



WHAT IS WEESA?

Women's Economic Empowerment in South Asia (WEESA) is a dynamic community of practice that strives to foster regional exchange, dialogue, and capacity building on issues related to women's economic empowerment (WEE) in South Asia. WEESA is dedicated to promoting gender equality and advancing economic opportunities for women. It is hosted by the World Bank's South Asia Gender Innovation Lab (SAR GIL).



WHY JOIN OUR COMMUNITY?



WEBSITE for knowledge sharing and collaboration

WEESA serves as a **virtual hub for researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, and development practitioners** interested in expanding and accelerating WEE and gender equality in South Asia. Through our community of practice, members can engage in vibrant discussions, share experiences, and collaborate on innovative approaches to empower women economically.



RESOURCE REPOSITORY to expand knowledge and evidence-base

WEESA provides a **comprehensive repository of curated WEE-related resources**. This repository serves as a valuable reference for members, offering a wealth of research papers, reports, case studies, toolkits, and best practices. Accessing this repository equips individuals and organizations with the necessary knowledge to drive evidence-based action in their respective fields.



MONTHLY DIGEST to stay updated with the latest research

Our carefully curated **newsletter, delivered once a month to your inbox, features research reports, blogs, and stories on a specific theme**. While maintaining a focus on South Asia, we strive to give a global perspective and include links to outstanding research and best practices on WEE issues from around the world -- with special attention to randomized control trials and impact evaluations, including those produced by researchers at the World Bank and the South Asia Gender Innovation Lab.



Learning events covering groundbreaking research

WEESA hosts a series of **webinars and events** that highlight key issues, emerging trends, and successful practices in women's economic empowerment. These gatherings provide a platform for experts, practitioners, and thought leaders to share their insights, exchange ideas, and spark meaningful discussions focused on "what works" for advancing WEE in South Asia.



Small grants to foster knowledge generation locally

WEESA understands the importance of supporting local organizations and researchers in their efforts to promote WEE. To facilitate action on the ground, WEESA occasionally issues **calls for research proposals** that provide small grants to eligible researchers in South Asia. These grants aim to support innovative research studies that address WEE-related challenges and opportunities faced by women in different contexts.



OUR GOALS

1 ENHANCE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SKILLS

WEESA is committed to ensuring that women have equal access to the resources and skills necessary for economic success. We showcase research that examines WEE-related factors or themes and cross-tabulate these with South Asian countries, including capital, markets, entrepreneurship, childcare, training, measurement, digital inclusion, social norms, and self-efficacy, among others. Through these resources and targeted interventions, we aim to equip women with the tools they need to thrive in the modern economy.

2 PROMOTE GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

WEESA actively promotes gender-responsive policies and practices at the regional, national, and local levels. We work with decision-makers, policymakers, and stakeholders to advocate for policies that address gender gaps, eliminate discrimination, and create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. By influencing policy change, we seek to support inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in South Asia.

3 CATALYZE EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION

WEESA is committed to translating evidence into action. We believe in the power of evidence-based solutions to drive meaningful change. By promoting research, monitoring and evaluation, and data-driven decision-making, we aim to catalyze effective interventions and policies that have a lasting impact on women's economic empowerment in South Asia.



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!

www.weesacop.org or write to weesacop@worldbank.org



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