

Gendered consequences of water scarcity



SPEAKER
Sheetal Sekhri
Professor of Economics, University of Virginia

Sheetal Sekhri is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia. A PhD holder from Brown University, Sekhri has written prolifically about water stress in India combining theoretical arguments with empirical evidence. Her pioneering research has explored the causes and consequences of water stress and examined the efficacy of water conservation and sustainability strategies and set forth an agenda for scholars to pursue. As a leading economist studying water in the developing world, she has won numerous grants and published in several frontier outlets including the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics and Journal of Development Economics.

Abstract: Women in developing countries walk long distances to fetch water for meeting household drinking water needs. Water stress is increasing in many parts of the world. In conditions of heightened water stress and scarcity, women have to walk farther and spend longer time fetching water. This can increase the risk of violence faced by women. While current research has demonstrated that water scarcity, affecting billions of people especially in the developing world, can increase poverty and decrease agricultural productivity, evidence on gendered effects of water stress is limited. Drawing on current research on consequences of water scarcity for sexual violence faced by women in rural India, Sekhri's talk will highlight the gendered consequences of water scarcity and the role policy can play to address it.



MODERATOR **Atonu Rabbani**Professor, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Atonu Rabbani is the Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair Professor in Health and Poverty at the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh. Rabbani received his PhD from the University of Chicago and has been associated with SANDEE for the past several years in various capacities.

This lecture series is part of the 44th Biannual research and training workshop organised by SANDEE-ICIMOD.

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