

About the Author

Nirmala Banerjee is an economist who trained at Bombay University and the London School of Economics and Political Science. She worked as an urban planner before joining the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta from where she retired in 2001 as a professor of economics.

Her areas of research are wide-ranging, starting from public finance, industrial structures in the unorganised sector and gender studies, especially the economics of women's work and its relations with women's overall social position. She specialises in applied economic research and has carried out a number of field studies and historical enquiries. She has published several books, and numerous articles and seminar papers.

She has been very active in India's women's movement and is a founder member of and active worker in a Kolkata-based women's organisation, SACHETANA. She was a founder member of the DAWN group and was the president of the Indian Association of Women's Studies. More recently, she has worked on the analysis of public policies in India and the interaction between those policies and the lives of people at the grassroots.

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