

Biography



Prof. Hema Swaminathan
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Professor Swaminathan's recent and ongoing research focuses on inequality in income and wealth distributions between men and women and its implications for welfare outcomes. She was a co-PI on the Gender Asset Gap project, a comparative study of Ecuador, Ghana and Karnataka (India). Housed in IIMB, the project was initiated in 2009 to demonstrate the importance and feasibility of collecting individual-level data on women's and men's access to and ownership of property. Among many other analyses, the data has generated the first ever estimates of gender asset and wealth gaps. The project was funded by grants from the Dutch Foreign Ministry's MDG3 Fund, the Vanguard Foundation, the UN Foundation, and UN Women.

Her other research interests include the understanding the links between economic growth and women's labour supply in India and the effect of policy initiatives on health outcomes. Swaminathan is also working on survey methodology to collect improved data on several domains; individual-level data asset ownership and wealth, decision making by women, and women's engagement with the labour market in developing countries.