporates extensive affirmative interventions:

- **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992):** Mandated 33.3% reservation of seats for women in rural (Panchayati Raj Institutions) and urban local governments, creating over 1.4 million elected women representatives (expanded to 50% in states like Kerala).
- **Flagship Central Interventions:** *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (addressing skewed child sex ratios), *Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana* (maternity cash transfers), *PM Ujjwala Yojana* (clean LPG cooking fuel reducing indoor air pollution), *Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana* (small savings for girl child education), and *Mahila Shakti Kendra*.
- **Decentralized Innovations in Kerala:** The Women Component Plan (WCP - earmarking at least 10% of local plan funds for women), *Kudumbashree* (the globally acclaimed poverty eradication and women empowerment mission organizing millions of women into neighborhood self-help groups), and Jagratha Samithis (local vigil committees against domestic violence).
- **Transgender Policy:** Kerala became the first Indian state to unveil a State Transgender Policy (2015), followed by the Central Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, securing legal gender identity recognition.

- **Demography of Female Population:** Examination of the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), female mortality trends, causes of the "missing women" phenomenon (Amartya Sen), son meta-preference, and interstate variations in Total Fertility Rates (TFR).

Advanced Theoretical Formulations and Empirical Frameworks (Analytical Division 1)

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Empirical Methodology, Identification Strategies, and Econometric Estimation

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Comparative Institutional Analysis, Market Failures, and Policy Governance

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Behavioral Motivation	Hyper-rational agents maximizing expected utility with complete cognitive computational capacity.	Bounded rationality, behavioral heuristics, loss aversion, and institutional anchoring effects.	Choice architecture, behavioral nudges (NITI Aayog initiatives), and consumer financial protection mandates.
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Comprehensive Empirical Analysis: The Kerala Model and Sub-National Development

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Policy Synthesis and Analytical Evaluation

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