

Gender Inequality and its Implications on Education and Health

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Gender Inequality and its Implications on Education and Health: A Global Perspective

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This book is dedicated to our daughter
SHRINIKA

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Foreword

There is a well-known African proverb which says: “If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.” This can be extended to areas beyond education, such as healthcare, among others. Unfortunately, due to discrimination and other social factors, huge inequalities in gender exist in many countries including India in education, in healthcare, in the labor market, and so on. Purely from an economic point of view, it is highly inefficient as women constitute nearly half of the total population: gross domestic product can be significantly increased if such inequalities are eliminated. The ethical dimension of the problem is even more of concern. The consequences of such inequalities also often have devastating effects on women and young girls in terms of malnutrition and morbidity. A clear manifestation of that can be found in the adverse female-to-male ratios in many South Asian countries.

In the present book, Dr Chandrima Chakraborty, a faculty member in the Department of Economics at Vidyasagar University, India, and Dr Dipyaman Pal, a faculty member at Bethune College, India, have collected 23 research articles on this topic. Most of the contributors are established academics, but there are also some doctoral students among the contributors. The geographic coverage of the contributions is also impressive with contributions from Asia, Australia, Africa, and Europe. The studies included also cover the above continents. The geographic coverage would allow researchers and policymakers to compare different country experiences, and then to see if success in one country can help to formulate policies in other countries. As one would expect, most of the contributions are on gender inequalities in education and in healthcare, but other areas of concern such as gender ratio in population are also present.

This book project must have been painstakingly arduous and challenging because of the complex nature of the broad problem. I congratulate the editors for being successful in the project. They have done a great service to the profession by completing this project.

To summarize, the book is on an extremely important subject, which should be attractive to any scholar and policymaker interested in the issue of gender inequality in emerging countries, and it should be a supplementary reading in any undergraduate and graduate course in development economics.

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Thirdly, we are indebted to our little daughter for her support and sacrifice in carrying out this lengthy project.

At last but not in least, we would like to thank everyone who helped and motivated us to work on this project.

Although all care has been taken, no one other than us, as the editor, discloses to remain entirely responsible for any errors that still stay behind this book.

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