

Colloque international

Le retour des **INÉGALITÉS ?**

Ce que disent les sciences des populations

SESSION 5: Inequalities and ENVIRONMENT

Increasing gender inequalities while attaining millennium development in Indian Himalaya

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In Himalaya, due to constraints of subsistence farming a large proportion of male youth out-migrates in search of employment leading feminization of agriculture and natural resource development process. However, women have restricted ownership of natural resources limited access to assets and amenities of life. Furthermore, depletion of natural resources and climate have increased male out-migration increasing work-load, responsibilities and vulnerabilities of women. As a result, majority of socioeconomic development programmes could not help in attaining Millennium Development Goals in terms of 'gender equity and women's empowerment' in Himalaya. Study analyzed impact of various ongoing women's mainstreaming and empowerment initiatives on gender equality based on empirical study of women's access to primary education, health care services and food and nutrition carried out in 62 villages covering 2197 families in Kumaon Himalaya. It was observed women's empowerment programmes failed to reduce gender gap as women's access to primary education, food and nutrition and health services declined, and female-child mortality rate increased during last 15 years increasing gender gap through further marginalization and poverty of women. This underlines need of transformative policy using 'educational empowerment of women' as strategic tool for reducing gender inequality instead of economic empowerment.

Urban deprivation and social vulnerability in Indian slums: A history of social exclusion

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Urban deprivation and social vulnerability are two most recent and researchable topic in urban geography. In this paper secondary as well as primary data have been analysed to examine uneven distribution of urban deprivation across space and social groups. Secondary data shows that east Indian states are less urbanized than west and south Indian states; slum dwellers of these states are living in extremely deplorable condition and do not have

access to basic amenities and infrastructure. Kolkata is the only primate city of east India and was established during the colonial time for trade and administrative purpose. The city exhibits that peripheral areas are mostly deprived in terms of access to infrastructure and amenities; these peripheral areas contain most of the slum population of the city and are mostly inhabited by socially marginalized people (Scheduled Caste/ Dalit/ lower caste people). The main question addressed here is why urban deprivation is concentrated in these particular areas and why a certain section of population is socially vulnerable. The findings reveal that vulnerable population groups live in marshy areas near around Kolkata and they were kept excluded for long time. Long time social exclusion has made these groups economically least privileged and therefore they still bear the legacy of deprivation.

Environmental living conditions and urbanization in Africa : measuring inequality and trends in inequality

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Sub-Saharan African cities have grown significantly in terms of population and area in the last 30 years, leading to a profound transformation in their environments. The advance of urban areas fuelled by population growth has not always come hand in hand with healthy living and environmental conditions for the new populations. According to a UN-Habitat estimate, 62% of city dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa live in urban areas where the environmental living conditions pose a number of risks for the well-being, health and even survival of the population, and more generally speaking, undermine their development abilities. The work presented in this paper is aimed at documenting the degree of inequalities in terms of environmental living conditions and the health and social consequences for the inhabitants. The objective is also to examine the relevance of the indicators generally used to measure those inequalities as well as the relevance of the data and the way they are built and used, both at scientific level (methodological) and in response to issues in sustainable human development.