



WORLD  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
CONGRESS

Organized by



Hosted by



In Association with



# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

CTD: 13GS- GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN  
SUB-DOMAIN: WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

## PANEL TITLE: GENDER ASYMMETRY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

CONVENOR: PROF ITISHREE PADHI  
CO-CONVENOR: DR GUNJAN ARORA

### ABSTRACT

While the law has removed practically every hurdle to establishing gender equality, gender continues to be a stumbling block for women's development in the contemporary world. While there is a growing awareness of gender equality, empirical realities on the ground continue to flag pervasive discrimination towards them in various spheres of life. Statistics on female education, lower sex ratio, violence against women and employment, especially in developing and underdeveloped countries, corroborate this. Despite all efforts, even today, the birth of a girl child is not welcome in many households across societies. Women's access to education, health, employment, and politics does not contribute much to bridging the gap. Gender asymmetry poses a serious threat to every society and seriously violates women's rights. It is the most significant yet little understood issue of women in contemporary society. In India, among many communities and even in significant number of urban and literate households, gender discrimination starts with conception and continues throughout a girl's life. Discrimination continues regarding access to adequate food, education, prompt medical facilities, and the burden of housework, leading to mental and physical stress and declining quality of life. With little awareness and/or no empowerment, fostering a deep and inescapable sense of dependency in women, they are compelled to live with abusive partners and family members. A nation develops when both men and women experience the fruits of development, participating in the process and contributing to the optimum extent as a way of life. Deeply rooted gender-based norms, structural factors that discriminate against women, the prevailing norms on masculinity and femininity, the patriarchal nature of Indian society, and other structural disabilities like poor socio-economic conditions often leave women subjugated. This severely affects her natal home, her children's health, and overall well-being. The present panel intends to invite scholars and social scientists to contribute to a comprehensive and integrated conversation to tackle this issue.

**Keywords:** Gender asymmetry, discrimination, socialization, patriarchy

Pre- and Post-Congress In Collaboration with

