

# SESSION 1: Social Norms and Women's Engagement in Economic Activities

9<sup>th</sup> South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference

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**DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH**

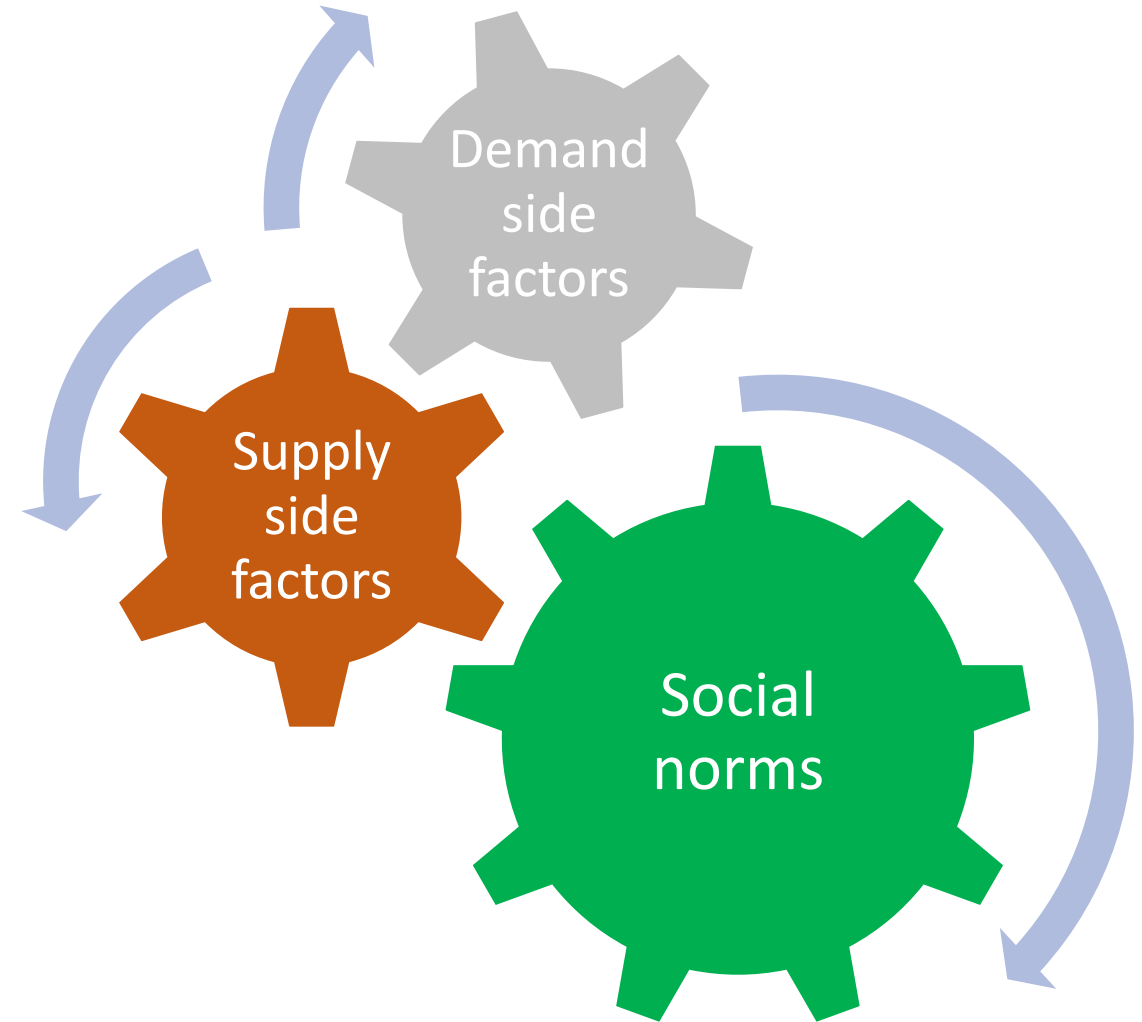
# Overview

- Five excellent papers on women's well-being in South Asia
- Overlapping themes:
  - **FLFP**: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Sabarwal et al
  - **Marriage and Family**: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Calvi and Keskar
  - **Social norms**: All

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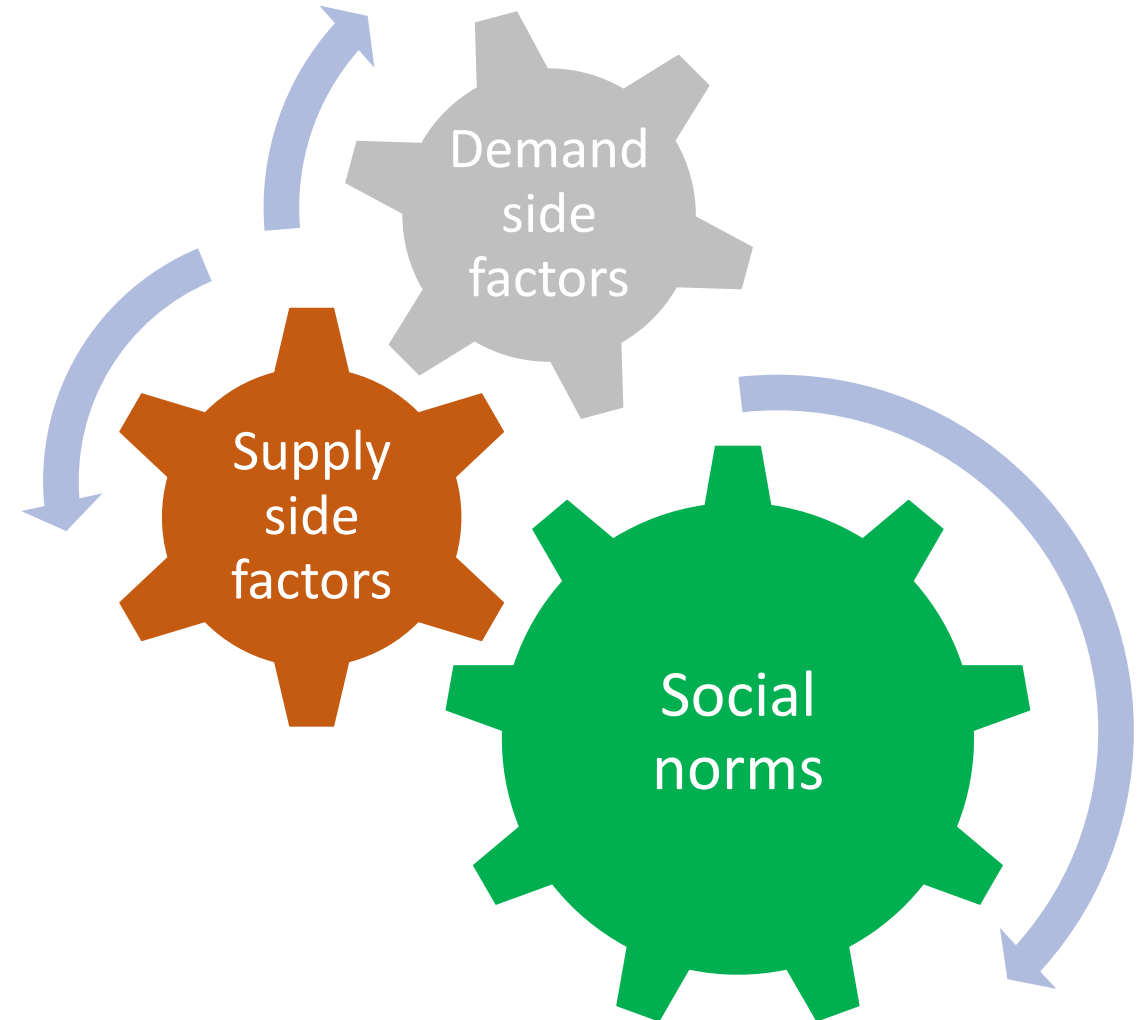
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  - **Marriage and Family**: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Calvi and Keskar
  - **Social norms**: All
- Countries studied: India and Bangladesh
- Secondary and primary data
  - Primary: Mahajan et al; Sabarwal et al
  - Marriage and Family: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Calvi and Keskar
- Mix of methodological approaches

# Female labor market engagement in South Asia



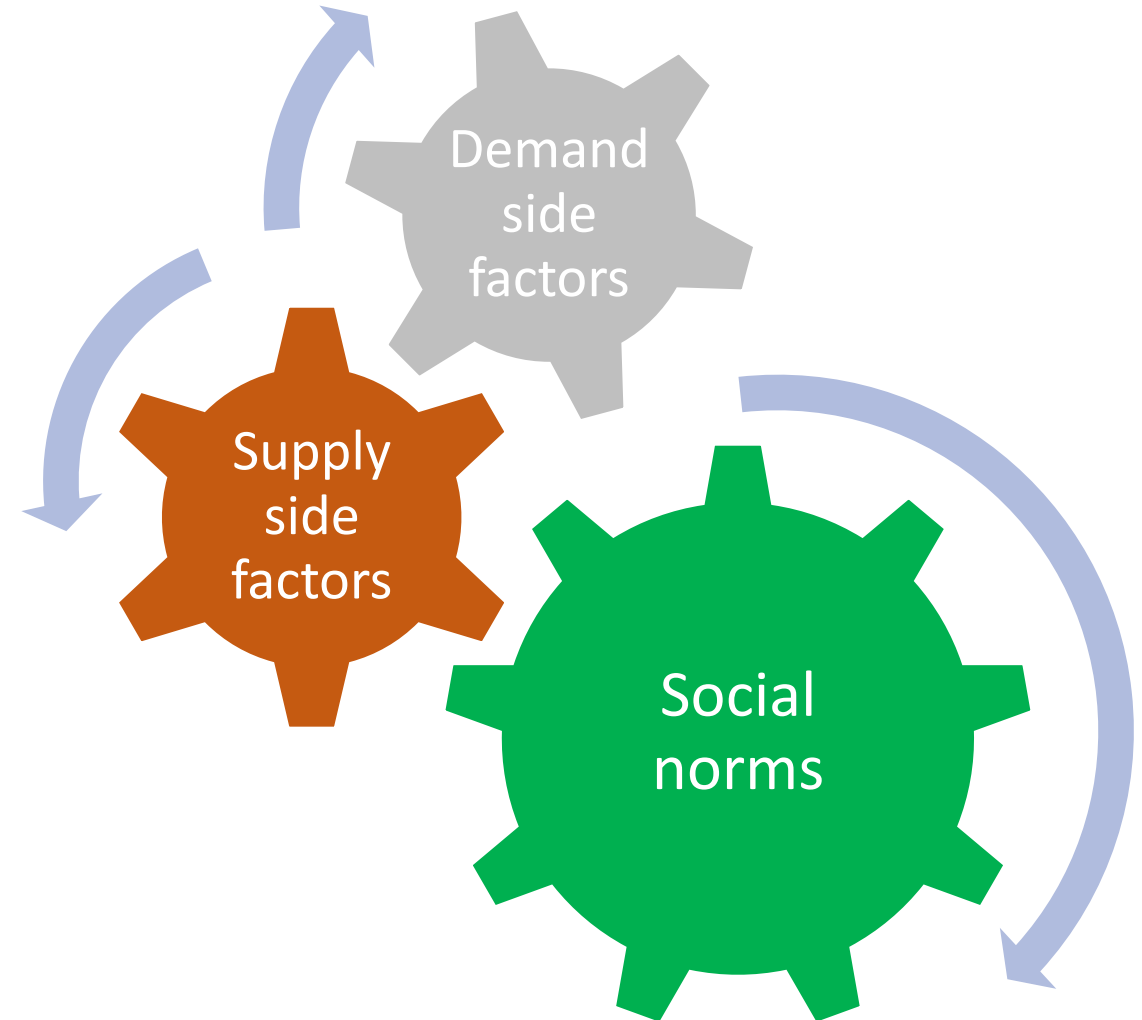
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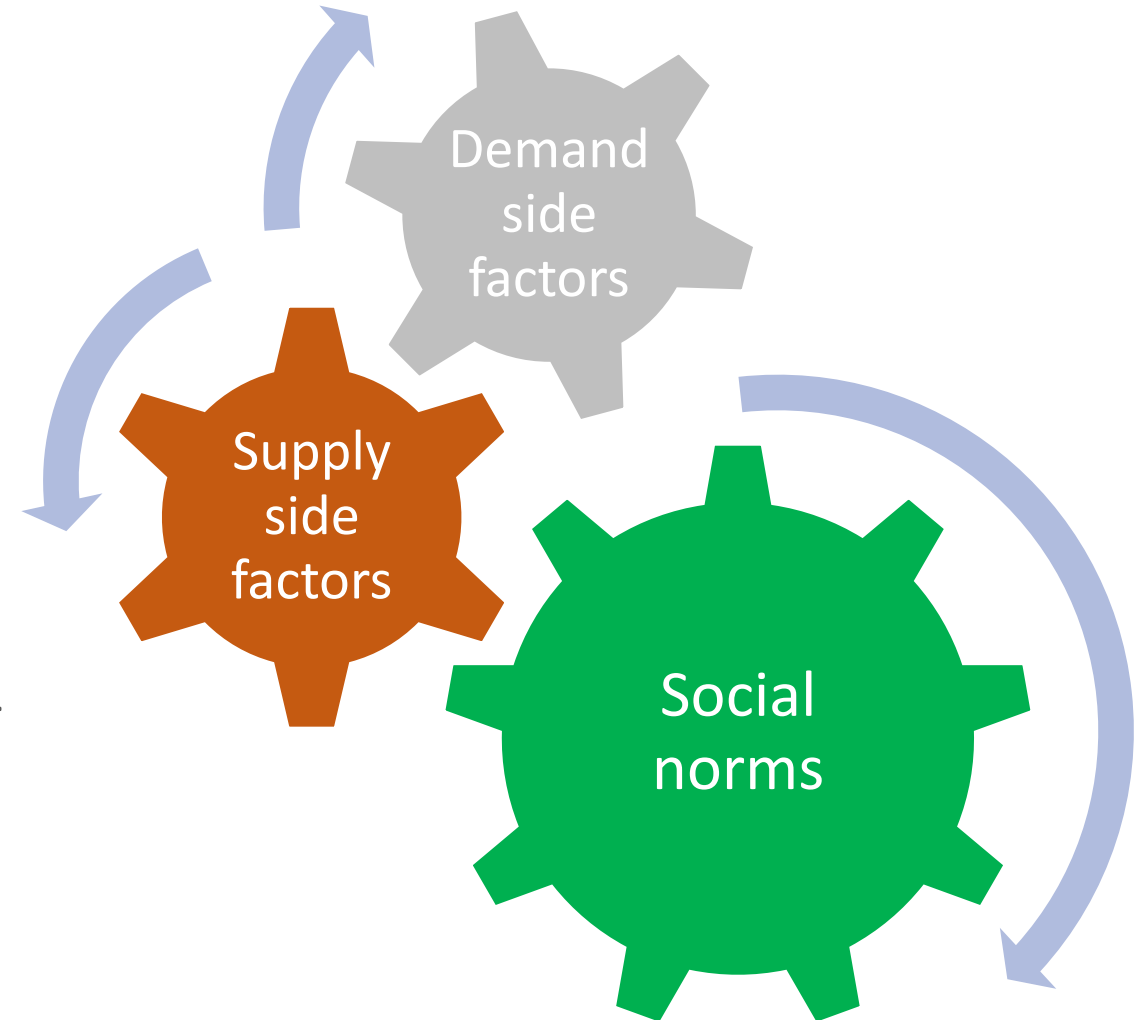
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- Social norms also alter the effectiveness of well-intentioned reforms (Calvi and Keskar)
  - Social stigma around divorce lowers effectiveness of anti-dowry law



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- Role of family members, household structure, intrahousehold-dynamics
  - Mothers-in-law, husbands, fathers