

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

Fourth Year Examination in Arts -2021/2022

(End of First Semester)

ECN 4185: Gender and Feminist Economics

Time Allowed: Two (02) Hours

Answer FOUR (04) Questions Only

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1. a) Discuss the epistemological and ontological foundations of Feminist Economics. (15 marks)
- b) Compare and contrast Gender Economics and Feminist Economics. [Hint: you may draw on Becchio's (2018) study to supplement your answer]. (10 marks)
2. Gary Becker (1957) argued that increased competition in the product market would reduce or eliminate labor market discrimination against women in the long run. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (25 Marks)
3. a) Discuss why gender should be included as a variable in macroeconomic policy and analysis? (15 marks)
- b) The government of Sri Lanka announced increases to individual income taxes (IIT) from October 1st 2022. The extent of the increase is such that the tax-free allowance, was changed from the previous level of Rs.0-Rs.250,000 (annual income Rs. 3,000,000) to the current level of Rs. 0-Rs. 100,000 (annual income Rs.1,200,000). The tax bands have been changed as have the tax rates: in the previous IIT regime the rates were between 6%-18% while the current IIT tax regime's rates are between 6%-36%.
- Using your expertise in gender and feminist economics, your understanding of the current Sri Lankan economic context and the developing country context, examine the potential impact of the income tax raise, on male and female income earners and their families. (10 marks)
4. "Most direct paid care occupations remain gender segregated."
- a) Do you agree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer. (12 marks)
- b) Briefly state the challenges in quantifying and measuring unpaid direct care work. (5 marks)
- c) Describe how unpaid direct care work should be measured overcoming the challenges stated in your answer to part (b). (8 marks)

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5. (a) What is Blockly? Briefly describe. (5 marks)
(b) The Computer Literacy Survey for Sri Lanka (2019 & 2020) shows a gap between men's and women's use of ICT and a gap in the ownership of digital devices, such as smart phones and computers. Discuss the economic implications/significance of closing the gender digital gap. (20 marks)
6. a) Shermila is a furniture designer owning a medium-scale registered business with positive net assets (assets are greater than liabilities) for the last 5 years. The business has a total of Rs.21 million in assets, inclusive of an owner's equity of Rs.15 million. Sharmila wants to expand her business locally and hopes to export to the African & Middle Eastern markets. She approaches you for a consultation on how she can raise new capital to expand her venture. Explain how you would advise her. (If necessary, include additional conditions/assumptions on which you would base your advice). (10 marks)
b) Examine the barriers often encountered by women in participating in capital markets and propose solutions to overcome them. (15 marks)
7. Taking any one or several artists/entertainers (example: fiction writer/s, dramatist/s, actor/s, cinema director/s, music band/s, musician/s etc.) discuss to what extent conventional gender norms and traditional gender expressions feature in their creations and presentations. (25 marks)

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