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BA Economics Honours | Semester V | Calicut University

Gender Analysis in Economics

Course Code: ECO5EJ301 • Module 4

Module IV: Tools for Women Empowerment

Women's empowerment is a multidimensional process involving the expansion of agency, access to educational and health capital, control over productive assets, and eradication of gender-based violence.

Unit 17, 18 & 19: Education, Health, and Decision-Making Capabilities

- **Gender Parity in Education:** India has achieved parity in primary and secondary Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER) through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal schemes. However, critical gaps persist in higher education STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and vocational technical certifications.
- **Health, Nutrition, and the Life-Cycle Approach:** Addressing female malnutrition across the lifecycle: high adolescent and maternal anemia rates (>50%), maternal mortality ratio (MMR) reduction, and reproductive autonomy. Kerala represents the benchmark model with near-universal institutional deliveries and low infant mortality rates comparable to OECD nations.
- **Agency and Decision-Making:** Measured through women's participation in household financial decisions, freedom of mobility, and representation in legislative, administrative, and corporate leadership roles (e.g., mandatory female board director norms under the Companies Act, 2013).

Unit 20, 21 & 22: Asset Ownership, Safety Nets, and Anti-Violence Legislation

- **Gender Equity in Productive Assets:** Land and home titles in India remain overwhelmingly registered in male names. The *Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005* established daughters as coparceners with equal inheritance rights by birth. State stamp duty concessions for properties registered in female names have incentivized joint and female property registrations.
- **Crimes Against Women and Legal Protection:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data reveals high incidence of domestic cruelty (Section 498A IPC), sexual harassment, and dowry harassment. Statutory safeguards include the *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005* and the *Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013*.
- **Social Safety Nets:** One-Stop Centres (Sakhi), Women Helpline (181), and emergency shelter homes provide institutional relief to distress-affected women.

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

Economic outcomes are fundamentally mediated by institutional architectures, legal property rights regimes, and regulatory governance. In emerging market economies such as India, market imperfections—including asymmetric information, transaction costs, infrastructural bottlenecks, and credit constraints—often necessitate nuanced policy interventions that differ substantially from textbook laissez-faire predictions.

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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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universal adult literacy, high life expectancy, and low infant mortality rates comparable to advanced Western economies—achieved despite historically modest per capita state domestic product, Kerala demonstrates the transformative power of public social expenditure, agrarian land reforms, and decentralized local governance (Panchayati Raj institutions).

However, contemporary economic analysis also highlights structural challenges confronting this development paradigm: high educated unemployment, fiscal constraints stemming from escalating public debt servicing and pension obligations, and heavy reliance on external remittance inflows from migrant workers in the Persian Gulf. Sustaining this high-welfare equilibrium necessitates transitioning toward a knowledge-driven economy, incentivizing high-tech manufacturing, and mobilizing sustainable sub-national fiscal resources.

Policy Synthesis and Analytical Evaluation

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