



Indian Council of
Social Science Research



Researching Gender during Covid-19: Interdisciplinary Challenges

22-23rd September 2022

Concept Note for Virtual Seminar

Background

The Covid19 crisis is complex and cross-cutting. Its effects are not gender neutral; impacting women and men in differential ways. For instance, while men reportedly registered a higher fatality rate women and girls are particularly affected in the social, economic, physical and sexual domains (UN Women 2020). Even as individual experiences may be determined by varied social and economic determinants it is increasingly apparent that Covid 19 influenced women and girls in gender-specific ways. There is however relatively little data or information regarding the differential impact of Covid-19 on girls and women despite institutional initiatives for gender-specific policy responses. Emerging reports indicate strong evidence of gender-specific implications for women across social domains.

For instance, Covid-19 heightened women's care work and responsibilities with reduced access for women to basic services, especially for underprivileged women. Further, even as "women are over-represented working in health systems, they continue to do the majority of unpaid care work in households, face high risks of economic insecurity and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis and quarantine. Women's access to health services especially with regard to sexual and reproductive health are particularly affected. The pandemic has had, and will continue to have a major impact on the health and well-being of many vulnerable groups. Women are among those most heavily affected."¹

Higher education, academia and academic activity was likewise affected by Covid-19 in different ways. Lockdown measures disrupted face-to-face teaching and ended student-faculty interface. Academic institutions switched to online teaching and webinars yet this particular mode was not always accessible to students residing in areas with poor connectivity. Research students, especially those with a field research component were unable to collect field data for their academic work. Academic institutions face reduced funding and budget cuts.

¹ OECD Policy Response to COVID19. Women at the Core of the fight against Covid19 crisis.

At the same time however, increased dependence on the online mode opened up the possibility of using the virtual mode to facilitate collaboration across different disciplines, institutions and regions, increase opportunities to present and share data, and enhance greater interaction between academics and researchers. In all these respects, academic and research engagement was rendered more dynamic with the prospective potential for greater impact.

Taking advantage of the virtual mode, Centre for Women's Development Studies shall host a two-day virtual seminar (on Zoom) entitled '**Researching Gender during Covid-19: Interdisciplinary Challenges' on 22-23 September 2022**'. The seminar is an opportunity for greater, deeper inter-disciplinary, intersectional research across disciplinary areas both as a way to recover from the disruptions caused by Covid19 crisis, and as a method of institutional and academic consolidation. Individual presenters from different disciplinary backgrounds are invited to make presentations on different gender dimensions of Covid19.

Presentation Themes:

Gender perspectives on the following general panel themes on Covid19 are proposed for participant presentations. Presentations time for each participant is 20 minutes followed by 10 min discussion.

- Women's Employment
- Gender and Health
- Gender-based Violence
- Gender and Disability
- Caste and Gender
- Gender Dimensions of Migration
- Academic Research and Field Work

Please mail your abstracts to: seminar@cwds.ac.in

Last date of Abstract submission: 28th August, 2022