MEASURING PATRIARCHY IN INDIA:
THE INDIA PATRIARCHY INDEX

A lens through which women’s empowerment and gender equity can be understood

What is patriarchy?
Patriarchy is a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women.

Walby, 1989

Patriarchy compromises women’s status and well-being.

Patriarchy has previously been unmeasurable in India.

In order to improve women’s opportunities in India, we need to understand the broader social structures of patriarchy.

The India Patriarchy Index is a novel measure.
It captures:

- Male Domination
- Socio-Economic Domination
- Generational Domination
- Son Preference
- Patrilocality

The India Patriarchy Index is able to track patriarchy at subnational levels and over time.

Levels of patriarchy in Rajasthan and Haryana are 1.6-2.2 times higher than they are in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram.

Southern India tends to have lower levels of patriarchy.

Our results show that the India Patriarchy Index is a useful tool for measuring and tracking progress on gender equity in India.