



The Macro-Patriarchal State: Gender Equalisation via Feminist Finance

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The last several years have witnessed a massive onslaught on women's economic and extra-economic rights, as well as violence on their bodily integrity and in fact their very existence. Responses across academics, advocacy and action have been many and varied. Yet what appears to be missing is the analysis of the Macro-Patriarchal construct of the State; a State that cannot function without the interlocking of macroeconomic policies with patriarchal structures: macroeconomic policies that are increasingly exclusive and patriarchal structures that are being increasingly strengthened. The integration of patriarchy in the prevailing system of production and reproduction of goods and services is organic, and one cannot exist without the other in the current stage and pattern of growth: in other words, a dialectical dependency, each feeding into the other and thereby continuously getting reinforced.

These onslaughts and violations need to be perceived from a newer perspective, what I term as 'Feminist Finance', in order to visibilise the de-enabler role of the State

with the objective of combatting the on-going processes and mechanisms of gendered de-equalisation at multiple levels particularly in the gendered work continuum. This complex gendered 'work/labour/livelihood' continuum is intricate and interconnected especially in the absence of enabling conditions. It is thus essential to understand the agglomeration, aggregation, multiplicity, simultaneity and synchronicity that characterises women's work across the continuum. A continuum that contains various interlinked forms of labour – paid, underpaid and all that which lies outside the boundary of exchange-value – a concept that goes beyond the somewhat simplistic market/non-market binary – and often extends into that of use-value particularly in an informal and developing economy now characterised as a flawed democracy. The ultimate objective is to ensure that all genders are enabled to claim the public from our Republic.

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