

Report of WSS Forum 2015 by Arathi Presenna Madhavan

My paper was in the session titled: Gender, Politics and Health. The session was jointly chaired by Gita Ramjer (Medical Research Council of South Africa) and Subhadara Chandra (Delhi University). My paper was titled as ***Why did Yuma Sherpa Die: Understanding the Politics of New Reproductive Technologies in a Globalised Economy.***

My paper dealt with the issues around bio medical practice of egg donation and lack of proper legislation to regulate the practice and highlight the exploitations that are the result of that. I was using a case study method, presented a specific case from Delhi and explaining, how national regulations are absent or limited in dealing with new reproductive technologies and which opens boundaries of nation- state and open avenues for new forms of exploitation of female bodies.

There are various national regimes of regulation, and they differ from nation state to nation state. Primary argument in my presentation was that these differences in regulation create the possibility for international competition and markets in which ethical and legal regimes combine with economic and scientific capital in the creation of global markets in biomedical research. This paper generated good discussions and helpful to improve my arguments.

The Forum was helpful to be in touch with scholars from different parts of the world to get a better understanding of different research works happening in present day social science. The Forum created immense energy to fill the gap between academics and activism. I am working on my paper to develop it as a scholarly article, based on the comments and inputs from the presentation discussions and informal interactions. I am planning an action oriented research in one of the urban settlement in Delhi, to understand the linkages between the egg donors, local medical practitioners, IVF clinics, and international pharma industries in-depth.