

Economics Seminar, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

SPEAKER: Kanika Mahajan , ISI, Delhi.

TITLE: **Women's Labour Force Participation in India: What explains its decline?.**

TIME: 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

DAY & DATE: Friday, 31st January, 2014.

PLACE: Seminar Room 2

Abstract:

India, over the past few decades has witnessed a decline in the labor market participation by rural women. Over the same time period, the country has witnessed an increase in education attainment by males and females as well as rapid economic growth. The increasing education and growth levels have thus not been able to translate into greater attachment to the labor force by females. This paper aims to understand the possible reasons behind the decline in female participation rates in the Indian labor market over the past 25 years. We use parametric and semi-parametric decomposition techniques to estimate the proportion of the fall in participation rates which can be explained by changing characteristics of the female working age population and other changing household characteristics. The results show that rising education levels amongst rural married females is the most important factor in explaining the decline amongst the supply side factors. We then present a theoretical model which shows that female work force participation may decline with rising education levels when the role of home production is incorporated.

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