India is a country of a variety of cultural traditions. Throughout its rich history which dates back to 3000 BC, India has been invaded time and again by dynasties from Middle East Asia and Europe, which has shaped its traditions and socio-cultural backdrop. Unfortunately, changes in religious and regional dogmas also led to a culture where women are treated differently from men and further leading to different treatment given to women in various parts of the country. While women are natural heirs and leaders of matriarchal society in Kerala (in Southern India), a newborn girl child in Haryana and Rajasthan (Northern India) has to struggle for her own life and from being victim of infanticide.

Due to the regional cultural differences, it can be said the gender inequalities would have geographical variations as well. Further, varying levels of access to education, employment opportunities, infant mortality has shown varying levels of gender bias in urban and rural context as well. Research has also shown correlation of gender bias with Children and Women's health, Crimes against women and Quality of Life.

PROJECT GOALS:
- Primarily to map gender inequality of various demographic indicators at district level and then specifically at urban and rural context.
- Secondary, to explore the possibility of spatial autocorrelation in inequality to tie in to regional and cultural differences.

STUDY AREA:
The expected patterns of inequalities are hypothesised to be influenced by local cultures and thus, expected to transcend the political lines of states. Thus, to capture inequalities in the finest geographical unit possible, the chosen unit for study of gender inequality are districts. Districts make for a good sample size (n=535) for this study; for it is more detailed than states and yet not as numerous as sub-districts.

MEASURING GENDER INEQUALITIES:
While the most common unit of measuring inequalities is the sex ratio (number of males per 1000 females), it is difficult to judge how much disadvantage women face by gender bias. The Gender Inequality Index (GII), suggested by United Nations Development Program considers income and health factors as well. However, for sake of simplicity, inequality here has been measured by the Female Disadvantage (FD) Index. This index considers the percentage of population gap between the sexes with respect to the female population and is mapped for various demographic sections. The clusters and outliers along with their cores were identified by Local Indicators of Spatial Autocorrelation (LISA). LISA also helps identify the cores of each cluster.

GLOBAL MORAN'S RESULTS
Low values of the Female Disadvantage Index shows greater gaps between male and female population. Clusters of high and low values are apparent from the mapping exercise. In totality, the pattern of gaps between the male and female population is similar in total, urban and rural scenarios. While similarities in patterns are visually discernable between the patterns of total, the urban and the rural sections of the literate population; the pattern similarities of working population cannot be distinguished between each section. The population gaps amongst children are similar between total and rural populations. In general, majority of high values (represented in red) are more visible in the southern region and the majority of low values (represented in blue) are apparent in the northern regions. But, demographic data cannot be conclusive by itself. Further analysis with health, income data and correlation studies can help bring a more clearer picture and aid in development strategies for women.