

CALL FOR PAPERS

Aequitas: A Xaverian Journal of Gender Studies

Aequitas (origin of the English word, equity) is a multi-disciplinary double blind peer-reviewed journal of Centre for Gender Studies, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. It intends to publish articles on gender in a variety of fields such as social, natural, and health sciences, arts, humanities, literature, and popular culture. We are looking for articles that investigate gender and the social construction of gender relationships. Contributions are encouraged to challenge existing social attitudes and academic biases that obstruct a comprehensive understanding of the role of the family, particularly its female members in the community.

THEME - GENDER, SUSTAINABILITY, AND WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, provide a framework for addressing poverty, inequality, education, health, decent work, environmental sustainability, and inclusive development. Gender equality, recognised through SDG 5, is both an independent development objective and a critical component of achieving the broader goals of sustainable development.

India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 presents an opportunity to examine the relationship between inclusive development, women's empowerment, and social transformation. A sustainable and equitable development pathway requires attention to women's participation in economic, social, educational, cultural, and community life. It also calls for reflection on the structural inequalities, social expectations, and institutional practices that shape women's opportunities and experiences.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides an additional framework for examining equitable access to education, inclusive learning, skill development, multidisciplinary knowledge, and the role of education in building an equitable and sustainable society. These perspectives create opportunities to explore gender equality not only through economic growth and employment, but also through education, family, healthcare, social justice, cultural representation, and environmental responsibility.

This volume of Aequitas invites theoretical and empirical research that critically examines the relationship between gender, sustainability, and development. Contributions may explore how women and girls experience, contribute to, and shape sustainable development across different social and cultural contexts. We encourage interdisciplinary, multi-method, qualitative, and quantitative approaches that investigate both the opportunities and the inequalities associated with sustainable and inclusive development.

We welcome contributions that examine the lived experiences of women across diverse communities and social locations. Authors are encouraged to challenge established social

attitudes, gender stereotypes, and academic biases, while recognising the significance of women's knowledge, agency, participation, and leadership in shaping families, communities, and society.

The journal welcomes research that draws on diverse cultural contexts and, where relevant, works not published in English, to provide space and give voice to scholarship emerging from different linguistic and social settings.

POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTEREST

Please note that the list of topics below represents propositions and is not exhaustive.

1. Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 5: Gender Equality and its connections with other SDGs
- Gender, poverty, and social inequality
- Women and sustainable livelihoods
- Gender-responsive approaches to development
- Women's participation in achieving the SDGs
- Gender, social justice, and inclusive communities

2. Women-Led Development and Viksit Bharat 2047

- Women's empowerment and India's development vision
- Women entrepreneurs and self-help groups
- Women in rural and community development
- Women's participation in governance and decision-making
- Financial inclusion and women's economic independence
- Women, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- Gender equality and inclusive economic growth

3. Education and NEP 2020

- Gender equality in school and higher education
- Women's participation in STEM and multidisciplinary education
- Gender stereotypes in education and career choices
- Skill development and employability of women
- Inclusive and equitable education
- Women's access to digital and financial literacy
- Education, social mobility, and empowerment

4. Work and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Women's participation in the formal and informal economy
- Unpaid household and caregiving work
- Women in agriculture and sustainable livelihoods
- Gender, decent work, and social protection

- Women in the gig economy
- Entrepreneurship and women's economic autonomy
- Gender-based inequalities in employment and access to resources

5. Family and Social Transformation

- Changing gender roles within families
- Women, care work, and social reproduction
- Gender, marriage, and household decision-making
- Women's autonomy and economic independence
- Intergenerational perspectives on gender equality
- Family, social expectations, and women's empowerment
- Gender and community participation

6. Health and Well-Being

- Women's access to healthcare and health equity
- Gender and reproductive health
- Nutrition, food security, and women's well-being
- Mental health and gendered social expectations
- Women, ageing, and caregiving
- Gender, sanitation, and public health
- Health inequalities among socially and economically marginalised women

7. Gender and Environmental Sustainability

- Women and sustainable resource management
- Gender, climate change, and community resilience
- Women and sustainable agriculture
- Access to water, sanitation, and clean energy
- Gender and environmental justice
- Women-led environmental and community initiatives
- Gender perspectives on sustainable consumption and livelihoods

8. Culture, Literature, and Popular Media

- Representations of women in Indian cinema and popular culture
- Gender, sustainability, and cultural narratives
- Women's voices in literature and storytelling
- Gender stereotypes and social attitudes
- Gender and cultural change
- Women's representation in advertising and digital media
- Feminist and intersectional approaches to development

9. Law and Social Justice

- Women's rights and access to justice

- Gender-based violence and institutional responses
- Gender equality and legal frameworks
- Women's participation in public institutions
- Gender, caste, class, disability, and social exclusion
- Women and access to land, property, and productive resources
- Legal and policy approaches to women's empowerment

10. Technology and Inclusive Futures

- Women and digital inclusion
- Gender and access to emerging technologies
- Women in innovation and research
- Digital skills and economic opportunities
- Gender biases in technology and education
- Technology, social transformation, and inclusive development
- Women's participation in shaping sustainable futures

We encourage submissions that connect gender equality with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals, the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, or the principles of inclusive education and social development. Contributions need not be limited to policy-oriented research and may include critical, theoretical, qualitative, quantitative, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Interested contributors are highly encouraged to submit their manuscripts at: cgs_aequitas@sxccal.edu

- Abstract Submission – **30th October 2026 (Word Limit: 200 words)**
- Full Paper Submission – **31st December 2026 (Word Limit: 3000-5000 words)**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Manuscripts must be written in MS Word using Times New Roman.

- Set line spacing of paragraph to 1.15 and before and after spacing at 12 excluding reference section.
- For references, set paragraph spacing to 1.15, before and after spacing at 6 and indentation hanging 3.37.
- First level heading of manuscript – bold, UPPERCASE, font size 12 (e.g., 1. INTRODUCTION).
- Second level heading – bold, italics, font size 12 (e.g., 1.1 Background).
- Third level heading – italics, font size 12 (e.g., 1.1.1 Theoretical Background).
- Fourth level heading – font size 11 (e.g., 1.1.1.1 Limitations).
- Title: Brief, specific and informative title should be written in UPPERCASE, bold, font size 14.

- Authors: Only names of authors (no salutation) to be typed (bold, font size 12). Asterisk the author to whom the correspondence is to be addressed.
- Affiliation: Affiliation and address of the institution where the work was carried out (font size 11).
- E-Mail ID: Email ID of all the authors (font size 11, italics).
- Abstract: Abstract should be informative and completely self-explanatory, briefly present the topic, state the scope of the experiments, indicate significant data, and point out major findings and conclusions. Abstract should be in about 150 to 200 words. Standard nomenclature should be used and abbreviations should be avoided. No literature should be cited here (font size: 11, italics).
- Keywords: Five relevant keywords should be listed in alphabetical order (font size: 11, italics).
- Introduction: Should be kept brief.
- Literature Survey: The review of the literature should be pertinent to the theme of the paper. Extensive review and unnecessary detail of earlier work should be avoided.
- Methodology: It should inform the reader about appropriate methodology, but if known methods have been adopted, only references need to be cited. It should comprise the experimental design and techniques in detail. Authors can indicate here the time-period and place (university/institute), where the present experiment was conducted.
- Table numbers should be followed by the title of the table. Line drawings/photographs should contain figure number and description thereof. The corresponding number(s) of Tables and Figures should be mentioned in the text. No colour image is accepted.
- Results and Discussion: It should be combined to avoid repetition. The results should not be repeated in both tables and figures. The discussion should relate to the significance of the observations.
- Conclusion and Acknowledgement.
- References: Aequitas Journal adheres to the APA reference style. View APA guidelines to ensure your manuscript conforms to this reference style. (<https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/reference-guide.pdf>)¹

PLAGIARISM CHECKING POLICY

The research work carried out by the contributors must be based on original ideas, which shall include abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations, results, conclusions and recommendations only and shall not have any similarities. Reproducing text from other papers without properly crediting the source (plagiarism) or producing many papers with almost the same content by the same authors (self-plagiarism) is not acceptable. Submitting the same results to more than one journal concurrently is unethical. Authors may not present results obtained by others as if they were their own. Authors should acknowledge the work of others

¹ <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition-introduction.pdf>

used in their research and cite publications that have influenced the direction and course of their study.

Similarity score of submitted manuscript will be considered as per UGC Guidelines. It will be checked by iThenticate software.

Similarities up to 10% – Minor similarities, no penalty.

The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following:

- All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution.
- All references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgements.
- All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standard equations.
- Common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words.

POLICY ON USE OF CHATGPT AND GENERATIVE AI TOOLS

Authors are required to:

- Clearly indicate the use of language models in the manuscript, including which model was used and for what purpose. Please use the methods or acknowledgements section, as appropriate.
- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by language models and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
- Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by language models. Double-check citations to ensure that they are accurate and properly referenced.

OFFICIAL POLICY CONTEXT FOR THE EDITORIAL RATIONALE

- India's Voluntary National Review 2025 links progress toward the 2030 SDGs with the longer-term Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and discusses women's empowerment as part of this development trajectory.²
- The Ministry of Education's discussion of NEP 2020 connects the policy with SDG 4 and the goal of building an equitable and sustainable knowledge society.³

² <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-08/india-voluntary-national-review.pdf>

³ <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2114325&lang=2®=48>