

SPECIAL ISSUE

Seen, Heard and Counted: Rethinking Care in a Development Context

Edited By **Shahra Razavi**

The issue of care has been the subject of extensive scholarly debate with reference to the advanced industrialized countries and their welfare regimes. In the developing world, economic restructuring has raised concerns about social reproduction in general, and women's increasing burdens of unpaid care work more specifically. While the present moment may not be marked by a generalized care crisis, systems of care provision are under strain in some contexts and for some social groups. Furthermore, care has emerged, or is emerging, as a legitimate subject of public debate and policy on the agendas of some social movements and other civil society actors, developing country governments, and international organizations. Governments are experimenting with new ways of responding to care needs in their societies. However, these have been insufficiently recognized and analyzed — a lacuna that the present collection of papers, bringing together analyses from diverse regional contexts, seeks to address. In an increasingly unequal world, where gender inequalities intersect with ever-widening income inequalities, and where the options for securing good care are limited for the socially disadvantaged, the failure to socialize the costs of care will feed into and exacerbate existing inequalities.

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