

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Why is it a man's world, after all? Women on bank boards in India

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PII: S0939-3625(16)30101-7
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.ecosys.2016.05.007>
Reference: ECOSYS 588

To appear in: *Economic Systems*

Received date: 23-4-2015
Revised date: 22-2-2016
Accepted date: 21-5-2016

Please cite this article as: Ghosh, Saibal, Why is it a man's world, after all? Women on bank boards in India. *Economic Systems* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecosys.2016.05.007>

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Why is it a man's world, after all? Women on bank boards in India

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Highlights

- The study employs data for 2003-12 to examine the impact of gender diversity on Indian banks.
- The added value to banks from the induction of women on their boards of directors does not appear compelling.
- There is evidence to suggest that executive women directors lead to an improvement in bank stability.
- Looking across ownership, gender diverse boards in state-owned and new private banks exhibit a trade-off: the former are more stable but relatively less profitable, while the latter are more profitable but less stable.

Abstract

Employing information on all publicly listed Indian banks covering the period 2003-2012, the study explores whether gender diversity impacts bank behavior. The evidence suggests that the value addition to banks from the induction of women on their boards of directors is not compelling, although executive women directors enhance bank stability. Looking across ownership, the evidence suggests that gender diversity in state-owned banks enhances stability, but at the cost of lower profitability.

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