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Author: Chirantan Chatterjee, Swapnika Ramu

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**Special Issue on Innovation, Intellectual Property Rights & Competition in India****ROUND TABLE****Gender and its Rising Role in Modern Indian Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Chirantan Chatterjee (PhD)<sup>a, b, \*</sup>, & Swapnika Ramu (PhD)<sup>b, 1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Indian School of Business, Mohali, Punjab, India. Email: [chirantan@gmail.com](mailto:chirantan@gmail.com)

Phone: +91-172-4591800

<sup>b</sup> Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

**Key words:** India; Gender; Innovation; Entrepreneurship; Patents; Women in entrepreneurship; Commercialisation; Science and technology

**Short title:** Gender and modern Indian innovation and entrepreneurship

**Abstract:**

While innovation, entrepreneurship, and science and technology activities are today increasingly being dominated by women in India, there still exist significant gaps before women can achieve parity with men. This paper traces, through a literature survey, the historical role of women in entrepreneurship and patenting endeavours, and the barriers to greater female participation in innovation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields in emerging economies like India. The survey segues into a round table discussion with a distinguished set of women entrepreneurs, academics and scientists on the challenges to the participation of women in Indian innovation and entrepreneurship and how it could be facilitated.

**Introduction**

When seeking to understand the factors that influence and promote entrepreneurship and innovation, the role of gender is gaining increasing importance. A number of studies have applied a gender-based lens to various measures of innovative activity, such as the participation of women in patent filing.<sup>2</sup> While a more detailed discussion of such studies follows, a

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\* Corresponding author

<sup>1</sup>Chirantan Chatterjee is currently a faculty member at Indian School of Business and was previously with IIM Bangalore. Swapnika Ramu was a pedagogical research fellow at IIM Bangalore when this article was written. They may be contacted at [chirantan@gmail.com](mailto:chirantan@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Hunt, J., Garant, J.-P., Herman, H. and Munroe, D.J. 2012. "Why don't women patent?" NBER Working Paper No. 17888.

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