**A multi-dimensional perspective on the gender gap in health among older adults in India and China using a new population ageing measure**

Population ageing is on a rise across even in the developing countries due to continuous decrease in mortality and fertility at different ages. New measures to understand population ageing that goes beyond categorizing population above a threshold age of 60 or 65 to define ‘old age’ is the need of the hour. At the same time, a continuous rise of female life expectancy above that of males among older adults in India and China may give the impression that the relative gender gap in health in these countries is decreasing. However, given the systemic gender bias against older females in these countries across multiple dimensions of health, a fuller understanding of the gen- der gap in health calls for a multi-dimensional perspective. Using a new measure to population ageing- multi-dimensional old-age threshold (MOAT), I estimate different old-age thresholds for female and male populations in India and China, after accommodating for multiple dimensions related to physical, intellectual and general health. We use the MOAT to evaluate the multi-dimensional gender gap in India and China by differencing the MOAT for females with that of males. Females in both countries have a lower MOAT than their male counterparts, indicating an earlier advent of ‘old age’ for females. The multi-dimensional estimates of the gender gap are also higher than the estimates based on only one dimension of health. A considerable level of variation is also observed in the gender gap across provinces. The study illustrates the need to understand the gender gap in health in India and China from a multi-dimensional perspective and provides an innovative way to quantify such a gap. In addition, it provides a new framework to understand population ageing at national and regional levels. Province-specific as well as health dimension-specific interventions are vital in reducing the gender gap among older adults in these countries.