



INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES KOLKATA

(A Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences funded by the Government of West Bengal)

SALT LAKE CAMPUS • DD 27/D, SECTOR 1, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA 700 064

Dr. Simantini Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Supurna Banerjee, Assistant Professors at IDSK will present a paper on:

Revisiting gender inequalities in India in times of a pandemic

Date: 23 May 2020 (Saturday)

Time: 5 PM

Abstract

The paper interrogates the understanding of COVID-19 as a great leveller. While there has been much packaging of the higher susceptibility of men to the virus, the paper seeks to dig deeper than mortality figures to understand the gendered impacts of the pandemic in India. Using secondary data and reports available the paper explores five key areas to predict the costs to be borne by different groups from the crisis. First, the economic impact of the crisis is likely to be more severe for women, who will be subjected to greater poverty and insecurities of employment and lesser incomes and savings. Second, due to reorientation of health policy, women are likely to suffer from sub-optimal allocation of funds for reproductive and sexual health. Third, women have to face the disproportionate burden of unpaid care-work and housework during the pandemic, particularly with lockdowns being enforced. Fourth, we already have reports of increased gender-based violence from different parts of the country during the current pandemic. Help-seeking may be particularly difficult for the women with restricted mobility and with the abuser staying at home. Fifth, all these effects mutually reinforce each other in fragile and conflict-ridden settings facing emergencies and pose further challenges to the realization of women's rights. The gendered fallout of the pandemic calls for an urgent need for graded gendered response of policies which recognize the unequal cost that women bear in such pandemics. Further such policies also need to be intersectional in acknowledging specific ways in which class, caste, religion among other things effect the ways in which the pandemic plays out in people's lives.

The Webinar will be via Zoom. All those who are interested to join can please fill the google form on or before 22 May 2020, so that invitations can be sent to you.

Link to Google Form: <https://forms.gle/XmbE2qSMB3d2ndWM7>

**Sd/-
Subhanil Chowdhury,
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK**