

JULY 2021 | ISSUE NO. 13

# NICKELED & DIMED



**THIS MONTHS  
ISSUE :**

## CHINA'S 3 CHILD POLICY

Will it have the effect on population growth China hopes for ?

## BI MONTHLY MPC MEETING

A review of the monetary policy decisions made by the committee

## BHUTAN AND BHARAT

A look at the social friendship maintained by the countries

 **CNES**  
Centre for New Economics Studies

**TRENDING**

**TAMILNADU**

**ELECTIONS  
1980-2000'S**



# TAMIL NADU ELECTIONS: THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 1980S AND EARLY 2000S

BY TEJASWINI VONDIVILLU & SIDDHARTH G



One needs to inquire what happened when the economy liberalized in the 1990s, and more importantly, whether or not the Dravidian ideology stayed true to its core tenets. This question becomes important because the two parties, the DMK and ADMK, consecutively allied with the BJP in the early 1990s. What explains the coalitional alliance between two parties that rejected and continue to reject everything that the BJP stands for? More importantly, how did it affect the economic policies that the two parties instituted?

## THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 1980S AND EARLY 2000S

The Meenakshipuram conversions in 1981 gave birth to the Hindu Munnani, which he argues, has played a significant role in assimilating Hindu nationalist ideas into the political atmosphere. It is composed of non-Brahmins leaders, controlled by Brahmins, in a strategic attempt to unify against Muslims – which is core to the Hindutva ideology. Anandhi S. documents that the ideological fraternity of the Dravidian ideology had regressed in the later decades (1990s – 2000s). This meant that Dalits were marginalized, in contrast to the promises of the regional parties. The Hindu Munnani and the RSS, identified this and provided them with a “positive identity” so the “Dalits...identify with a certain Hinduness” as a way of subverting their marginality.

Furthermore, ever since the 1998 Lok Sabha elections, the two dominant parties fragmented to give rise to caste-mobilizations that formed various parties representing various castes. ADMK allied with the BJP and won significantly during the 1998 Lok Sabha elections. Pinto argues that the vacuum created by the increasing competitiveness between the DMK and ADMK meant that the BJP could make its inroads to politicize the voter banks such as Dalits and MBCs. Furthermore, the relationship between the state and centre ever since the economy was liberalized meant that the states were now competitive amongst each other in seeking resources from the Centre. 1998 was the first time that the BJP formed a government and it made sense to ally with the same and take part in the increasing globalization of India. Ever since then, BJP has been an electoral alliance of either of the two parties but has never gained electoral success beyond a meagre 4% of all the seats.

## DECLINE OF DRAVIDIAN POLITICS - WHAT WERE THE ECONOMIC AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS?

In the years from 2001 to 2006, the ruling AIADMK Government had to tackle a fiscal crisis, which led to the Government focus more on measures such as tax transparency and capital investments and move away from populist schemes. This continued until the 2004 Tsunami when the AIADMK government proved that they were a swift, decisive government.

## CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS

The most important criticism of the Dravidian parties was corruption. According to N Ram, corruption in Tamil Nadu took a stronghold during the tenure of M. G. Ramachandran, when he incorporated the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAR) in 1983. TASMAR became the monopoly over supplying Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) in Tamil Nadu which also resulted in illicit revenues from local distillers and brewers. Since then, various corruption allegations such as the Color-TV scam and the Flyover scam were placed against different leaders, which eventually became a tool for playing political blame games.

## ECONOMIC STATE - SOLVING A 'PUZZLE'

Tamil Nadu Government, despite rampant corruption and populist measures, achieved inclusive economic growth between 1980 and 2010 as well. This trend continued between the years 1980-2010 as well. According to A Kalaiyaran and Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the state not only accelerated the State Domestic Product at a rate of 6.3% but achieved a lot in other indicators as well, such as reducing poverty rates and raising literacy rates.

This was seen as a puzzle by so many scholars, but a much-accepted answer is given by Lorraine Kennedy in her article from the book 'Regional Reflections', where she calls the parties' approach 'stealth'. She notes that both the DMK and the AIADMK, while criticized profusely when the other party implemented a liberalization policy, adopted those policies and implemented them themselves. While both the DMK and the AIADMK criticized each other for their capitalist stance in terms of attracting investments, they themselves were responsible for bringing in companies such as Ford, Hyundai Corporation, and Saint-Gobain, thus increasing the state's income and employment levels.

# BHARAT & BHUTAN: BONHOMIE IN THE FACE OF THE PANDEMIC



BY KARISHNI PURI



India and Bhutan have enjoyed sound relations from before the former's independence. The defining moment of their relationship was the signing of the Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship by the representatives of both sides in 1949, marking the continuity of friendship and non-interference between the two neighbouring states. Their amity has since been evident in their interactions; India has been a helpful contributor to Bhutan's political and economic prospects. 2020 saw the continuation of this trend, despite the ravaging pandemic. This article aims to assess India's foreign relations with Bhutan, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ever since the inception of Bhutan's first Five Year Plan in 1961, India has been extending financial help running into thousands of crores of rupees. Apart from this, India remains Bhutan's top trading partner and mutual linkages between the two countries are at its peak. The bonhomie between the two countries remains unshaken even in the face of the pandemic, and is reflected in their actions. In 2020, after the world was wrecked by the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic, international restrictions materialised in full swing. Air travel shut down, and the world saw a rise in trade protectionism. In such uncertainty, the economies of all countries took a beating. In Bhutan, this distress was alleviated by India's commitment to its neighbour. Throughout India's lockdown, it has maintained the supply of essential goods and services into Bhutan. India has also been actively engaged in Indo-Bhutanese repatriation, helping around 1,700 stranded Bhutanese citizens in India to go back to their homeland. Bhutan, on the other hand, has reciprocated this gesture by ensuring the timely return of seven Indian citizens who were in quarantine under the Bhutanese government.

Another example of these strong mutual ties is the launch of a new trade route, Jaigaon-Ahllay, operating between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Ahllay in Bhutan in June last year. This project was facilitated to ensure connectivity in light of the global pandemic. An article in *The Economic Times* stated that the route would 'boost bilateral trade and commerce, and would be especially beneficial for the movement of heavy vehicles like trucks and industrial raw materials from India to Bhutan'. More recently, Indian PSUs like the REC have entered into agreements with Bhutan-based companies to finance a new hydropower project in the latter.

Recently, Bhutan became the first country to receive India's gift of the Covishield vaccine, along with Maldives. India delivered 1,50,000 doses of the vaccine and even 'expedited the release of Rs 501 crore for their reprioritized projects to meet the emerging challenges caused by COVID-19, in addition to other fund releases for the ongoing projects'. Last month, Bhutan received another 4 lakh doses as a gift from India.

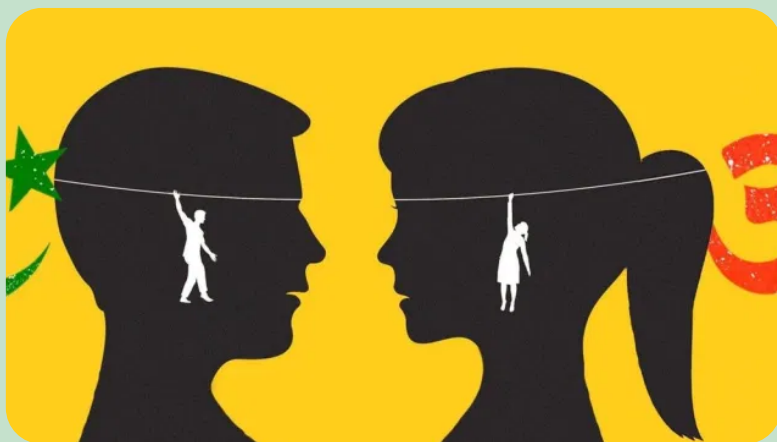
An important factor in the evolution of Indo-Bhutanese relations is Bhutan's relationship with China. Both countries have a tense relationship and border disputes have been rife. The most recent blow came in June last year, when China contested Bhutan's application for a grant for the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, saying that the territory was 'disputed'. This came close on the heels of China's stand-off with India in the Galwan Valley. According to an article in the BBC, many Bhutanese commentators believed that Beijing was trying to drag Bhutan into the territorial stand-off with India. This points to the attempt of exploiting India's friendship with Bhutan to further Chinese aggression. Dorji Penjore, the head of the Centre for Bhutan and Gross National Happiness Studies wrote in his paper, "The Sino-Bhutan border dispute is not so much a contest over territory as it is of China's desire to punish Bhutan for allying with its regional rival, India". Thus, Sino-Indian and Sino-Bhutanese ties have, to an extent, led to tensions in India's relations with Bhutan.

From all these instances, it is quite clear that India and Bhutan enjoy a special friendship. Both the countries are supportive of each other and contribute towards the other's development. All signs are indicative of this proximity continuing in the future as well. Thus, while the COVID-19 pandemic has been rough on both countries individually, together they have only emerged stronger.

# THE PATRIARCHAL GRIP OF THE (ANTI-) LOVE JIHAD LAW: A NORMATIVE ANALYSIS



BY TANYA RANA



The “(anti-)Love Jihad” law is a communal project of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and affiliated right-wing groups and attempts to protect Hindu women, who, under the garb of love and pretext of marriage, unknowingly convert to Islam. This reflection article aims to map: a) the permeation of a certain ideology, internalised and exercised by the agents of the state; and b) the persistent blurring of lines between “religion as faith” and “religion as politics and power” that preserves the institution of patriarchy.

## THE (LACK OF) JUSTICE IN THE STATUS-QUO OF HIERARCHICAL SYSTEMS

Rawls’s central argument underpins the need to create a semblance of uniformity and symmetry between individuals and their (primary) needs to minimize conflicts in the attainment of justice. However, Rawls could have also contended that policymakers may choose to digress from their ‘original positions’, of which, the veil of ignorance is a primary feature. They may choose to transgress based on the majoritarian beliefs and values that are seen to uphold social relations. Therefore, does consensus always exist among different groups while choosing their representatives? It may not be so, as living in a society does not automatically assume an identity’s consent.

The anti-love jihad law, in this context, portrays the fragility and vulnerability of ties between dominant and minority relations as the institutions – from families to the police, work in cooperation to minimize the average utilities of targeted identities in minority. Counterintuitively, this internalisation of perceived social stability also fits within the Rawlsian interpretation of identities’ (here, Hindu women) attachment to institutions that seemingly benefit them.

## LIMITATION OF UTILITARIANISM

Conforming to Hindutva politics, the state has overtly upended its (Rawlsian) veil. The theorization of rule utilitarianism justifies state intervention to please its agents – the “anti-Romeo squads”, police, families, and so on. Mill’s “harm principle” remains defenceless because the moralistic pronouncement of the state’s paternalism to prohibit marriages satisfies preferences of a large enough majority, harming, however, the basic right of the so-labelled deviants. In the context of the law, the deviants include Hindu women, Muslim men, or anyone else who may dispute the anti-love jihad Act. Therefore, even if the majoritarian position harms or infringes individuals’ basic rights, imposing social sanctions might be just (if not legitimate) through the extension of state vigilance over marriages of “informed consent” for the greatest good. It also acknowledges the partisan lens of the policymaker who is not operating behind the veil.

## CONTRADICTORY MANIFESTATION OF (PATRIARCHAL) VALUE APPROPRIATION

While Nozick argued that Rawls’s principles may be contradictory as state intervention violates human rights by the virtue of its position, Nozick’s entitlement theory may lead to more inequality (and inequity) over time. The institution of ‘Brahmanical patriarchy’ underpins the need to control women’s bodies and maintain “patrilineal succession” and “caste purity” in a Hindu society. Extrapolating Nozick’s principles of appropriation in this context, the (initial) appropriation of patriarchal values preserves this institution, justifying the limitations on women’s, and minority group’s personal liberty. If people are ends in themselves, how does the continuity of patriarchy – a socially entitled institution – enable self-ownership, a point of virtue in Nozick’s theory, of women’s (own) bodies? Rather, state intervention, by way of the law, amplifies the role of the regulatory institution(s) for supporting the structure of society’s natural, and therefore, patriarchal inclinations.

## CONCLUSION

Rawls conceptualises a utopian state which needs no illusions or delusions; however, the tendency of the state’s agents, including its deviants, accept and/or internalise the delusion of love jihad, transgressing justice as fairness for a utilitarian greatest [assumed] good for the greatest number and morally right action. The current patriarchal structure inhibits women’s agency through its visible hands by way of the ordinance, restricting their right to life and freedom and practising religion under Article 25. It is a consciously designed system that takes roots in a regressive bias of women as dependent beings of the “legitimate” institutions – families – and the “surveillance” state, persistently infantilizing them in the name of religion. Conclusively, if justice entails a conscious exercise to curb one’s basic rights, accepted and internalised by many, it does not make it just.

# FETAL HEARTBEAT BILL & STORY OF DE FACTO BAN ON ABORTION IN THE U.S.



BY DIKSHI ARORA



The Fetal Heartbeat Bill yet again opens a new battle over abortion restrictions after Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott signed an infamous bill that would ban abortions as soon as a so-called fetal heartbeat can be detected. According to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, fetal heartbeats can be detected as early as six weeks gestation or six weeks from a woman's last menstrual period, not since the start of her pregnancy.

When an ultrasound can detect the pulsing of what will become the fetus's heart, the abortion could not be legal. This is the period before many women even know they are pregnant, with majority of women who have abortions doing so after six to seven weeks' gestation period. Hence the law will effectively ban most abortions in the state. It also doesn't provide any exemption in cases of rape or incest, a provision that has been the standard in abortion laws. The 2018-21 period witnessed many states proposing Heartbeat Bills, majority of them fall either partly or entirely in the Bible belt that is located in the Southern United States where social conservative Christianity is dominant.

## EMOTION OVER SCIENCE

Moreover, the fetal heartbeat criteria aren't medically correct as it calls pulsing a heartbeat. In fact it is the embryonic cardiac activity or vibration of the fetal pole that is a tube like structure that will later become the heart. Politically and religiously charged aims coupled with inaccurate and vague terminology used in abortion laws are meant to tug at supporters' heartstrings.

This law could also negatively impact women who have non viable pregnancies that aren't identified by the six-week, by allowing a non viable pregnancy to continue until it causes direct harm to a woman's health. The legislatures even missed the discussion over the possibility of miscarriage after detection of fetal cardiac activity, whether such a person would be prosecuted and the subsequent delay in seeking necessary prenatal medical care.

## EVERY CITIZEN IS NOW A PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Texas Bill has one more twist that make it more controversial i.e., it allow any private citizen regardless of the fact if they live out of the state, to sue an abortion provider or others who "aid and abet" an abortion in violation of the new ban. This would be a new concept in Texas law to empower people of Texas to enforce the law as it is reported that some district attorneys refused to enforce a fetal heartbeat bill. Now the people are a newly empowered entity taking over the government's role to enforce the law. Such provision allows every citizen to act as a private attorney general as now every random person who is against abortion can sue you tomorrow.

## ROE V. WADE RULING

The event in Texas is followed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to hear Mississippi anti-abortion law that bans abortions after 15 weeks. The case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* deals with Mississippi Anti-abortion law passed in 2018 that aim to ban abortion after 15 weeks "except in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality." But the ban was blocked by lower courts arguing that the law violates previous Supreme Court rulings. The 1973 US Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* has set a current constitutional standard that declare abortion as legal up until the point when the fetus could survive outside a mother's womb that is usually about 24 weeks into the pregnancy.

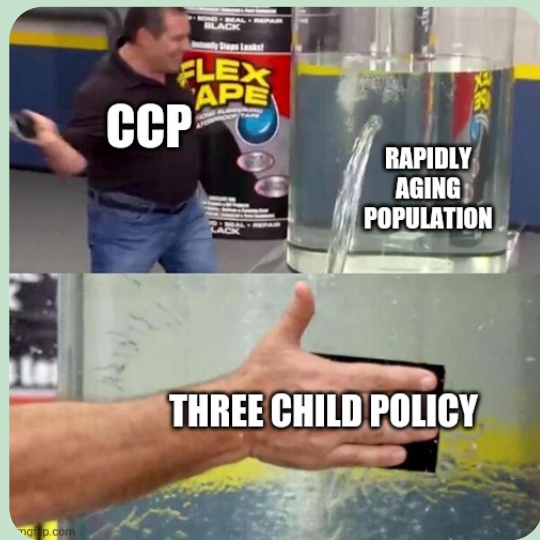
## WHAT LIES AHEAD?

As *Roe v. Wade* is still a controlling and superior precedent, it is likely that such anti-abortion laws would be declare unconstitutional as any limit prior to viability, violate a woman's right to privacy. Such recent development in Texas is a sheer tactic to control bodies of pregnant women and prevent them from making their own decision. Safe and legal abortion is one of the important components of women's health care and many factors can necessitate or influence a woman's decision to abort. Instead of turning the clock back to the times of *Roe v Wade*, states must uphold the legal right to abortion.

# ONE TO THREE CHILD POLICY: AN ACCOUNT OF RETROSPECTIVE AND ANTICIPATED LOSSES



BY OM AGARWAL



The People's Republic of China's recent change in population policy aligns with its worry about future national demography. The announcement came on May 31, 2021, following a Chinese Communist Party Politburo meeting which was chaired by President Xi Jinping. According to China's latest census, there were 12 million births in 2020 which is to date the lowest since a famine in the 1960s. The decision to break the shackles of the One-Child Policy comes at a point where China's fertility rate has dropped to 1.3 per woman against the global fertility rate which is averaging at 2.5 children per woman.

## MAJOR THROWBACK: PITFALLS OF ONE-CHILD POLICY

The One-Child Policy, introduced under the regime of Deng Xiaoping in the 1970s was instituted when the population was impoverished and growing rapidly, while the society underwent massive economic and political transformations. The policy compelled Chinese families to raise only one child, encroaching the fundamental human right to reproduce. It led to heavy displacement and migration of families, attempting to shift to Hong Kong to escape from the heavy penalties that were imposed on producing a second child.

China's sex ratio was 106:100 at the onset of the policy in the 70s, which rose to 111 in 1990 and 121 by the end of 2005. By 2010, the sex ratio was as high as 130, implying that there were 30 million more men than women. The main reason behind this disparity was the desire to have boys so that the family lineage continues. Preference for sons led to unprecedented abortion of baby girls and infanticides and higher levels of social unrest, sex trafficking, kidnapping and other forms of misconduct undertaken by men who wanted to experience intimacy in some way.

While China's population policy averted the increase in population of some hundreds of millions of people, it eliminated hundreds of millions of potential labourers from the workforce at the same time. In 2005, the shortage started becoming prominent in the Yangtze River Delta and the northern coast. Hunan and Jiangxi, big provinces that export a lot of labor, suffered from massive recruitment difficulties. The policy created a financial burden for both the government and the citizens. The government was spending 4 percent of its GDP annually on the enforcement of the policy. By being the sole breadwinner of the family, it became difficult for Chinese citizens to manage the household, take care of ageing parents and improve the overall standards of living. Many families were forced to live with both sets of grandparents which resulted in 3-4 generation households living under the same roof.

## THE ROAD AHEAD: WILL THE THREE CHILD POLICY RESOLVE THE ISSUE?

According to Moody's Investor Service, the decision of allowing couples to have three children shall only encourage fertility but will not impact the national birth rate. The two main reasons which explain the discrepancies between fertility rates and family planning measures are education and real estate. While the competitiveness of China's education system requires an exorbitant spending on extracurricular education, similarly, real estate has become increasingly unaffordable in recent years. For example, the average cost of an apartment in Shenzhen is 43.5 times the average disposable income of its residents. If the aim of the new policy is to increase birth rates to augment the future labour supply, it would take many years for its effects to be seen. Given that the future lies in skills and technological innovation, it would take a minimum of twenty years or so for the increased births of today – assuming that they shall be entering the workforce as skilled labour. In order to resolve the problem of an ageing population, China can opt for global outsourcing by expanding supply chains to different countries with better demographic profiles. This will ensure that Chinese companies reap the advantages of cheap labour and maintain their competitive edge.

China's experience is a reminder of the unintended social and economic consequences that state-lead demographic interventions can have on society. Given that demographic changes take time to develop, the looming demographic crisis and China's inaction towards the same has already proved costly and shall continue to grow if it persists longer.

# BI-MONTHLY MPC MEETING REVIEW



BY HEMANG SHARMA  
SHARMA



In India, the Monetary Policy Committee under RBI is majorly responsible for deciding on benchmark interest rates for the nation, along with some key monetary policies. These interest rates influence the borrowing power of both, the commercial banks and consumers, which is reflected in the inflation rates. In the June meeting, the committee decided to keep the policy rates unchanged for the sixth consecutive time and concluded that they will maintain the 'accommodative stance' for as long as necessary. The repo rate was retained at 4% while the reverse repo rate stayed at 3.35%. To understand the effect of these policy rates on the economy, we need to consider the rates before COVID.

In October 2019, the repo rate was 5.15% while the reverse repo rate was 4.90%. After the COVID-19 cases were registered in the nation and the country went into lockdown, RBI slashed both rates. On one hand, the lowered repo rate incentivised private banks to borrow more money from the central bank as they would have to pay less interest on it. On the other hand, lowered reverse repo rate disincentivised them to park their money with the central bank, as they would earn lesser interest on it. This way, RBI ensured that the banks had enough liquid assets to meet consumers demand.

Now it's been a year since the RBI last changed these rates. In such times, maintaining constant rates serves RBI in 2 ways. Firstly, it helps in maintaining stable inflation rates. RBI ensured that there were sufficient, constant levels of liquidity in the economy over the past year. As liquidity didn't fall by big margins, it ensured a relatively stable level of inflation in the economy. Since 2021, the inflation levels have remained between the bracket of 4-6.5%. Keeping in mind that before the COVID crisis, the government had kept a bracket of 2-6% for inflation rates, which suggests that even after cutting policy rates, the inflation rates in the country have not increased by much and remain quite stable.

Having stable inflation is a major reason for not changing policy rates. If the rates were volatile then for entrepreneurs, it becomes really difficult to estimate the value of their investments. This would discourage them to invest in the economy and aggregate private investments would fall. Right now, economic growth is largely dependent on government expenditure. If the inflation rates start fluctuating beyond expectation, then investment, which is already quite low, would further decrease and in the worst case, would come to the brink of extinction. If that happens, the economic growth would take much greater cuts and would eventually fall into recession. Further, it would add pressure onto the government to counter such a situation by further increasing their expenditure, which would compel them to borrow money and would push them further down on the balance of payment deficit. To avoid all this, it becomes quite important for the government to ensure a stable inflation rate.

As more and more people are getting vaccinated and the second wave is receding, it is only a matter of time before the economy would again become completely operational. Given that the policy rates were relatively higher before the Covid crisis, one could anticipate that in coming meetings, the MPC may decide to raise them again. This would make borrowing expensive for the commercial banks, which would be reflected in higher interest rates for consumers. As investors and entrepreneurs could expect that borrowing would be soon expensive, they might start borrowing money. This could increase private investment in the economy which would, in turn, stimulate growth.

## CONCLUSION

The committee's decision to keep policy rates constant has paid in the last year as India didn't experience unexpected levels of inflation. The meeting may not have surprised anyone with drastic policy changes, however, it did hint that now, we are at the end of the tunnel and the small beam of economic revival, is getting bigger and brighter.

# THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE



BY BEHIND THE SCENES NGO

Female labour has long been invisibilised and undervalued in India. For women engaged in agriculture, the problem of invisible labour is even more profound. According to OXFAM, about 75% of farm workers in India are women, and they produce between 60% to 80% of India's food. However, even as the onus of feeding their country shifts to women as men move to non-farm jobs, their labour is ignored and overlooked. During the crop season, it has been reported that women put in about 3300 hours of labour, much more than the 1860 hours by men. Still, about one-third of women farmers are unpaid labourers, on farms owned by male family members.

Even as women dominate the agriculture workforce, they own only about 12.8% of the total land. In India, land titles are essential for reasons other than agricultural production - such as acting as collateral to gain access to credit as well as accessing government programmes and pensions that have been instituted for the benefit of farmers. Over 90% of agricultural land in India is passed down through inheritance, and even though Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist women are granted equal inheritance rights by law, it is rarely the case in practice. This leads to women being trapped in a vicious cycle of working as labourers on family-owned land, which will never be their own.

In addition to their labour, their struggles are also invisibilised. While the media does focus on farmer suicides, a severe crisis that has claimed the life of over 3 lakh farmers in the last 25 years, there is lack of adequate representation of suicide rates for women farmers. Estimates from government databases have shown that in the Amravati district in Maharashtra, on average, one woman farmer commits suicide each month. Further, widows who have lost their husbands to suicide have to sustain their households, and provide for their families with little to no systemic help by the state. A 2018 survey conducted in districts in Marathwada and Vidarbha revealed that 40% of such widows between 2012 to 2018 had yet to be granted rights to the farmland they now cultivated entirely on their own.

In order to keep up with an increasing 'feminisation of Indian agriculture' it is necessary to safeguard the rights of women farmers. An attempt was made to bring about more gender parity in farming, through the Women Farmers' Entitlement Bill, proposed in 2011. The Bill sought to ensure protection of women farmers' land entitlements, and provide them with rights over land and other resources, as well as improve access to credit. However, the Bill was not passed due to lack of support and lapsed in 2013. It is necessary to revisit the provisions of this Bill, in order to safeguard the livelihoods of women farmers, and provide them with land entitlements, since a 2018 report has found that women with inheritance and property rights earn four times more money.

The new farm laws, which eliminate the government middlemen agencies from crop sales, allowing farmers to sell to anyone in the country offering the best price, are also likely to harm women farmers. This is because women in India have a much lower mobility than men. Travelling to access better markets will be unfeasible for a large number of women farmers, thus limiting their market access. Further, the new laws also shift power from local courts to a new agricultural board for the solving of problems between farmers and traders or other agribusiness firms. In addition to lower mobility, women in India also face the problem of limited access to the legal system. In light of these two handicaps to women, supposing a trader or agribusiness firm files a claim in a distant jurisdiction, women farmers would be both unable to travel to settle the claims, as well as be at a disadvantage with regards to the legal system.

Thus, it is necessary to provide women farmers with the dignity, recognition and fundamental rights that they deserve by recognising their needs and plight. There is a need for more gender parity in agriculture. The way to incorporate this permanently would be to recognise women farmers as workers systematically - both legally and otherwise. We must get rid of the notion that the work undertaken by these women farmers is simply their duty to their families and a part of their care-giving responsibilities, and recognise it for what it actually is - hard labour.







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**CONVERSATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES:** The student-run publication is an in house, peer review journal of OP Jindal Global University which aims to promote a variety of perspectives from different scholars over a stated theme.

**INFOSPHERE:** Being the centre's latest research platform, InfoSphere offers a space for a fact-based, objective analysis on some of the most contemporary issues of economic and social policy concern in South Asia

**INTERLINKED:** Interlinked is a podcast series which focuses on topics relating globalisation. It provides valuable insights on global issues that help understand India better in its socio-political climate

**AZAAD AWAAZ:** This monthly magazine (Patrika) aims to focus on the marginalized sections whose voices are often muted in the cacophony of flashy mainstream media discourse.

**SWABHIMAAN:** The premise of Swabhimaan is based on the themes of Gender and Entrepreneurship but not limited to the conventional meanings they are commonly perceived as

**VISUAL STORY BOARD :** Visual Storyboards are an experimental method for visually archiving our research team's fieldwork, with a more exclusive focus on studying the lives and livelihoods of unsecured workers and communities across India.