



Labouring women and the economy in contemporary neoliberal India

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ABSTRACT:

The rise of neoliberalism is associated with rises in women workforce participation rates (WWPRs) - a process known as the feminization of labour. The lecture reviews the general debate and evidence on feminization, discusses its major drivers, and assesses the extent to which such process is at work in the Indian case. Evidence will be drawn from both general data as well as field-based accounts. The lecture places particular emphasis on the gendered patterns of labour control at work in India, in both factory and non-factory settings, and raises some questions over the nature of possible interventions in favour of women workers.

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Sonali Das, Sonali Jain-Chandra, Kalpana Kochhar, and Naresh Kumar, (2015) Women Workers in India: Why So Few Among So Many? IMF working paper 15/55, available at

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2015/wp1555.pdf>

*Explore the WIEGO literature on women workers here <http://wiego.org/informal-economy/occupational-groups/garment-workers>