

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453826203321
Titolo	Institutions and gender empowerment in the global economy [[electronic resource] /] / editors, Kartik Roy, Hans Blomqvist, Cal Clark
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hackensack, NJ, : World Scientific, c2008
ISBN	1-281-94821-7 9786611948214 981-279-808-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (329 p.)
Collana	World Scientific studies in international economics, , 1793-3641 ; ; v. 5
Altri autori (Persone)	RoyK. C <1941-> (Kartik Chandra) BlomqvistH. C (Hans-Christer) ClarkCal <1945->
Disciplina	305.4209/0511
Soggetti	Women - Economic conditions Women - Social conditions Women - Employment Women - Government policy Social institutions Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Foreword; Institutional Affiliations of Contributors; List of Tables; List of Figures; Chapter 1. Development and Gender Empowerment: Conceptual and Theoretical Issues Kartik C. Roy, Hans C. Blomqvist and Cal Clark; 1. Introduction; 2. Development; 3. The Views of Young Marx on Development; 4. Gandhi's Ideas on Development; 5. Background to Understanding Sen's Development Philosophy; 6. Sen's Concept of Development; 7. The Link Between Young Marx, Gandhi, and Sen; 8. Institutional Implications of Sen's Theory of Development 9. Sen's Theory of Exchange Entitlement, Endowment, and Poverty10. The Essence of the Theory; 11. Decomposition of the Theory of Exchange Entitlement; 12. Poverty and Gender Empowerment; References; Chapter 2. Dimensions of Poverty and Discrimination Against Women Kartik C. Roy, Hans C. Blomqvist and Cal Clark; 1.

Introduction; 2. Access and Returns to Markets; 3. To Cope with Vulnerability; 4. Gender Empowerment: Discrimination Against Women; 5. Dowry and Women's Bargaining Power; 6. Theories of Household Economy; 7. The Institution of Marriage; 8. The Institution of Dowry 9. Reasons for Dowry-Giving 10. Women's Reproductive Decision; 11. Education, Health, and Employment; 11.1. Education; 11.2. Health; 11.3. Employment; 11.4. Vulnerability of female labor; 12. Ownership of Property; 13. Technological Development, Transfer, and Adoption; 14. Violence Against Women; 14.1. Powerlessness, voicelessness, helplessness, and peacelessness; 14.2. Physical violence against women; 15. Women's Participation in Political Governance; References; Chapter 3. Can the State and its Institutions Facilitate Gender Empowerment? Kartik C. Roy, Hans C. Blomqvist and Cal Clark 1. Introduction 2. The State and its Institutions; 3. The Role of The State as the Formidable Institution; 4. The Demise of the Neo-Classical State; 5. The New Institutional Economics and Gender Empowerment; 6. Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and Institutional Non-Compliance Score (INCS); 7. Deprivation Scores; 8. Enforcer of Gender Discrimination: Patriarch or Matriarch; 8.1. Within the household; 8.2. Outside the Household; References; Chapter 4. Institutions and Gender Empowerment in India Kartik C. Roy; 1. Introduction; 2. Property Rights, Economic Freedom, and Empowerment 2.1. Women's socio-economic status and land rights: Historical perspective 2.2. Issue of land rights in post-independence India; 2.3. Women and the current state of inheritance rights; 2.4. Women in the total population in need of land rights; 2.5. Granting land ownership to landless women: Ground realities; 3. Women's Employment and Income; 3.1. Other aspects of women's employment status; 3.2. Income and assets in household bargaining; 4. Dowry, Assets, and Violence against Women; 4.1. Dowry-related torture and murder; 4.2. Infanticide, abortion, and missing women 4.3. Vulnerability to other risks

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## Sommario/riassunto

Since women account for almost 50 percent of the world's population, the sustainability of development of the global economy can be greatly impaired if the state authorities in individual countries pay less attention to the improvement in the socio-economic status of women relative to men. Improvement in socio-economic status which facilitates empowerment of individuals is greatly dependent on conducive informal institutions and state institutions. This book is the first of its kind to critically examine the role of these institutions in women's empowerment in five continents in the world. The analysis of the role of institutions in individual countries is underpinned by a robust theoretical background presented in the first three chapters. The chapters on individual countries also include a section dealing with recommendations for changes in state policies affecting women's empowerment.

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