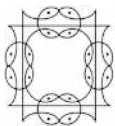


The Unravelling Pandemic: Envisioning Our Intersectional Feminist Futures

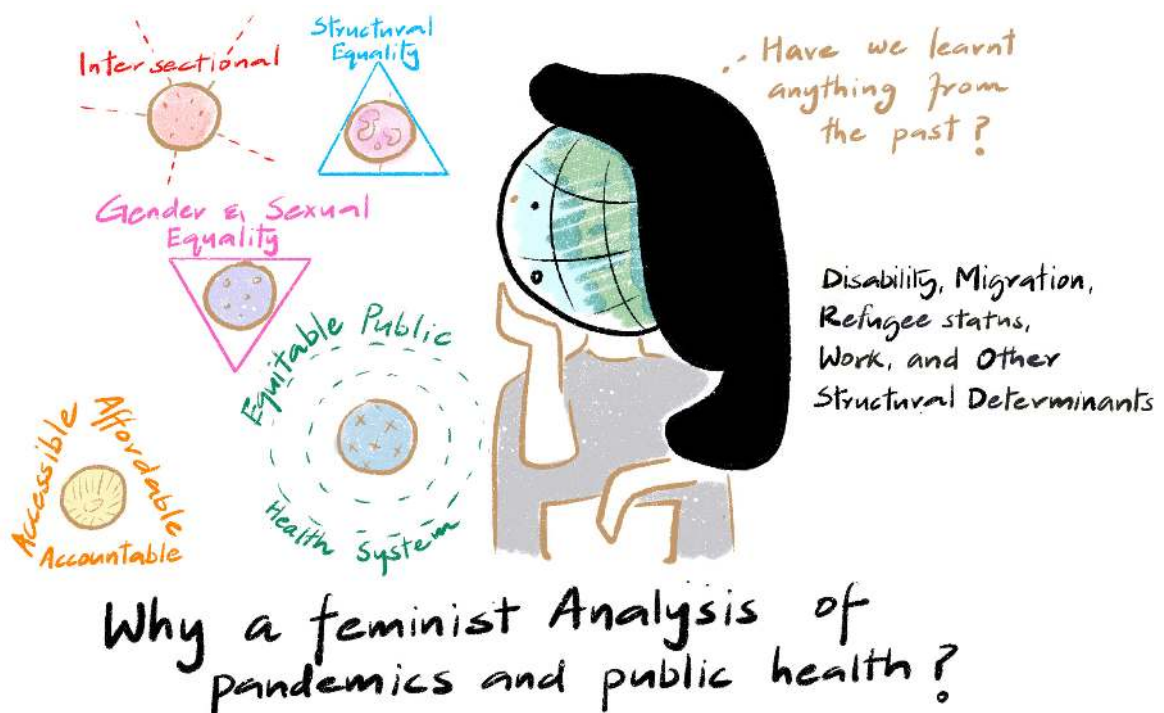
A summary of the Intersectional Feminist Framework



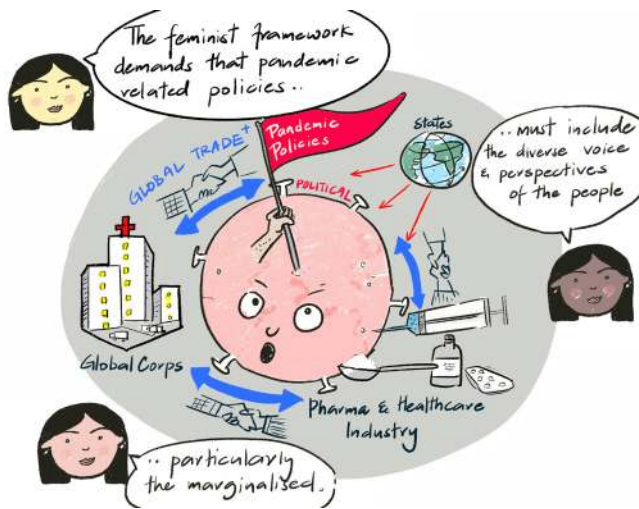
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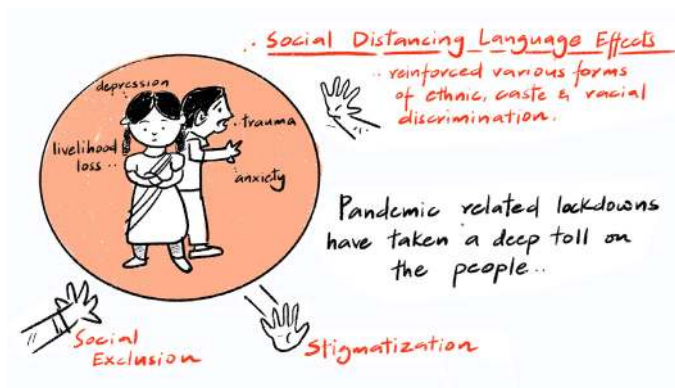
This handout provides a summary of the intersectional feminist framework on pandemics. We interrogate and unpack pandemics, public health knowledge, care and technology, including access to diagnostic, vaccines and therapeutics which are critical in the current pandemic context.



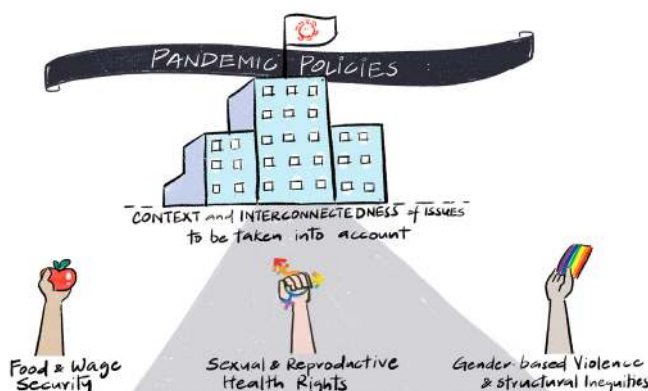
A feminist analysis of pandemics and public health must be intersectional. It should recognize the structural hierarchies, discrimination, inequities and the intersections of gender, race, caste, religion, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, disability, migration, refugee status, work and other structural determinants. An intersectional feminist framework demands for a public health system that is equitable, inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable.



decision-making must include diverse voices and perspectives of people, particularly the marginalized, which are often ignored in policy making.



discrimination, social exclusion as well as stigmatization. The feminist approach demands an effective public health response that is inherently caring, non-discriminatory, non-authoritarian, democratic, striving to uphold and respect the dignity and human rights.



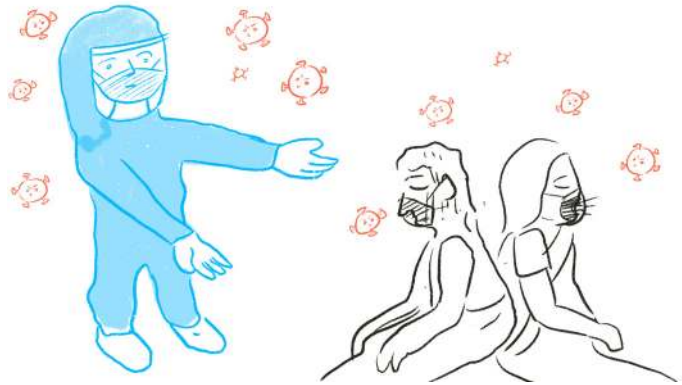
An intersectional feminist approach recognizes that the pandemic related policies are embedded in political processes and that states, global corporations, including the health care and pharmaceutical industry, as well as actors in the global trade ecosystem, play a dominant role in policy making. The feminist framework demands that the pandemic-related policies and

Pandemic-related lockdowns have taken a deep toll on people's livelihoods, and emotional, and psychological states, causing trauma, anxiety, and depression. Further, the language of 'social' distancing has undoubtedly reinforced various forms of ethnic, caste and racial

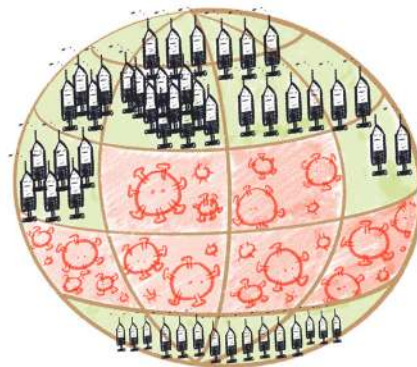
To be truly responsive, policies must take into account context, use gender transformative, life-course frameworks, and take seriously the interconnectedness of issues like food, livelihoods, social security, sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-based violence, and structural inequities.

Frontline community health workers and sanitation workers played an important role in providing care for communities during and before the pandemic, and yet, they were the least cared for in the health system. A feminist framework recognizes the informal and precarious nature of their work and demands for social protection, dignity, safety equipment and measures, and just remuneration for these workers.

Social protection, dignity, safety measures and just remuneration.



Evidence shows that higher-income countries, through pre-purchase agreements, manufacturing monopolies, and the exercise of intellectual property rights, hoarded huge stocks of Covid-19 vaccines while poorer countries are still in waiting, in what is being termed a vaccine “apartheid”. A feminist framework recognizes the urgent need to address global and local inequities in the production, distribution, and sharing of technology and knowhow related to the supply and distribution of vaccines.



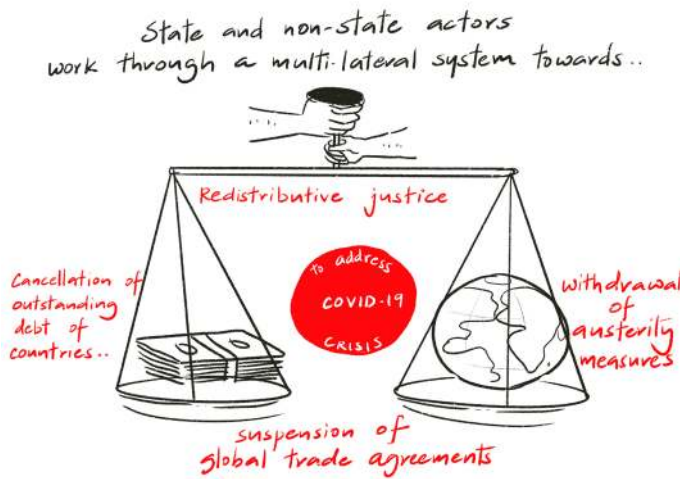
*Vaccine is for everyone
The vaccine apartheid has to stop*

We decry the privileging of the virtue of ‘charity’, which is counter-productive to the language of rights and dignity. Our feminist response urges reconceptualization of aid or charity and philanthropy for health, as a legitimately owed international obligation and reparation under

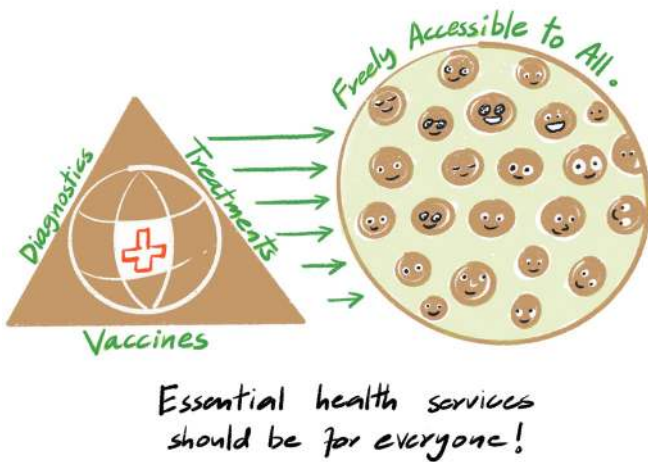


A feminist response urges reconceptualisation of aid and philanthropy for health as a legitimately owed international obligation and reparation under human rights.

human rights principles, rather than fragmented support offered as ‘kind’ acts of paternal protectionism.



A feminist framework demands that state and non-state actors work through a multilateral system towards redistributive justice, the cancellation of outstanding debt of countries, the withdrawal of austerity measures, and the suspension of restrictive global trade agreements, to address the crises exacerbated by COVID-19.

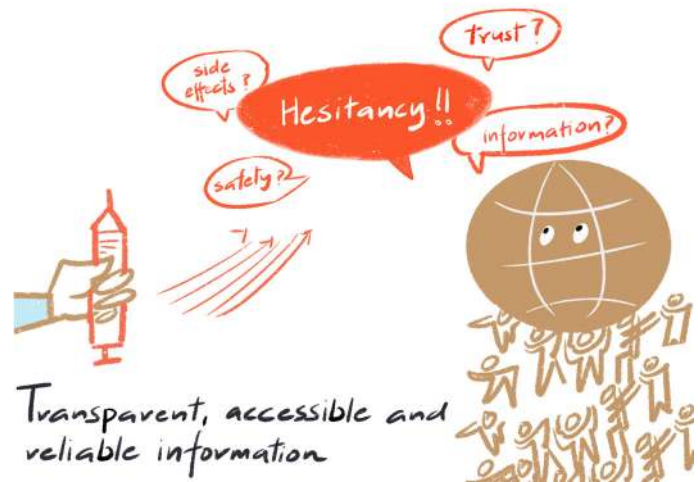


An intersectional feminist approach post-pandemic must institute systemic change in the global health architecture by advocating for equitable access to diagnostics, vaccines, treatments, other therapeutics, and by revoking patents.

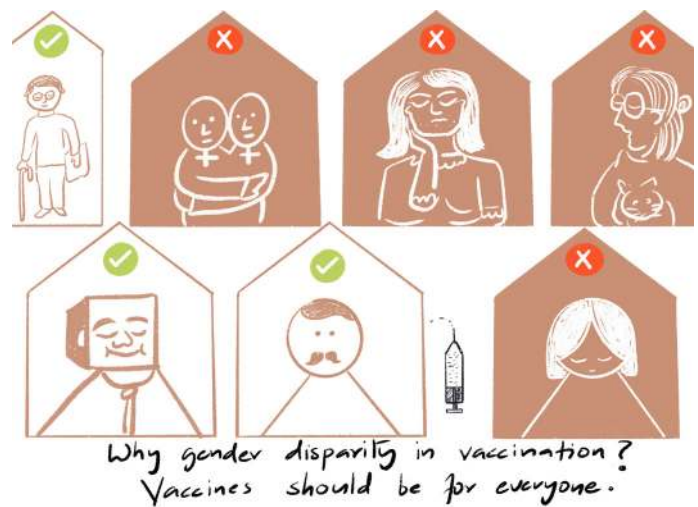


The Covid-19 pandemic calls for solidarity, not division; collective action, not unilateralism. Sadly, this public health emergency has been treated as a profiteering opportunity, giving rise to ‘pandemic billionaires’. In contrast, an intersectional feminist response to the pandemic reiterates the need to put people first, and to make their needs the bottom line.

Vaccine hesitancy must be addressed and overcome through sustained attempts to build and keep public trust. It should include fair, transparent, and reliable information about how clinical trials are conducted, the basis for approvals of emergency use authorization, the possibility of adverse events, and how they can be remedied. Comprehensive, reliable and regular public health messaging is essential to quell rumours, dispel myths, and mitigate misconceptions about vaccines and their effectiveness.



Data indicates that in many countries more men than women and trans women have been able to get Covid-19 vaccination. The inclusive way forward is to recognize and address the role of gender, patriarchy, the digital divide, as well as sociocultural and economic inequities, and ensure access to vaccines and affordable life-saving treatment.

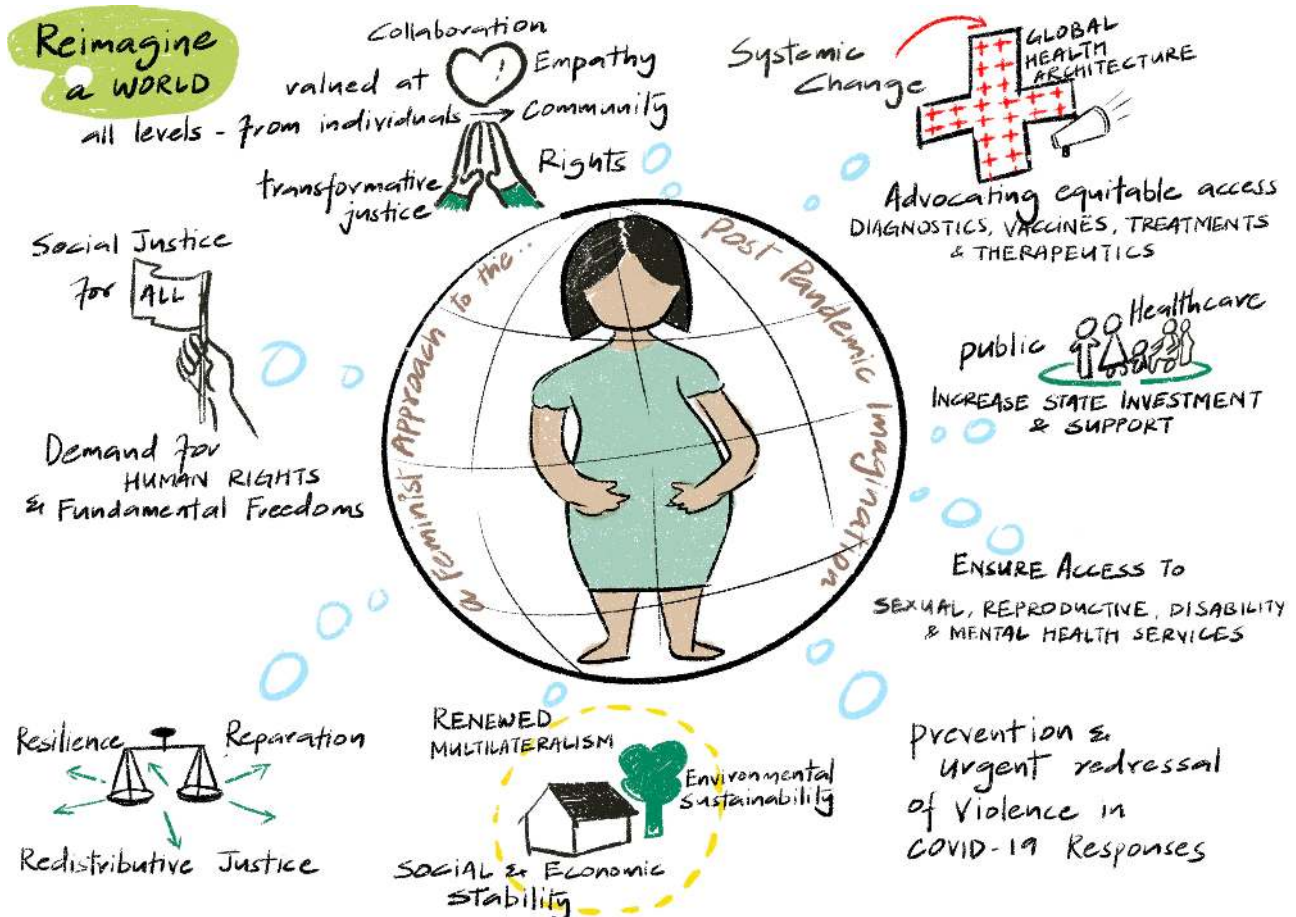


An intersectional feminist approach to the postpandemic future must:

- Ensure increased state investment in public health and in the social determinants of health, and promote universal health care.
- Ensure data on gender, sex, disability and as well as other key indicators.
- Build a new multilateralism to achieve social and economic stability, environmental sustainability and gender equality.

contd....

- Ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as social justice for all through collaborative regional and global action as well as solidarities.
- Strive to build a world where empathy, collaboration, resilience and transformative justice are valued at all levels – from the individual to the community.
- Make linkages between the very personal and the global collective struggles, recognising the complexities and limits of overcoming barriers and bringing together intersectional identities.
- Build global solidarities to create new solutions and adopt appropriate responses to forge a different way forward, given that the pandemic is not yet over.



We acknowledge the contribution of community health workers, feminist movements and health movements in evolving the intersectional feminist framework.

This is the summary of the larger framework:

The Unravelling Pandemic: Envisioning our intersectional Feminist Futures

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Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/1FZU39UviYI>

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