



REVISITING GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decades have passed since the pursuit of a sustainable future began with good intentions. However, the desired progress for sustainable development, as envisaged, still remains out of reach. Hence, based on the essence of various sustainable development goals and the pervasive gender disparity prevailing in our society a critical question arises: can true sustainability exist without gender equality? "Revisiting Gender Equality and Sustainable Development" is the theme of the third *International Conference* from Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nessa Centre for Gender and Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

We extend our invitations to researchers, policymakers, veteran activists, and professionals to join us in this dynamic forum. Throughout the conference, we will dissect the intricate interplay between gender and development, investigating how entrenched gender disparities impede our journey toward the course of sustainable development. Our discussions will explore how discriminations against women exacerbate environmental degradation, amplify climate vulnerability, and curtail women's access to education, resources, and decision-making power.

The conference aims to empower women in shaping sustainable development through a vibrant exchange of ideas. By fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, we aspire to unearth innovative strategies that bridge the gender gap, thereby paving the way for a future that is just and equitable for all.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Researchers, policymakers, and professionals both young and seasoned, as well as human rights activists, are all encouraged to submit their extended abstracts (800-1000 words) outlining the title, background, objectives, methodology, analysis, and expected outcomes; or full-length—unpublished papers—for consideration at this conference. Accepted submissions may be eligible for publication in a peer-reviewed journal/ edited book from the University of Dhaka/ other foreign publishers, subject to authors' consent. Faculty members and researchers from any department, as well as aspiring young researchers from around the globe, are welcome to submit their research for consideration at this conference.
- The application must include an EXTENDED abstract of 800-1000 words that was not published earlier or waiting for consideration in any other forum, along with three to five keywords, full institutional affiliation, postal and email addresses, and a brief profile (200-250 words) of the author. Applications should be submitted by individuals only; any single submission from a group of authors will not be considered.
- There is no restriction on age limit or country of origin.



- There will be **NO REGISTRATION FEES** for attending or presenting a paper at this conference.
- Participants will bear their travel expenses, accommodation costs, and meals (excluding the conference dinner and light refreshments).
- The deadline for submission of an **extended abstract (800-1000 words)** is 11.59 p.m. BST (midnight) on 10 June 2024 at bcgds@du.ac.bd.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for submission of extended abstracts 10 June 2024
- Notification of accepted abstracts: 20 June 2024
- Submission of full paper: 15 July 2024
- Submission of presentation slides: 21 July 2024
(**submissions after the deadline will not be accepted**)
- Conference Presentations: 07-08 August 2024

DAY 1: REGULAR SESSIONS

1.1 FEMINIST APPROACHES TO GOVERNANCE & POLICY-MAKING

An essential aspect of the conference revolves around the theme "Feminist approaches to governance and policy-making". This theme surpasses mere critique of existing political systems; rather, it underscores the transformative potential of feminist perspectives in reshaping society towards greater justice and equality. It places a primary focus on the challenges encountered by women and other marginalized communities. During this segment, professionals will explore how leadership guided by human rights principles and emphasizing collaboration can foster sustainable development.

This sub-theme explores the practical applications of feminist theory. Academics will scrutinize how women's leadership styles contribute to achieving sustainable development goals. Policymakers will discuss specific strategies to overcome existing barriers that prevent women and other marginalized groups from participating completely in politics. Additionally, advocates aiming to redefine security through the lens of human well-being will share their experiences.

Join us in a global conversation as we reimagine the political landscape, making feminism the cornerstone of a more just and equitable future for all.

1.2 WOMEN AS ECO-WARRIORS FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change poses a severe threat to human existence and development, with women disproportionately affected due to historical cultural norms and unequal power relations. Yet,



women also play crucial roles in combating the climate crisis, drawing on their traditional knowledge, innovation, voice, and leadership skills. Often referred to as "eco-warriors," women have been at the forefront of efforts to protect the environment since the 1990s.

From vigilant policy watchdogs to disruptors in the beauty industry; from advocates for ocean conservation to specialists in clean energy; from pioneers in organic fast food to experts in food waste management—anyone can be an eco-warrior. Through their diverse actions, women eco-warriors are making significant contributions to environmental protection worldwide, regardless of scale. Understanding their efforts and challenges is crucial for developing gender-responsive policies and interventions that address the social and environmental impacts of climate change equitably. In this theme “women as eco-warriors”, we welcome submissions of original research and examples of best practices that integrate gender justice and climate justice perspectives to foster a sustainable future for our planet.

1.3 SHECONOMICS AND WOMEN’S INFLUENCE ON TRADE & BUSINESS

The conference highlights the significance of economic empowerment in achieving both goals. In light of this, the "SHEconomics" sub-theme focuses on developing a feminist economic model centered on women's leadership, participation, and access to resources available. It also explores deeper than simply acknowledging the gender pay gap. Researchers will explore actionable strategies to eliminate financial barriers that impede female employees and entrepreneurs. Additionally, the sub-theme aims to examine the transformative impact of fair-trade practices. By ensuring women receive fair wages for their labor, fair-trade empowers them to play a more active role in the global economy.

The "SHEconomics" aims to achieve several goals: defining key components of a feminist economic model for economic justice and gender equality, proposing solutions to financial barriers for women in work and business, exploring how fair-trade practices empower female workers, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to create a fairer and more inclusive global economy.

1.4 PROMOTING POSITIVE MASCULINITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This groundbreaking sub-theme challenges traditional ideas of masculinity and explores constructive alternatives. It probes into how positive masculinities foster emotional intelligence, social justice activism, and responsible leadership, contributing to a more just and inclusive society. However, "Positive Masculinity" isn't just theoretical—it also explores actionable strategies for engaging boys and men in the crucial efforts for gender equality and sustainable development. We invite researchers and educators to integrate a consciousness-based approach to involve men and boys in inclusive development. Share your insights on equipping them with the values and knowledge to become stewards of progress. Additionally, activists leading movements for positive change will discuss their experiences and strategies for engaging men and boys.



This sub-theme urges men and boys to join the effort in creating a more just and sustainable world for everyone. Let's redefine masculinity together, envisioning a future where men and boys work alongside women to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.5 WEIGHING SILENT SCARS AND UNVEILING THE TRUE COSTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence (GBV) carries significant societal costs, affecting multiple dimensions. These costs include economic, social, and psychological impacts, both tangible and intangible. Its pervasive reach extends to individuals, communities, and institutions, burdening different sectors including healthcare, legal, and social support systems. Moreover, GBV hinders progress toward gender equality and human rights.

The costs of the GBV extend beyond the victim to include the perpetrator and the children of the family, exacerbated by lengthy legal processes. Additionally, violence in public spaces instills fear and limits freedom of movement, reducing participation in social and economic activities. This sub-theme invites diverse and thought-provoking research on these issues.

DAY 2: REGULAR SESSIONS

2.1 RETHINKING CARE WORK FOR ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

This conference emphasizes the often overlooked aspect of care work in our society. Under the sub-theme, we explore the opportunities and challenges surrounding eldercare, childcare, and the emotional labor that underpins our lives. This sub-theme aims to initiate a vibrant discussion by reevaluating the preset societal perception and value of caregiving, historically shouldered predominantly by women. It further explores various areas, including the effects of emotional labor on mental health and strategies for achieving a fairer distribution of this invisible workload. It encompasses discussions on how to socially acknowledge unpaid care work, urging submissions that move beyond monetary recognition to consider qualitative aspects such as caregiver well-being and dignity.

Together, let's work on reshaping the future of caregiving. This dialogue aims to promote shared responsibility, support, and recognition for paid caregiving across genders and ages, fostering a more equitable and sustainable future.



2.2 EMPOWERING INNOVATION THROUGH WOMEN'S DIGITAL INCLUSION

The sub-theme explores the untapped potential of women for digital innovation beyond mere access. We seek research showcasing women actively shaping the future of technology, including their groundbreaking work in AI and robotics, strategies for bridging the gender gap in STEM fields, and leadership in developing environmentally conscious tech solutions.

This sub-theme celebrates women's tech achievements and seeks solutions for gender equality in the industry. Through a global dialogue, we can empower women as leaders, shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future driven by technology.

2.3 CONFRONTING GENDER JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS

The conference addresses a fundamental aspect of social justice with the sub-theme "Confronting Gender Justice and Human Rights". This segment explores the legal frameworks essential for a rights-based approach to achieving gender equality.

Beyond merely enlisting existing legal instruments; the programme aims for research papers offering critical analyses. Scholars are invited to delve into how current laws are implemented to guarantee equal rights, opportunities, and access for all genders.

The sub-theme invites research on the effectiveness of legal frameworks in tackling gender-based violence, discrimination, and resource access issues; the impact of international human rights law and national legal systems on gender equality; and the challenges and opportunities in enhancing legal frameworks to support diverse gender identities.

Join us for a crucial discussion on legal instruments shaping a fairer world.

2.4 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & GENDER EQUALITY IN MEDIA PLATFORMS

This sub-theme envisions a world where media platforms, both local and global, showcase diverse voices, reflecting women's experiences. This goes beyond acknowledging women's underrepresentation in media. We will explore persistent challenges, such as unconscious bias and limited opportunities, and uncover opportunities for transformation. This sub-theme seeks research papers critically analyzing the existing media landscape. We invite submissions examining how stereotypes influence narratives and constrain women's voices. We'll celebrate women who lead in journalism, media, and content creation, reshaping narratives. Exploring inclusive media strategies, from hiring to content creation and ownership, is also on the agenda. Join us to discuss how media shapes perceptions and drives social changes. Let's work together to create a more gender-equal media landscape, empowering women to redefine representation and foster a more equitable and sustainable future.



DAY 2: PLENARY SESSION

REVISITING SDGs PROGRESS THROUGH THE GENDER LENS

Participants and audience members are warmly invited to a thought-provoking plenary session titled "**Revisiting SDGs Progress through Gender Lens**" where we will challenge the idea of a single approach to achieving Gender Equality across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our diverse panel of experts will explore how gender and intersectionality lenses can inform progress across all the SDG goals.

We will go beyond acknowledging the importance of gender equality in achieving the SDGs. We will also look into how current definitions of success might overlook the challenges encountered by women and marginalized communities. In the session, the panelists will explore:

- The limitations of current metrics in capturing the experiences of women and diverse groups within SDGs progress measurement.
- The significance of integrating intersectional approaches that acknowledge how gender intersects with factors such as race, class, and disability.
- Exploring innovative strategies to construct more inclusive and equitable frameworks for attaining sustainable development goals.

Join us to reshape how we measure success. Integrating gender and intersectionality into the SDGs paves a path toward inclusivity where no one will be left behind.

**For more information
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