

## **Development Has a Woman's Face Insights from within the UN**

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This book analyzes the concepts that have transformed the 'woman question' into the current notion of 'gender mainstreaming' from 1970s to 2005. For example, take the question of the redefinition of 'economic activity' -- a large area considered non-economic in traditional definitions. Another concept can be illustrated by the tools and techniques devised to measure and quantify economic contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and the system of national accounts. Does it matter if an economy accounts for all women's work paid and unpaid, inside and outside the house? The answer given by several surveys and reports show that its relevance lies in a very simple conclusion and that is women are poorer than men anywhere, everywhere. How did poverty acquire a gender bias? Are the causes that procure this remarkable gender bias connected to any particular system government or economic structure ? If not then wherein lies the problem? Is the segregation of occupations in the labor market to determine the inequality of remuneration between women and men ? How is the political drama of women's entry into the labor market connected to the legislative provisions to protect maternity rights and parental leave? What was the political prerequisite to create basic needs strategies at a global level when in fact women were meeting these minimum needs at the household level ? As women attempt to climb step by step the corporate ladder at the macro level there is a tremendous upheaval in current strategies to discuss micro enterprises and micro credits for women. Why should the gender division of labor signify big money for men and small money for women? No matter which process of the development paradigm is analyzed, its hidden economic reality touches the profile of a woman.

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