



BINA AGARWAL

Women's struggle for land in South Asia: Can legal reforms trump social norms?

16:00–17:30 UTC+2

Thursday 9 December 2021

Online

wider.unu.edu

You are cordially invited to the WIDER Annual Lecture 25 given by Bina Agarwal, which will take place online on 9 December 2021.

WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR LAND IN SOUTH ASIA: CAN LEGAL REFORMS TRUMP SOCIAL NORMS?

A century has passed since women in Undivided India, now divided into several countries of South Asia, demanded equal rights in property — especially land, the most important means of production in developing economies.

The struggle continued after Independence. Today, the resultant

legal reforms have given a vast majority of women legal equality with men in India, and their rights in neighbouring countries—Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh—have also increased.

However, have changes in the law improved women's situation in practice?

Have they closed the gender gap in actual land ownership and trumped restrictive social norms and customs?

If not, is there a way forward?

Event starts 16:00 UCT+2 | 14:00 UK | 10:00 New York | 19:30 Delhi

The event will take place online.

SPEAKER

BINA AGARWAL is Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK. She has been Director of the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi; President of the International Society for Ecological Economics; President of the International Association for Feminist Economics; and Vice President of the International Economic Association. Educated at the Universities of Cambridge and Delhi, she has held many distinguished positions, including at Harvard, Princeton, Minnesota and Cambridge.

Agarwal brings to her work insights from both theory and field experience. She pioneered the issue of gender inequality in property and land in her award-winning book, *A Field of One's Own* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), placing the issue centrally on the global agenda



of governments, civil society, and international agencies. In 2005 she led a successful civil society campaign for amending India's Hindu Inheritance law to make it gender equal.

PROGRAMME

16:00–17:00

Welcome

Kunal Sen, Director of UNU-WIDER

Annual Lecture

Bina Agarwal, Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK

Remarks and observations from **Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Professor of international affairs at The New School in New York

17:00–17:30

Questions & answers

Register online:

wider.unu.edu/AL25