Cold hearths and barren slopes: the woodfuel crisis in the third world

Volume 1 spans the author's writings on the agrarian change since 1981. It identifies gender inequalities in the impact of technical change in agriculture in Asia and Africa; the links between women, poverty, and economic growth processes; the statistical undercounting of women's work; and the key role of women farmers in food security. It also offers innovative institutional solutions as ways forward.

Volume 2 focuses on the author's paradigm-shifting work on women's property status in South Asia. It demonstrates the key importance of promoting access to property, especially land, for women's economic empowerment; details gender inequalities in inheritance laws, public policies, and land struggles; and presents the bargaining framework for understanding and overcoming these inequalities.

Volume 3 traces the relationship between gender and environmental change. Critiquing ecofeminism, it outlines an alternative theoretical framework. Also, based on the author's fieldwork on community forest governance, it demonstrates how a critical mass of women can significantly improve conservation. Finally, the author reflects on which features of feminist scholarship make for an effective challenge to mainstream economics.

Economists studying environmental collective action and green governance have paid little attention to gender. Research on gender and green governance in other disciplines has focused mainly on women's near absence from forestry institutions. This interdisciplinary book turns that focus on its head to ask: what if women were present in these institutions? What difference would that make?

Would women's inclusion in forest governance — undeniably important for equity — also affect decisions on forest use and outcomes for conservation and subsistence? Are women's interests in forests different from men's? Would women's presence lead to better forests and more equitable access? Does it matter which class of women governs? And how large a presence of women would make an impact? Answers to these questions can prove foundational for effective environmental governance. Yet they have hardly been empirically investigated. In an analysis that is conceptually new and statistically rigorous, using the author's primary data from India and Nepal on community forestry institutions, this book is the first major study to comprehensively address these wide-ranging issues.

Economics has paid rather little attention to the psychological aspects of economic behaviour, leading to somewhat simplistic assumptions about human nature. The psychological aspects have typically been reduced to assumptions of standard utility theory based on a very narrow conception of rationality, often called "substantive rationality". However, recent work, some theoretic, some based on experimental economics or empirical analysis of existing data, challenges these assumptions. It demonstrates that we cannot understand the behaviour of economic agents without focusing on the psychological determinants of their decisions, especially in an increasingly complex and knowledge-based economy. This also requires a less restrictive concept of rationality. The essays in this volume provide a glimpse of this challenging and newly emerging field.

This volume is the first to examine Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen's ideas through the lens of gender. Renowned for his humanitarian approach to economics, Sen's contributions have been crucial to the development of several aspects of feminist economics and gender analysis. The book is meant both as a tribute to Sen and as a contribution to scholarship and future research on gender. It both builds on Sen's ideas and engages with them critically. It outlines the range and usefulness of his work for gender analysis while also exploring some of its silences and implicit assumptions.

The essays cover major topics in Sen's work, such as the capability approach, freedom, social choice, justice, agencies, "missing women", and development and well being. Perspectives are drawn from both developing and developed countries, with most of the authors applying Sen's concepts to cultural, geographic and historical contexts which differ from his original applications.

Significant highlights include a wide-ranging conversation between the book's editors and Sen on many aspects of his work, and an essay by Sen himself on why he is disinclined to provide a definitive list of capabilities. The volume also contains some of Sen's original writings, as ready references to be read in conjunction with the contributed essays.
Economic analysis and policies concerning women have long been preoccupied with employment. This book argues that the single most important economic factor affecting women's situation is the gender gap in command over property.

Women's direct ownership and control of land can be crucial for enhancing their well-being, their bargaining power within and outside the household, and their overall empowerment. And it can have wide-ranging implications for poverty alleviation and production efficiency. In particular, the book outlines the effects of a lack of control over land and property on the lives and livelihoods of women across South Asia. It examines the property rights women enjoyed historically, traces changes over time, and their rights under contemporary law. It analyses the factors underlying a gap between law and practice and between nominal ownership and effective control. It examines forms of women's covert and overt resistance. And it spells out alternative scenarios and policy options that could facilitate women gaining effective rights in land and other property.

Covering five countries - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka - in a bold sweep of comparative, interdisciplinary scholarship, the book brings to the analyses originality, rigour and complex historical, legal, socio-economic, and cultural perspectives. It draws on economic, ethnographic, historical, political, and legal sources; the author's fieldwork in north and northeast India; and extensive field visits and interviews in all five countries. The theoretical and analytical issues addressed here have relevance much beyond South Asia.

Widely used by academics, activists and policy makers globally, and variously described by reviewers as "a tour-de-force of inter-disciplinarity (The Economic Journal), "a brilliant and exhaustive work" (The Sociological Bulletin), and "the product of great erudition" (Health Transition Review), the book has won several international and national awards.

Author: Bina Agarwal

COLD HEARTS AND BARREN SLOPES: THE WOODFUEL CRISIS IN THE THIRD WORLD

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MECHANISATION IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Author: Bina Agarwal

STRUCTURES OF PATRIARCHY: STATE, COMMUNITY AND HOUSEHOLD IN MODERNISING ASIA

Author: Bina Agarwal

WOMEN AND WORK IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

Authors: Nancy Folbre, Barbara Bergmann, Bina Agarwal and Maria Floro

The essays in this volume (selected from papers presented at the International Economic Association Congress in Athens, 1989) examine the nature of gender bias in public policies and its effect on women's work in the labor market and at home, in both developing and developed countries. The topics explored include the feminization of poverty, tax disincentives and women's labor force participation, and the penalties of part-time work, in a diverse range of countries such as Pakistan, Japan, East Germany and the United States.
Poverty makes it necessary for all household members to engage in income-generating work. But prevailing ideologies and social norms may demand a rigid gender division of labor, emphasize motherhood and domesticity for women, and confine them to specific activities within circumscribed spaces. Poor women can thus be faced with conflicting choices between survival needs and social status within the community. Based on experiences from South and Southeast Asia, this book examines such possible contradictions between the economic interests of women in poor Asian households and prevailing gender ideologies and associated cultural practices. As the case studies show, women experience this conflict in greater degree in South Asian countries than in those of Southeast Asia, and resolve the conflict in different ways.