

ICIMOD Internal Gender Digest

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This is our regular internal monthly digest compiling relevant publications on gender issues. This volume proposes interesting resources on **women empowerment** with examples from India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

In this issue:

1. Empowerment through Technology: Gender Dimensions of Social Capital Build-Up in Maharashtra, India. CAPRI Working Paper No. 63, 2007.
 2. Putting Gender Back in the Picture: Rethinking Women's Economic Empowerment, 2007.
 3. Can Microfinance Empower Women? Self-Help Groups in India, 2007.
 4. Measuring Gender and Women's Empowerment Using Confirmatory Factor Analysis, 2005.
 5. Women's Empowerment through Sustainable Micro-finance: Rethinking 'Best Practice', 2006.
 6. The Myths of Women's Empowerment in the Development of Afghanistan, 2007.
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1. Empowerment through Technology: Gender Dimensions of Social Capital Build-Up in Maharashtra, India. CAPRI Working Paper No. 63, 2007.

This paper explores how and to what extent women and men have benefited from the development of social capital in technology uptake, and the role of women in this process. Taking the case of Groundnut Production Technology (GPT) in Maharashtra, **India**, this paper demonstrates that men and women as well as the whole community became empowered through collective action as a mechanism to stimulate gender-equitable change processes. The paper suggests that further insights into the role of social networks and power relations in the village may be examined in greater detail by establishing the village network architecture, especially marginalized groups.

More at: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp63.pdf>

2. Putting Gender Back in the Picture: Rethinking Women's Economic Empowerment, 2007.

Analyzing women's economic empowerment, this paper seeks to promote a nuanced understanding of the gendered barriers that prevent women from benefiting from economic opportunities, or from being empowered despite access to these opportunities. The paper suggests a practical starting point for overcoming some of these barriers: tackling the 'double burden' of paid work and care work that is shouldered by so many women. It argues that unless action is taken to challenge the unequal distribution of care between women and men and improve state provision of care, efforts to enhance women's economic participation and bring about their empowerment will be persistently undermined.

More at: http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports/BB19_Economic_Empowerment.pdf

3. Can Microfinance Empower Women? Self-Help Groups in India, 2007.

Analyzing the case from self-help group in **India**, this paper argues that true women empowerment takes place when women challenge the existing norms and culture, to effectively improve their well being. As an outcome of the research with self-help group, the paper presents that only a fraction of the activities carried out by self-help group are able to empower women in true sense. However, it takes note that self-help groups could be the starting point to work towards women empowerment.

More at: http://www.microfinance.lu/comas/media/37_swain_an.pdf

4. Measuring Gender and Women's Empowerment Using Confirmatory Factor Analysis, 2005.

This paper presents the results of the measurement model for gender and women's empowerment in rural **Bangladesh** using confirmatory factor analysis and cross-sectional survey data. It also compares different indicators of women's empowerment. The paper argues that gender and women's empowerment are best measured as a system of interrelated dimensions derived from context specific gender norms.

More at: <http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/pubs/pac/pac2005-0001.pdf>

5. Women's Empowerment through Sustainable Micro-finance: Rethinking 'Best Practice', 2006.

This paper analyzes the evidences of micro-finance from **Asia**, Africa and Latin America and urges that there is a need for a serious rethink of many currently accepted view of 'Best Practice' in the light of existing evidence of gender impact. The paper presents that micro-finance programmes have the potential to enable women to challenge and change gender inequalities at all levels if there is a strategic gender focus. It suggests for making gender 'Best Practice' integral to micro-finance design rather than a marginal and marginalized add-on to financial sustainability or poverty reduction.

More at: http://www.genfinance.info/Documents/Mayoux_Backgroundpaper.pdf

6. The Myths of Women's Empowerment in the Development of Afghanistan, 2007.

This paper demonstrates that the extent of women's empowerment in **Afghanistan** is minimal despite huge resources poured to support Afghani women. The author notes that the level of empowerment of women very much lie with community norms and principles hence empowering community is the key for achieving women's empowerment through any project interventions.

More at: <http://www.boloji.com/analysis2/0293.htm>



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