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SUB-DOMAIN: 5. WOMEN, GENDER, AND FAMILY

SYMPOSIUMS: GENDER INEQUALITY: DO THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER POLITICS CONTRADICT?

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ABSTRACT

Gender inequality is one of the significant research domains in anthropology and allied disciplines since it is highly (negatively) associated with productivity (Klasen, 2008) and economic growth (World Bank, 2012). It involves unequal treatment and/or outcome based on individual's sex. It exists in different forms across regions, countries and cultures and may be of two categories: (1) unequal opportunity about access to resources and access to the situation to enjoy certain goods and/or services; and (2) unequal achievement in the form of outcomes of life domains (such as sex ratio, fertility, mortality). It may even intersect other types of inequality. Predominant influencing factors of gender inequality lie within the context of cultural identity, family environment, educational access, and involvement with economic activity. Indian society exhibits huge gender gap in the spheres of educational access, employment, and health care (Banerjee, 2013). Along with patriarchy, gender politics seems to be the vital factor for generating gender inequality in political representation, public sphere, education, employment, and health care. Scenario across Southeast Asia is almost similar (Nguyen, 2019). Given this background, this symposium seeks to examine the following questions/issues:

- How does gender politics work for divergence, convergence or halting of divergence in gender inequality?
- The role of family in generating or degenerating gender inequality. This is because the process of socialization within the family and beyond teaches us how to perceive and treat the other sex.
- The outcome of gender inequality.
- Does family environment help the existing gender politics? If not, does the former contradict the latter? The panel seeks to build a discourse on family and gender politics.

Keywords: Gender inequality, family, gender politics, inequality outcomes

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