

THE GLOBAL
URBAN ECONOMIC
DIALOGUE SERIES

GENDER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**THE GLOBAL
URBAN ECONOMIC
DIALOGUE SERIES**

GENDER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme
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UN  HABITAT

The Global Urban Economic Dialogue Series

Gender and Economic Development

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FOREWORD



Urbanization is one of the most powerful, irreversible forces in the world. It is estimated that 93 percent of the future urban population growth will occur in the cities of Asia and

Africa, and to a lesser extent, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We live in a new urban era with most of humanity now living in towns and cities.

Global poverty is moving into cities, mostly in developing countries, in a process we call the *urbanisation of poverty*.

The world's slums are growing and growing as are the global urban populations. Indeed, this is one of the greatest challenges we face in the new millennium.

The persistent problems of poverty and slums are in large part due to weak urban economies. Urban economic development is fundamental to UN-HABITAT's mandate. Cities act as engines of national economic development. Strong urban economies are essential for poverty reduction and the provision of adequate housing, infrastructure, education, health, safety, and basic services.

The Global Urban Economic Dialogue series presented here is a platform for all sectors of the society to address urban economic development and particularly its contribution to addressing housing issues. This work carries many new ideas, solutions and innovative best practices from some of the world's leading urban thinkers and practitioners from international organisations, national governments, local authorities, the private sector, and civil society.

This series also gives us an interesting insight and deeper understanding of the wide range of urban economic development and human settlements development issues. It will serve UN member States well in their quest for better policies and strategies to address increasing global challenges in these areas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	III
ABBREVIATIONS	VII
LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES	VIII
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW	1
CHAPTER TWO: A HISTORY OF GENDER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THOUGHT AND POLICY APPROACHES	2
2.1 From Women in Development to Gender and Development	2
2.2 Gender and Development in the Institutional Mainstream	6
2.3 Mainstreaming Gender	8
CHAPTER THREE: STATISTICAL OVERVIEW	10
3.1 Employment Indicators	11
3.2 Millennium Development Goals Indicators	17
3.3 Composite Indices	19
3.4 Summary	28
3.4.1 By Indicator	28
3.4.2 By Region	31
CHAPTER FOUR: AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR GENDER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: MICRO-MESO-MACRO	34
4.1 Bargaining and Autonomy in the Household	34
4.1.1 Choices and Constraints	34
4.1.2 An Intra-Household Bargaining Model	35
4.1.3 Intra-Household Bargaining and Gender Equality	38
4.1.4 Autonomy and Empowerment	39
4.2 A Gender-Aware View of the Macroeconomy	40
CHAPTER FIVE: GLOBALIZATION, LIBERALIZATION, AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	44
5.1 Globalization and Women's Employment	44
5.2 Supply and Demand of Social Protection and Women's Empowerment	45
5.3 Making Globalization Work for Women's Empowerment	49
5.3.1 Labor Market Norms and Human Capital	50
5.3.2 Localizing Firms and Increasing Women's Entrepreneurship	50

5.3.3 Social Protections	51
5.4.4 International and Macroeconomic Policies	51
CHAPTER SIX: THE GENDERED TERRAIN OF CENTRAL BANK POLICY	53
6.1 Gender Differences in Employment and Unemployment in Developing Countries	53
6.2 The Gendered Political Economy of Central Bank Policy	56
6.3 Gender-Sensitive Employment Targeting	58
CHAPTER SEVEN: GENDER EQUALITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	59
7.1 Gender and Growth Theory	60
7.2 Direct Effects	62
7.2.1 Macroeconomic Studies	62
7.2.2 Microeconomic Studies	62
7.3 Externalities	63
7.3.1 Fertility	64
7.3.2 Good Mothers	64
7.3.3 Corruption	65
7.4 When Inequality Contributes to Growth	65
CHAPTER EIGHT: A MACROECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPMENT AND CARE	67
8.1 Estimates of Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries	68
8.2 Economic Development and Unpaid Care Work	73
8.3 Gender Inequality and the Macroeconomic Relevance of Care	74
CHAPTER NINE: CONCLUDING REMARKS	77
9.1 Gender Differences in Economic Development	77
9.2 Causal Mechanisms	78
9.3 On the Importance of Promoting Gender Equality	79
REFERENCES	80
APPENDIX A	92

ABBREVIATIONS

DAW	United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
E	Exit
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G	Level of Globalization
GAD	Gender and Development
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEI	Social Watch Gender Equity Index
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GEP	Gender-specific Environmental Parameter
GGG	Global Gender Gap Index
HDI	Human Development Index
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization
K	Physical Capital
L	Labor
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDG3	Millennium Development Goal 3
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
P	Population
PC	Provisioning Capacity
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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