



## Sustainable Connectivity for Empowering Women and Girls

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**Marie Thynell**

Ass Prof in Peace and Development Research

Lecture in Human Ecology

School of Global Studies

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

*"I think the bicycle has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world."*

Susan B. Anthony (19th century leader of the US Suffrage Movement).

*Investment in girls' education may be the highest-return investment available in the developing world."*

Lawrence H. Summers (while Chief Economist of the World Bank).



## Roads to equal access, the role of transport in the 21<sup>st</sup> century development

“We need a global response that addresses the root causes of conflict, and integrates peace, sustainable development and human rights in a holistic way – from conception to execution”

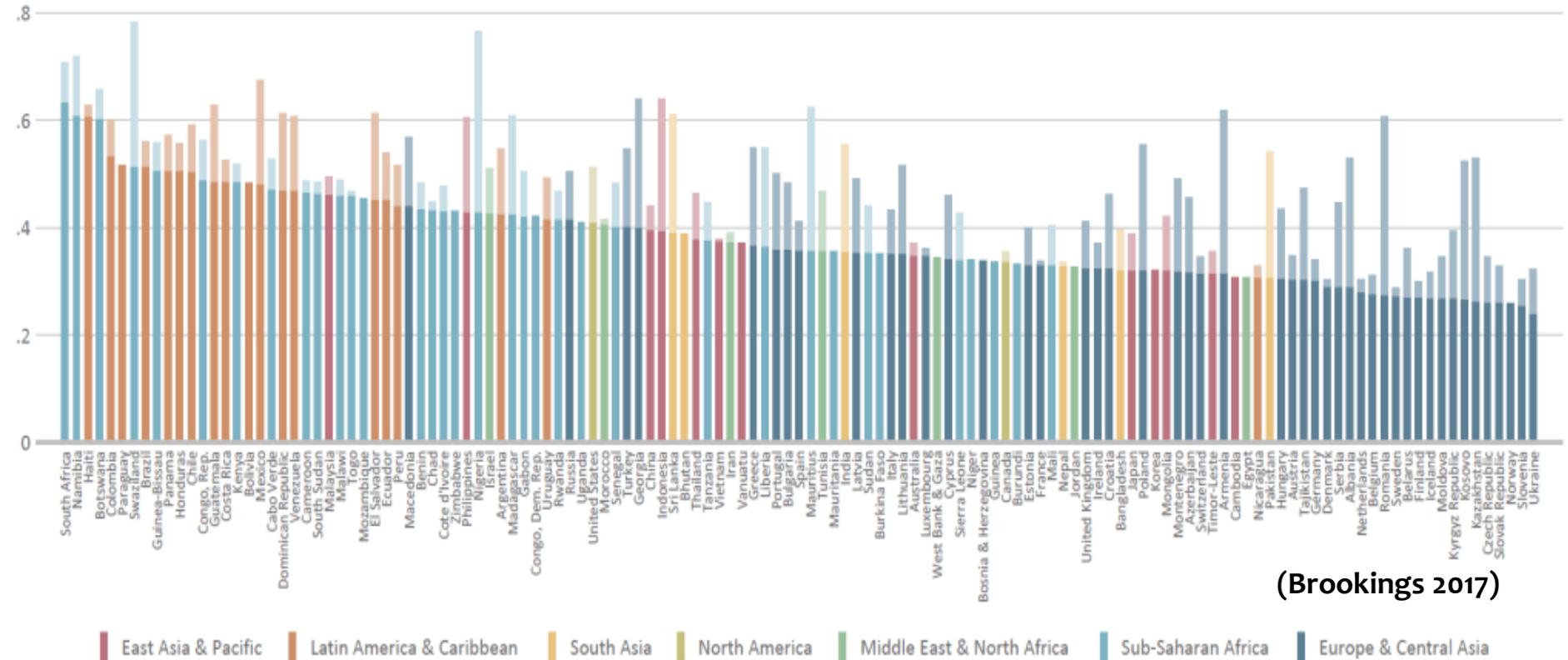
(Guterres, General Secretary of the UN, Jan 24 2017)

### Outline:

- Growing inequality within countries and cities
- Gender inequality
- The role of transport in providing connectivity, well-being and social mobility
- Transport and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The role of gender research
- Case studies and positive initiatives from Asian countries

The 21st century is the Asian century. It arrived with pressing news about growing inequality between countries and within countries, and between rural and urban areas. Growing inequality comes at important costs

## The current Gini coefficient, all countries



(Brookings 2017)

Authors' calculations based on survey data from PovcalNet and the Luxembourg Income Study and national accounts data from the World Development Indicators.

Asia is on the move. The Asia and Pacific region has made impressive strides over the last decade on narrowing gender gaps in education, health, employment and political participation. Economies are growing and today there are more girls in education, fewer women dying in childbirth, more women in wage employment outside agriculture and more women in national parliaments and decision making bodies.

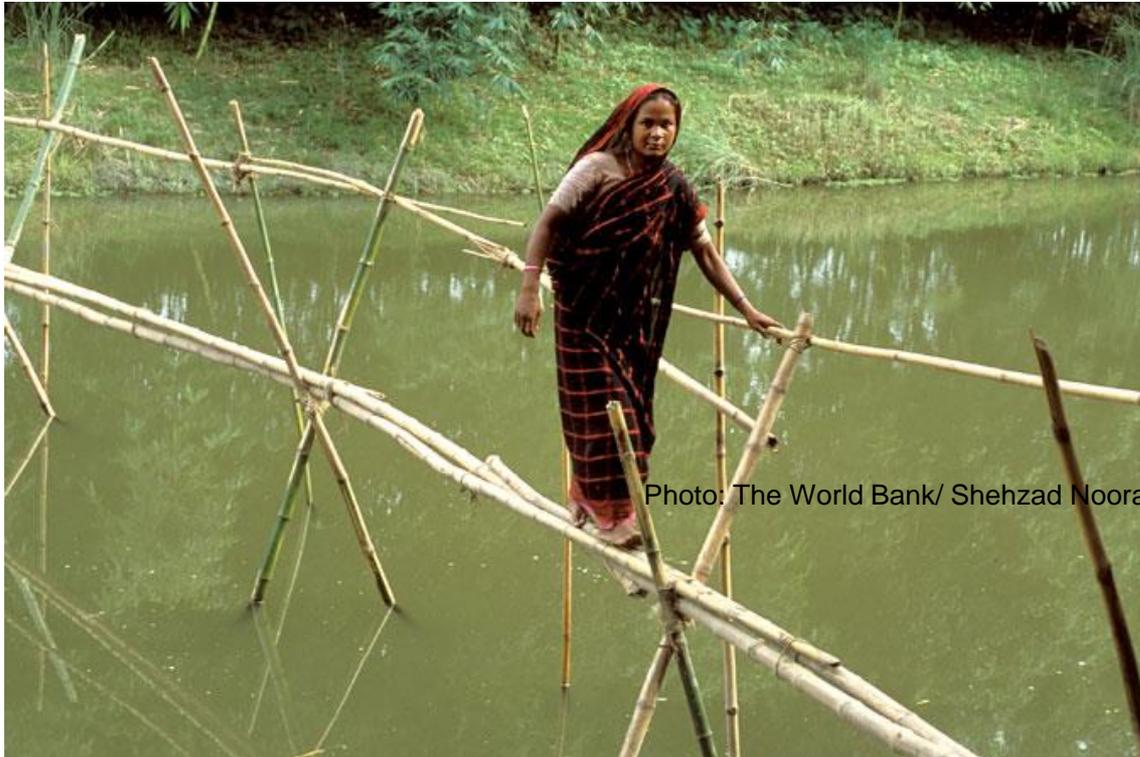


Photo: The World Bank/ Shehzad Nooran

But, achievements are not spread evenly across the Region. While globalization is bringing opportunities and autonomy to some women, others are finding themselves increasingly marginalized. Gender inequality is thus linked to uneven development and spatial isolation translates into poverty (Thynell 2017).

## Gender inequality

### Women are more immobile than men are

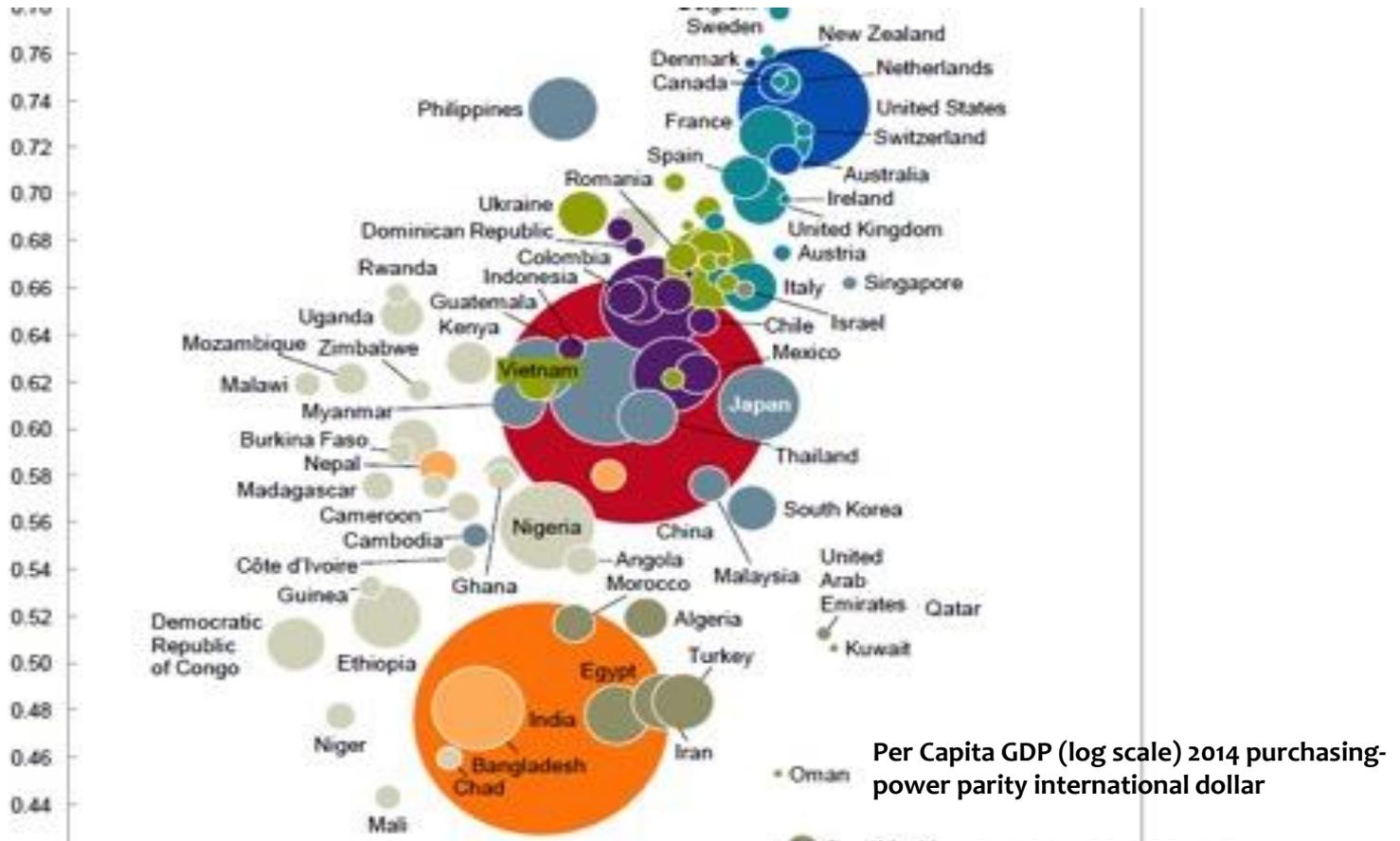
#### References:

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (2013), [Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters Report of the Secretary-General](#), p. 2
- See more at:  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-11-sustainable-cities-communities#notes>

Disasters such as droughts,  
floods and storms  
**kill more women  
than men due to  
structural gender  
inequalities**



The Gender Parity Score measures the distance each country has traveled toward gender parity, which is set at 1.00. The regional GPS is lowest in South Asia (excluding India). **Is your country closing the gender gap?**



Source: THE POWER OF PARITY  
McKinsey Global Institute, 2015

# The challenge of gender inequality is not a women issue – it is about national and global development

Gender inequality is a pressing issue with huge costs not just for individual persons but also for future sustainable development, labor markets, societal productivity, GDP growth, and a peaceful development. Women are half the world's working-age population but generate only 37% of GDP. 40 out of 95 countries have high or extremely high inequality on half or more of 15 indicators (ibid below).

Research finds that, in a full-potential scenario in which women play an identical role in labor markets to men's, as much as \$28 trillion, or 26 percent, could be added to global annual GDP in 2025 (Woetzel et al 2015: 2-11).

Realizing the economic prize of gender parity requires the world to address the drivers of inequality, poor: education, health, connectivity, security, integration and the role of women in unpaid work.

**The role of transport is to provide accessibility and connectivity in societies and to facilitate integration and wellbeing all citizens.**

**Luckily, there are many low hanging fruits to pick. Providing transport facility brings about substantial improvements, especially for low-income families.**





# Connectivity is very important in reducing inequalities

Spatial Mobility



Access to resources;  
school, services, markets, health, eco-systems services,  
opportunities ➤ wellbeing and social mobility

What do we need to know about the user's conditions, social context and travel needs in order to plan and implement relevant connectivity?



- **Gender and sex still matters in the world, EU Commission 2015**
- Men dominate power positions in politics and business
- Women have a harder time than men to get paid for their work
- Still, 62 million girls are not going to school (USAID 2015) and developing areas in Asian lag behind.
- Half a million women dies every year due to pregnancy and childbirth



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Gender and sex still matters. The EST  
Forum adopted social and gender  
equity aspects from the beginning in  
2005!

See also the Bangkok Declaration, 2010





## GOAL 5. ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

- **5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere**
- **5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres**, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work** through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family
- **5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, politics and social interaction; transport sector offers employment**





## GOAL 5, Cont,

- 5.a **Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources**, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b **Enhance the use of enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c **Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation** for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
  
- **Target 5.6 ensure universal access** to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences transport enables women to access health services



## GOAL 5, Cont,

- **Transport is a key enabler for women to access opportunities** such as health services, education facilities, jobs or for participation in politics and social activities. Hence, safe, reliable and sustainable transport interventions can make a big difference in increasing women's education, productivity, health and promote gender equality hence illustrating a strategy to achieve targets 5.5 and 5.6.
- **Basic mobility needs of women and men are different** and grounded on the gender based division of labor within the family and community. **It is therefore essential to integrate women into research, planning, decision making and policy formulation of any transport intervention**



## Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

- **10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- **10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- **10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- **10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- **10.6** Ensure enhanced **representation** and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions



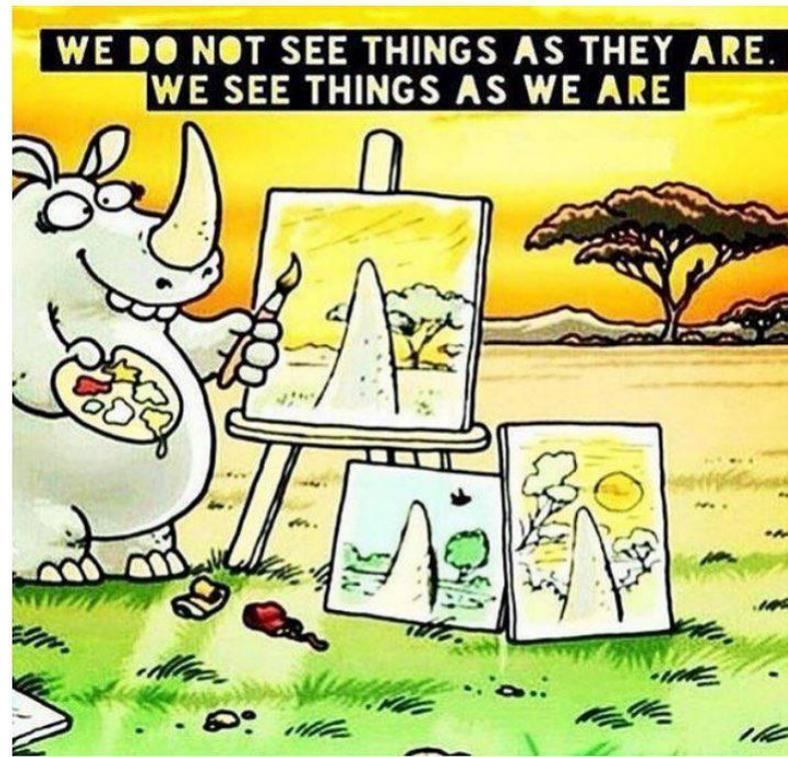
## All parts of the system need to be involved and change

- We are convinced that working together is the only way to successfully address today's challenges
- Collaboration and trust are key concepts





## HOW CAN GENDER RESEARCH CONTRIBUTE?

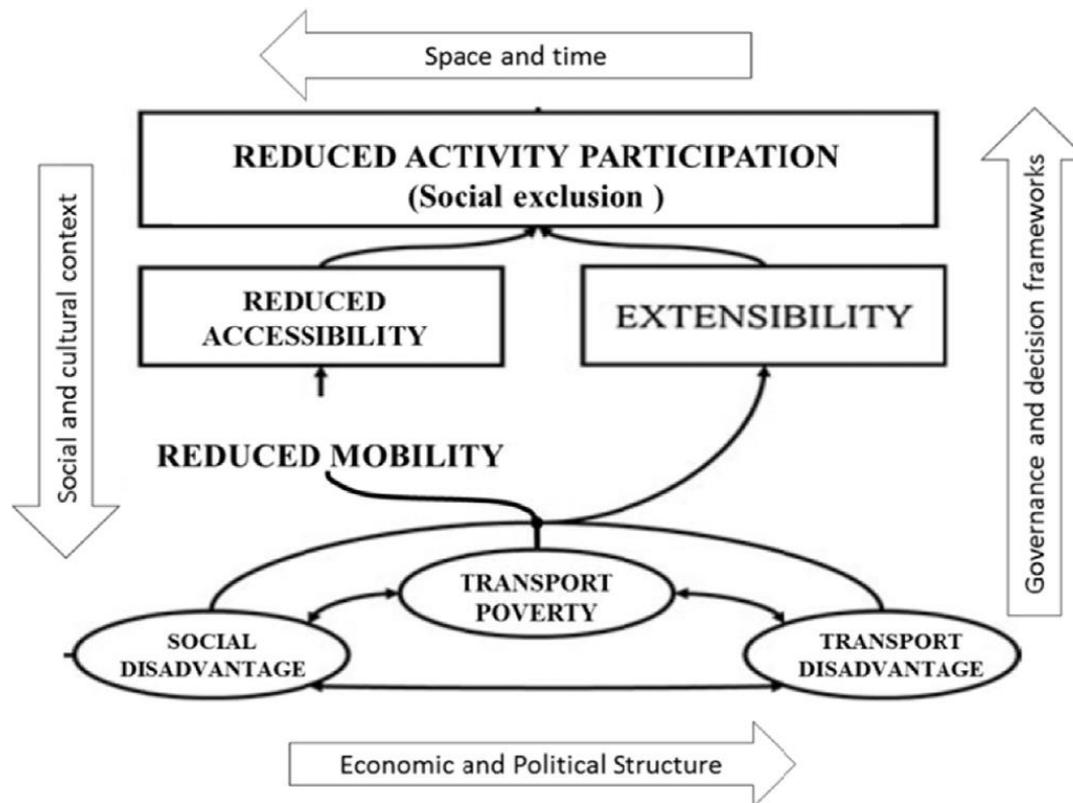




## Sustainable Connectivity for Empowering Women and Girls

- **Accessibility means connecting people with their destinations.** Improving connectivity means understanding people’s needs—regardless of their address, age, or income.
- **Access demands vary widely.** A fruit vendor has to reach the local market by dawn, while a working parent has to get the kids to school before work.
- **Access means more than just mobility.** Effective land use policy and planning can create a “short distances,” where people have easy access to a range of services or destinations
- **Cities, regions, states, and national governments need to consider accessibility in their decision-making.** That can mean investing in construction projects, structuring capital finance, setting prices, or funding public services.

## An activity based perspective on the relationship between transport disadvantage and social exclusion



Based on Páez,  
Farber & Lucas  
(2012)



## Some policies and initiatives in Asia

### A) The Lao INSTITUTIONAL AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4.3

1. All weather road access for poor districts and focal areas;
2. Strengthen transport linkages with neighbouring countries
3. Institutional capacity building;
4. Road maintenance;
5. Road use regulation;
6. **Protect the environment and ensure social equity**

B) Providing Women with Safer Public Transport in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan -  
See more at: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2016/12/providing-women-with-safer-public-transport#sthash.GB1wGOIL.dpuf>.



## Cont,

- **C)** ‘Women only’ train carriages and programs on city buses are found in several Asian cities.
- **D)** Gender Mainstreaming in Rural Transport Projects in Nepal: *Transformative Changes Women in Science and Engineering in Nepal* by Helvetas Swiss intercooperation, Cardno Ltd and RECAP presented by J. Hada (UNCRD 2017 Lao PDR) .
- **E)** Developing a Participatory Approach for Road Side Protection of Rural Roads in Nepal presented by Prof. Ram Chandra Bhattarai, Tribhuvan University, Nepal and RECAP (UNCRD 2017 Lao PDR).



Cont,

- **F) Cycling to School: Increasing Secondary School Enrollment for Girls in Bihar, India**
- The purpose of the Cycle program in the state of Bihar was to improve female educational attainment in India. The project in Bihar increased girls' age-appropriate enrollment in secondary school by 41% and reduced the corresponding gender gap by 46%!
- The reduction in the time and safety cost of school attendance was made possible by the bicycle. We also find that the Cycle program was much more cost effective at increasing girls' secondary school enrollment than comparable conditional cash transfer programs in South Asia (Muralidharan & Prakash, 2015).



## Cont,

Given the importance of increasing women's education attainment in developing countries like India (especially in its most under-developed regions [rural or peri-urban]) and the fiscally-constrained policy environment, these results are important.

The Cycle program has been politically popular having a transformative impact on girls' school participation in rural Bihar (Muralidharan & Prakash, 2015). It has also been imitated in several other Indian states.

## The Achilles' heel of modern development: inequalities and environmental hazards

Pls share initiatives from your countries . A lot more can be done!

Thank You

[marie.thynell@globalstudies.gu.se](mailto:marie.thynell@globalstudies.gu.se)

