

Gender and Work: Where will Indian women go for jobs?



Dr. Preet Rustagi has a doctorate in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and is currently a Professor and Joint Director at the Institute for Human Development (IHD) in New Delhi (www.ihdindia.org). She has worked on labour, development and gender issues for the past fifteen years. Her research interests include work, employment and institutions; gender development indicators; crimes against women; women's equality and empowerment; urban poverty; children's education and work; child well being and deprivations; and food security. She has published several articles on these subjects in various national and international journals and books, such as *Concerns, Conflicts and Cohesions: Universalization of Elementary Education in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. She is an associate editor of the *Indian Journal of Human Development*, a bi-annual publication of the IHD and also an associate editor of the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, a quarterly publication of the Indian Society of Labour Economics.

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Canada-India Centre

River Building, Carleton University

Labour market participation of Indian women is falling. Agriculture used to absorb the vast majority of India's women. The majority of these working women lack education and skills to find jobs in any of the growing areas of the service sector. They can at best be employed in manual or low skilled work such as construction, transportation, trade, small eateries or as domestic workers. Public expenditure in social sectors has generated some jobs for women, but caste, family ties or kinship relations still dominate the selection process. With such dismal scenario in rural areas, is there any hope for women in the city? Indian cities offer images of booming malls. Urban, educated, English-speaking women have broken the glass ceiling, becoming CEOs or finding jobs in banking, insurance and software, as well as education and public administration. However, only one in five urban women had a job in 2009-10. What can policymakers do to increase women's economic involvement in one of the world's largest emerging economies? How can a society break away from gender stereotypes? Can economic progress pull Indian women to prosperity? Dr. Rustagi's presentation will address these and other questions. Professor Gordon Betcherman from University of Ottawa will provide commentary.

Seating is limited. Please register at india@carleton.ca



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