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Special Issue on Innovation, Intellectual Property Rights & Competition in India**ROUND TABLE****Gender and its Rising Role in Modern Indian Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

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Short title: Gender and modern Indian innovation and entrepreneurship

Abstract:

While innovation, entrepreneurship, and science and technology activities are today increasingly being dominated by women in India, there still exist significant gaps before women can achieve parity with men. This paper traces, through a literature survey, the historical role of women in entrepreneurship and patenting endeavours, and the barriers to greater female participation in innovation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields in emerging economies like India. The survey segues into a round table discussion with a distinguished set of women entrepreneurs, academics and scientists on the challenges to the participation of women in Indian innovation and entrepreneurship and how it could be facilitated.

Introduction

When seeking to understand the factors that influence and promote entrepreneurship and innovation, the role of gender is gaining increasing importance. A number of studies have applied a gender-based lens to various measures of innovative activity, such as the participation of women in patent filing.² While a more detailed discussion of such studies follows, a

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² Hunt, J., Garant, J.-P., Herman, H. and Munroe, D.J. 2012. "Why don't women patent?" NBER Working Paper No. 17888.

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