



*Edited by*

Sukhpal Singh · Lakhwinder Singh · Kamal Vatta

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# **Covid-19 Pandemic and Economic Development** Emerging Public Policy Lessons for Indian Punjab

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ISBN 978-981-16-4441-2      ISBN 978-981-16-4442-9 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-4442-9>

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The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

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# Employment Participation of Rural Women in Punjab: A Need for Policy Retrospect

*Ashapura Baruah and Indervir Singh*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Neoclassical macroeconomic and growth models consider growth as an answer to all economic problems. The underlying assumption of these models is that benefits of growth created in urban formal sector will trickle down creating employment in urban and rural areas. The productivity and consequent wage differences in urban and rural areas will result in the movement of capital to underdeveloped areas and labour to urban and developed areas. This movement of capital and labour will result in higher growth and generate better job opportunities everywhere.

These models generally ignore the social and economic constraints faced by people. Even those models that incorporate market imperfections like search cost (Diamond, 1989) are not useful in understanding the implications of social institutions like gender norms. Governed by these models, the economic policies in India in the last three decades have led to an excessive focus on the expansion of economic activity (barring a few policies like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme [MGNREGS] 2005). These policies have led to a lopsided development where growth figures do not match the employment data

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Singapore Pte Ltd. 2021

S. Singh et al. (eds.), *Covid-19 Pandemic and Economic Development*,  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-4442-9\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-4442-9_11)