



## Economica Politica

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# Special issue on *Pandemics, Women and the Global South*

**Epidemics and pandemics have a devastating effect on all sections of society, as evidenced most recently in the recent COVID-19 crisis.** These events invariably have a disproportionate effect on some sections of the population. Emerging evidence indicates that while women often tend to be less vulnerable to the disease in terms of morbidity and mortality (barring comorbidities), they bear a disproportionately larger brunt of the economic and social disruptions that accompany these public health disasters. This is especially so for women in poor households in the Global South, and race and ethnicity can create special vulnerabilities, as noted under Covid-19. Existing gender and class inequalities also tend to get exacerbated all round.

**So far, the gendered impact of pandemics has been relatively under researched.** There are at least five interrelated areas that merit further investigation: Poverty and livelihood vulnerability, food security, formal and informal employment, education, health care access. Some of these effects may be felt immediately, others in the long term as economies face recession, rising unemployment, and slow recoveries. How do these effects play out across gender, class and race intersectionalities? What is the emerging data and evidence? What is the role of communities, the state and civil society in this regard, and what can be done to design public policy to tackle such challenges in the future.

Equally, in many regions, women — from grassroots workers to top political leaders — are reported to have played very important roles in crisis management, and in formulating and implementing creative solutions to address these issues.

This special issue will focus both on the impact of pandemics (past and current) on women and their responses to it, especially in the developing world.

# Guest Editors



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