



INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

University Enclave, University of Delhi (North Campus), Delhi-110 007, INDIA

July 29, 2019

SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: "The Role of Historical Resource Scarcity in Modern Gender Inequality"

Speaker/s: Dr. Chandan K Jha
Assistant Professor
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Chair: Professor Ajit Mishra, Director, IEG

The seminar details are as follows:

Date & time: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 11.30 a.m.

Venue: A.M. Khusro Room
Institute of Economic Growth,
University Enclave, North Campus,
Delhi-110 007

All are welcome.

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Seminar Coordination Team

Abstract:

We propose that historical resource scarcity played a role in the evolution and/or strengthening of gender norms inimical to women, cultures that persist to this day. We find that nations' historical resource endowments, measured by the availability of potentially arable land and ancestral arable land, are each negatively related to their present levels of gender inequality, measured by the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Inequality Index (GII). Investigating the effects of historical resource scarcity on different dimensions of the GII, we find that it is significantly, negatively associated with reproductive health (maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate) and labor market outcomes (female-male labor force participation gap), but not with the indicators of women empowerment as measured by women's share in parliament and gender educational attainment gap. Further, we find that this relationship also holds at the subnational level and show that the respondents of the World Values Survey residing in subnational regions with ancestral lands better suited to agriculture are less likely to hold the opinions that men ought to have more right to scarce jobs and that men make better political leaders than women.