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Committee of the WCWS - 2016

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

[1]

ECONOMIC INTERVENTION AND WOMEN MICRO ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A CASE STUDY OF VIMUKTHI

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurship become part of the inclusive economic growth strategy in India. It has been observed that easy access into credit and training enhanced women entrepreneurial skills and wealth creation in the rural villages in India. Bank Linkage programmes increased the importance of self-help groups. Women participants in general achieved more economic and social decision making and resource allocation capacity which in turn improved the entrepreneurial attitude and skills among rural women beneficiaries. The present research study will shed light upon the role of training and development efforts of the microfinance organization in general and VIKMUKTHI as a particular. This primary research also focus on effect of intervention of self-help groups on social and economic empowerment process. The article will also identify various issues and challenges faced by the women micro-entrepreneurs in the country.

Keywords: Empowerment, entrepreneurship, self-help groups, microfinance, inclusive growth.

[2]

LEADERS FROM THE MARGINS - BEDOUIN WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY WHO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS

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ABSTRACT

The changes in the Bedouin sector in the Negev Desert since the establishment of the Israeli state have had far-reaching implications for Bedouin women, including the loss of traditional sources of employment and the lack of suitable alternative employment.

Like many women in traditional, patriarchal societies, Bedouin women are trained to make do with little, and to be obedient, subservient, and passive. Thus, they are marginalized, excluded from public life and the labor market. This exacerbates the economic inequality between Arabs and Jews, institutionalized, inter alia, in the "Arab enclave", which lacks industrialization and is allocated fewer resources by the Israeli state.

In this context, a qualitative study was conducted among twenty Bedouin women living in poverty who participated in a microfinance program. The aim of the study was to examine the process that the women undergo.

The results of the study shows women have succeeded, albeit slowly, in creating employment for themselves and family members. Becoming earners raises their status within the family; they are respected for increasing the family's honor, and their opinions become important. However, there are still severe limitations to this evolution, pertaining to the program itself, Bedouin society, and the women's status as Bedouin-Moslem-Arab women living in Israel.

Keywords: Bedouin women, poverty, entrepreneurs, microfinance program.

[3]

THE INTERLINK BETWEEN COMMERCIAL CARDAMOM FARMING, WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT AND FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses the impact of commercial cardamom farming in the livelihoods women revisiting the concept of “feminization of poverty” in relation to cash crop farming. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches have been used. A quantitative survey was conducted in 513 households in Ilam district of eastern Nepal between November and December 2015 followed by qualitative data. Previous literatures on feminization of poverty and cash crop farming have also been intensively reviewed. A descriptive analysis with theoretical concept of feminization of poverty in link to cash crop farming has been used to analyze the data. The paper concludes that women of different ethnic background engaged in commercial cardamom farming have been able to improve their livelihoods, spend on their children's education and manage households well. For marginalized community the impact is even more, as women have been able to step out of poverty. The high return from cardamom farming has changed livelihood trajectories of these women. Engagement in cash crop farming has empowered women financially and socially through their visible participation in savings group and community groups. This study also opens up pathways for further studies on the concept of feminization of poverty in link to better livelihood opportunities.

Keywords: Writing, template, sixth, edition, self-discipline, is, very, good.

[4]

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS IN THE URBAN STARTUP SCENARIO: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE 'LUCITE CEILING' PHENOMENON

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ABSTRACT

The present study, in the context of the relatively new but flourishing startup culture in India, identifies the variables that are largely responsible for the marginalization of women entrepreneurs in upcoming businesses, primarily in the urban landscape. The study uses a multi-method strategy while exploring the problem of the 'Lucite Ceiling' that persists in the domain at large. Lucite ceiling is a transparent ceiling made of solid unbreakable Lucite, rather than just glass, used to depict the double discrimination and inequality experienced by women. There is a dearth of literature on the phenomenon in the startup sphere, and hence this is pioneer work. Based on certain parameters, the prime causes for gender discrimination have been identified and thorough analysis has been done in order to understand the reasons for this blockade, especially in the foundational phases. Qualitative aspects of the data were assimilated through personal interviews and participant observation methodology. The study confirmed the existence of strong barriers to entry for women in startups at the top management level. According to the study, there was a marked absence of women in specifically the early stages of technology - based startups. It was also revealed that while affirmative action in the later stages of these enterprises improves the sex ratio. However, startups with an all-women executive board have also emerged lately. Thorough desk analysis, it is observed that while initiatives to battle this issue and to encourage the presence of women in the startup sphere have been taken by the government, they are yet to penetrate the urban tech-startup scenario.

Keywords: Startup, technology, gender, discrimination, lucite ceiling.

[5]

**SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN PLANTATION
SECTOR – A CASE STUDY FROM QUEENSBURRY ESTATE IN NUWARA ELIYA
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

Women in Sri Lanka contribute to the economy of the country in three sectors, namely the plantation, free trade zone and as house maids in the Middle Eastern countries. In the meantime, they play an important role directly or indirectly in social, economic development activities. Women's leadership is not only important in Plantation but also it is inevitable to protect women's rights in Island wide. The objectives of the research are to identify role of women's leadership in plantation management and politics and to identify the factors adversely impacting the leadership activities of plantation women. The research area of this study is Queensbury estate in Nuwara Eliya District. This research study intends to utilize both quantitative and qualitative data. In this way, the essential data for this study gathered by using following methods such as personal observation, key informants, case studies. A few in-depth unstructured interviews and semi structured interviews will be conducted for this study. The challenges are in the prevailing system of estate management and union activities, their structure and functions. Employer – employee relationships, the male members of the trade union, family responsibilities of the women are another whole area which is very much value ridden in terms of patriarchal characteristics impact on women's leadership in Plantation Sector.

Keywords: Women's leadership, plantation sector.

[6]

MYANMAR WOMEN LABOURS IN THAILAND: POWER OF PRODUCTION WITHOUT POWER OF DEMAND

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ABSTRACT

Thai Government allows Myanmar women labours who came to Thailand before declaration to work legally and their employers have to take them to Labour registration. These labours are forbidden to work with other employers prior to granting a permission of the current employers. Yet they are not allowed to go out of the province where their registrations made. This phenomenon enhanced legitimacy to a process of illegal labour import and gave power of control to the employers whereby the labours did not have a choice. In reality, there are great numbers of illegal Myanmar labours in Thailand. The purpose of the study is to examine the power of demand of illegal Myanmar women labours in both employer level and government level. In-depth interview and snowball techniques were governed in the study. The study sampling group was twenty-six illegal Myanmar women labours from Northern of Thailand. The findings show that all these illegal labours have been working in Thailand more than three years but their employers did not take them to register as legal foreign labours. They have no rights to demand on anything even wage rate, job type, being and health care. Remittances to their parents in Myanmar are operated by the employers. They live on fears for the employers and government officials. The results implicate that although these labours are an important power of production but their demands are oppressed by the power of fears for starvation, unemployment, employer power, state laws as well as the government power.

Keywords: Illegal labour, Myanmar women labour, power oppression, fear, power of demand.

[7]

**FEMINIZING POVERTY OR RESPONSIBILITY? WOMEN'S 'INVISIBLE'
LABOUR AND SUB-CONTRACTED PRODUCTION CHAINS IN SOUTH INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1980s, post-colonial countries (such as India), that had marginalized women in national planning for economic development, began to promote women's income-earning and market-oriented activities, so that they might assist their households and communities who endured economic stress, exacerbated by the adoption of neo-liberal economic reforms. Given this backdrop, the aim of this study is to closely examine women's labour market experience at the lower end of the unorganized sector of the economy and assess the significance of women's work to the survival and wellbeing of their impoverished households. The paper focuses on a case study of home and neighbourhood-based food production units in order to show how women's labour in these units is shaped by the intersecting dynamics of household patriarchies on the one hand and the profit maximizing ends of private capital, on the other. Primary data was gathered through structured interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with women workers and owners of these units located in the working class and industrial belt of North Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The paper argues that there has been an excessive responsibilizing of the women, largely from the backward classes and scheduled castes, who work long hours in unregulated workspaces and feed and care for their families, often in the face of male disengagement (full or partial) from supporting the household. While aid agencies and national governments valorize women for their efficiency in 'managing' household poverty and sustaining fragile livelihoods with skill and ingenuity, this study foregrounds the gender-unjust implications of vesting poor women with the prime responsibility for alleviating global poverty.

Keywords: Poverty, labour, gender, sub-contracting, domestic outwork, social reproduction, responsibilization.

[8]

THE DYNAMISM OF ROLE CONFLICT AND COPING STRATEGIES IN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to contribute to the body of knowledge of women entrepreneurship by integrating the lines of empirical research on role conflict and coping with the process-based view of entrepreneurship. Thereby provide a more comprehensive picture of understanding of role conflict and coping among women entrepreneurs. Desk research was undertaken to address the objective. The analysis show that women entrepreneurs have been increasing across all the regions. However, business owned by women performs less in all aspects as compared to the business owned by men. Studies so far have found that different reasons associated with the low performance of business owned by women as compared to those owned by men. These include human, financial, social and psychological capital as well as institutional norms and values. Attributed to their gender, women involve in multiple roles which can create role conflict. Hence, the performance of business owned by women can also be explained by role conflict and their choice of coping strategies. Entrepreneurship literature show that entrepreneurship is a dynamic process. Thus, we argue that the experience of role conflict and choice of coping among women entrepreneurs to be dynamic. Finally, the research implies that the need for the provision of support for role conflict coping strategies for women entrepreneurs together with more traditional areas of support such as financial supports.

Keywords: Women, entrepreneurship, role conflict, coping strategies.

[9]

CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN EXPORT LED NON-TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to examine opportunities, risks and challenges of women's engagement in non-traditional export led agriculture after the end of decade long civil war. This is a part of ongoing broader study (2014-2017) on 'Feminisation, agricultural transition and rural employment'. The study was conducted in Mechi hill of Nepal. Qualitative research methods such as focus group discussion, observation and key informant interviews were used to collect the data. Additionally, a 500 household survey was conducted to complement this study. It is found that Nepal women's engagement in non-traditional export led agriculture is rapidly increasing after the end of the civil war and their role in agriculture is rapidly changing. Their active engagement in export led agriculture has generated more employment opportunities for rural women, it has contributed to enhance social, political, economic positions. However, women farmers are facing new challenges such as agro ecological risk, market risk, crop disease, and market and processing techniques. Competing and expanding with Indian farmers is their major challenge. One of the important implications for women is to expand their business and look for comparative advantages for which government should create favourable policy environment and technological supports. At present women are facing strong psychological pressures to maintain and expand their high value agricultural exports in a situation of slow and steady responses of the government to address some of the policy constraints.

Keywords: Cardamom, empowerment, women.

[10]

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT AS A CATALYST OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Women constitute an important section of the labour force today and the economic role played by women is one of the key factors of development in any nation. Women entrepreneurship development is the instrument of women empowerment and business ownership is empowering women at an economic as well as personal level.

This research underscores that women entrepreneurship is still an underutilised resource of economic growth which has received skimpy policy attention so far. This paper analyses the extent to which entrepreneurship empowers women and the plethora of transformation that it brings about in the personality, social and economic status of women. The study envisages to find why women become entrepreneurs, the challenges they face in terms of socio cultural barriers to entrepreneurial activities of women, as well as the major avenues of support (formal or informal sources) available to them. It uses different indicators like , 'building awareness', 'decision making power', ' mobility level' and other sub indicators to measure empowerment and aims to statistically analyse data for percentage, frequency, correlation coefficient and multiple regressions. This study uses a methodology combining primary research (ex- post facto and true experiment) as well as desk study research to arrive at conclusions and policy worthy recommendations to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurial activities. The paper highlights case studies of successful women entrepreneurs, the challenges they face and the environment in which they operate. The major target is the Indian scenario and rural women, as well as highlighting the aspects which are universally applicable with respect to entrepreneurship and women empowerment globally.

Keywords: Women empowerment, women entrepreneurship, challenges, indicators, sources of support, barriers, emerging economies, Indian women, rural women, global women, personal change, economic change.

[11]

**GENDER, JOBS AND EMPOWERMENT IN VIETNAMESE SMALL
ENTERPRISES OF TRADITIONNAL HANDICRAFT: CASE STUDY IN THE
PERIPHERY OF HANOI**

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ABSTRACT

Women are the main workforce of traditional craft sector in Vietnam. They not only actively participate in production, but also succeed in leading enterprises as managers. Even though women contribute much to the achievement of companies, they face many constraints in working places due to theories of Confucianism and Buddhism. This research aims at answering two questions: (i) whether or not gender inequality exists in small scale craft enterprises and, (ii) how is empowerment the women employees in the firms. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies are applied to collect information in order to clarify the research questions. Qualitatively, ethnographic approach is employed. It is explained that since 2014 the researchers go to the study areas to survey employment in the enterprises. In addition, participatory observation and oral history recording were also used to collect information (evidence) of gender inequality in employment and women empowerment in rural companies. Cross checking and supplementing were used for gathering information from communal leaders, women unions' leaders and local residents. Quantitatively, descriptive statistics were used to analysis labor force, gender and employment of 50 enterprises in 3 traditional artisanal communes in Vietnam to find out gender inequality. Based on the result of analysis, some policy implications will be recommended to empower women as well as to reduce gender inequality in the small enterprises in rural areas

Keywords: Labor, empowerment of, small enterprise, gender equality, traditional handicraft.

[12]

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY THROUGH THE P.A.C.E. PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

Women constitute a large proportion of the garment industry across the world. This female garment worker population comes from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds with limited exposure to education and employment opportunities. Recognized as being low skilled, for many women jobs in the garment industry are their first formal employment and they face challenges around advancing in the workplace and managing their personal lives. Despite this recognition, there is limited research on practices that empower women in the workplace and invest in their life-skill building. Gap Inc. through its Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E.) program provides life and technical skills education to female garment workers. Piloted in 2007 in two garment factories in India, P.A.C.E. has since expanded to over 10 sites in South Asia. The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) has conducted evaluations for each program site. The evaluation design is a cohort study where all program participants are interviewed at the beginning of the intervention and then again subsequent to its completion, i.e. baseline and endline, barring program attrition. The data from the evaluations has shown consistent results: overall, women report higher levels of self-esteem and work efficacy across all sites which has enhanced their ability to be a positive influence on the work environment and also improve their personal lives. This academic paper will examine how Gap Inc.'s P.A.C.E. program offers a holistic approach to women's empowerment in the workplace and personal lives through life skill building.

Keywords: Women, empowerment, employability, life skills, female garment workers, evaluation, South Asia.

[13]

**A SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY ON WOMEN MICRO ENTREPRENEURS - WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO STREET VENDORS IN KARAISKUDI CITY, TAMIL
NADU, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Women Street vending as a profession has been in existence in India since times immemorial. In cities of Tamil Nadu, the large numbers of urban poor survive by working in the informal sector. Poverty and lack of gainful employment in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu and in the smaller towns drive large numbers of people to the capital city for work and livelihood. Karaikudi town is one of the famous in Tamil Nadu. Most of the Street Vendors are selling the goods like Fruits and Vegetables, Foods, Nuts, Steel, Plastic, Flowers and etc. They have a pattern of selling the goods so to say, in sitting position, bicycle, trolley, walking, sales setting of open places, road side, and door to door. They sell their goods; take the time of 12 or 14 hours per day (8AM- 9PM). Working outside, street vendors and their goods are exposed to strong sun, heavy rains and extreme heat or cold. Unless they work in markets, most don't have shelter or running water and toilets near their workplace.

Purpose of the Study: The number of women street vendors is increasing in Karaikudi city. This is because women who do not have any other way to meet the subsistence needs of their families enter into the informal sector like street vending. But street vending is a non-traditional and male-dominated job and there is an earning gap between men and women vendors the researcher selected.

Research Methodology: The women street vendors have occupied the streets, their activities and motivations to micro credit have remained poorly understood. As the economic melt-down worsens as epitomized by company closures on a mass scale, more and more people find themselves depending on street vending for their livelihoods.

Objective of the study:

To understand the Socio-Economic conditions of women street vendors.

To analyse the problems of women street vendors

To initiate a State Level Law or Policy for street vendors so that they can be accommodated and their positive contributions to urban development are recognized.

Area of Study: Karaikudi

Sampling Procedure: This study is mainly based on a primary survey, and therefore, the socio-demographic and economic profiles of 100 individual women street vendors are discussed.

Major Findings:

The education level is relatively very low among the street vendors when it is compared with the literacy rate of Tamil Nadu and Karaikudi city. The overall literacy rate of Tamil Nadu stands 73 per cent and the overall literacy rate of Karaikudi city are as high as 79.16 per cent.

The saving level is relatively very low among the street vendors when it is compared with the average national saving rate. The average national saving rate in India stands as 29.8 per cent to 30.8 per cent of one's income.

All the street vendors are facing harassments in the study area.

In the study area varied activities of street vending are taking place. Vegetable selling is done by major street vendors followed by fruit selling. Researcher finds more than 50 per cent of street vendors sell fruits and vegetables.

In the study area the women participation in street vending is lower than the male participation. This reflects the overall trend in Karaikudi.

Implication: The in-depth analysis of the socio economic facets of the street vendors in Karaikudi city town has led to the unambiguous conclusion that their economic condition is really deplorable and there is a dive need for concrete action plan to ameliorate the socio economic conditions of the street vendors. As street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in the urban informal sector, this sub section mainly focuses on the role of the women street vendors in the Karaikudi has also categorized workers in the unorganized sector.

Keywords: Women, street vendors, economics, micro credit, empowerment, entrepreneurs.

[14]

TRAFFICKING THE FEMALE BODY: THE POSITION OF WOMEN AND THE SEX TRADE IN THE NORTH EAST

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ABSTRACT

It is a bitter fact that young girls and even minors from the North East are sold and annually supplied to brothel owners in cities like New Delhi, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata and so on. Going by the details published in a website, the traffickers earn between 20,000 and 40,000 rupees for each girl. Over the past ten years there has been a rise in reports of missing girls from the remote region of seven states, an increase which authorities believe is due to trafficking. But activists estimate thousands of North Eastern girls disappear every year — most of whom are not reported by families due to the stigma associated with being part of the sex trade. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in New Delhi maintains that almost one million Indian girls and women work in India's sex industry which is estimated to be worth around 400 billion rupees (\$9 billion) annually. Mostly, traffickers lure the impoverished families in rural areas by promising to offer lucrative jobs to their daughters, especially those who are aged between 12 and 16. The flesh trade flourishes in certain sensitive areas in the North East such as Moreh (near Manipur-Myanmar border), Imphal, Churachandpur, Shillong, Guwahati, Siliguri, Darjeeling, Namchi and so on (<http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/449>).

The victimized female bodies in trafficking consist of patterns of conduct through which particular desires are literally incorporated and made manifest in the society. They create, depend on, and encode cultural relationships. At times, these bodies act as striking props, especially in the interrogation of norms and mores specifically in relation to the canons of writing and of scripted truth. It is noteworthy that several institutions and cultural practices, including the law, religion, architecture, sexuality, the family, and learning embody a shift towards the perpetration of female trafficking. This shift unravels certain parameters of the invisibility of the female that organizes the focus on the male subject. The female subject is still oscillating between civic privileges and restrictions. Almost in unison, we can declare that the female body in trafficking has become a locus of a contract between academic categories and social movements, academic praxis and wider political struggle.

[15]

THE IMPACT OF FEMALE EMPLOYMENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A KERALA CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

While policymakers agree that gender equality is crucial for development efforts, methods of increasing female empowerment are still heavily debated with some calling for expanded property rights and others for greater economic opportunities to help increase female empowerment in developing countries. This study evaluates the actual impact of female employment on female autonomy within Kerala -an Indian state often touted as a 'gender-friendly state' - by using domestic violence as an indicator variable.

A field study was first conducted to ascertain the relationships between female employment, property status, and domestic violence. Empirical specifications for statistical analysis on NFHS data were then determined on the basis of these findings, resulting in the dropping of property status as a variable. Regression analysis was conducted to empirically determine the impact of female employment on the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence. It was found when analysis was un-instrumented, results were ambiguous and suggested endogeneity. Several variables were then tested as possible instruments, resulting in the use of caste as an instrumental variable in probit and bivariate probit models. When instrumented, results show that female employment unambiguously decreases the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence when all other factors are controlled. This indicates that previous research fails to properly instrument for endogeneity and that increasing employment opportunities for women remains an effective way to increase female empowerment, particularly within the Kerala context.

Keywords: Female empowerment, employment, property, domestic violence, Kerala.

[16]

**DEBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ASSAM, INDIA: SECTION 498-A, THE
INDIAN PENAL CODE (IPC) VS THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT (PWDVA)**

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ABSTRACT

Domestic Violence is a burning issue in contemporary India and it questions the very sanctity of relationship in which the Indian family system is based. This paper will highlight domestic violence contained in institution of marriage that is the 'relationship between husband and wife' and their interpersonal relationship complexity within the legal framework of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act. These Acts operate as custodian for women subjugated to spousal violence. The study is based on the Kamrup Metro district of Assam as it is the most urbanised among all the districts. The objectives of the study are to show the perspective of the women survivors as they narrate their first-hand experience in the judiciary process; as to how much they have been benefitted. It will also show the standpoint of the state machinery like the Police, Protection Officer, Doctor, Lawyer and the Non-Governmental Organisations. The findings of the study highlight the position of the various stakeholders in Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act and Section 498-A, IPC, can actually prevent, protect and provide relief measures to the survivors. This will be argued in the lights of patriarchy theory, socialization theory and feminist standpoint.

Keywords: Domestic violence, interpersonal relationship, legal framework, PWDVA, 498 - A IPC, feminist standpoint.

[17]

SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF THE BARGAINING POWER OF WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT

Bargaining theory and bargaining models illustrate that what empowers women is greater threat utility. Woman's threat utility crucially determines how well she will do in the bargain and the utility she can assure herself during decision making when bargaining breaks down. It is been observed that higher threat utility leads to a higher bargaining power. Outcome of bargaining depends on each person's threat point. In the context of women- her human capital including education and experience, labour income from outside source, inherited wealth which generates non labour income, laws in the society, social network and parental gifts at the time of marriage can increase her threat utility and thereby her bargaining power or agency within the household. This paper seeks to analyse the decision making power vested in women in South Asian patriarchal societies and analyze the possible factors which affect her threat utility in household level bargaining. Social norms are also studied to understand the spatio-temporal variations in decision making. The data from Demographic and Health surveys (DHS Program) is used to empirically analyze the cultural differences across countries. The bargaining solution proposed by John Nash is used to visualize the geospatial variations across regions, noting together the threat point, the utility possibility frontier, and the isoproduct contours. It is concluded from the study that bargaining power depends directly on outside options, and if these remain unchanged, bargaining power remains unchanged in most parts of South Asia. The paper further suggests measures to advance gender equality in changed threat utility scenarios across regions.

Keywords: Threat utility, decision making, bargaining power.

[18]

NARRATING GENDERED VIOLENCE AND RACIAL TERROR IN 'HONOR CRIME' DISCOURSES

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines constructions of the honor crime in public discourses in the U.S. by focusing on the murder of Tina Isa, an American teenager of mixed Palestinian-Brazilian origin, who was killed by her parents in St. Louis, Missouri in 1989. As court records reveal, Tina Isa's murder by her mother and father were captured on tape by the FBI. The FBI's monitoring of the Isa home had spanned a period of over two years during which the state agency sought to collect evidence of terrorism against her Palestinian father, Zein Isa, for his alleged involvement with a U.S.-based branch of the Abu Nidal Organization. During their trial for the murder of their daughter, the FBI evidence would play a key role, helping to convict Isa and his wife of murder, for which they were charged with the death penalty. Reported in *People Magazine* as a case of failed integration and a manifestation of patriarchal Arab honor codes, Tina Isa's case received attention from various American media sources which repeatedly invoked this line of journalistic inquiry. While on death row, however, Zein Isa was also indicted with three fellow co-conspirators for their plan to bomb the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC. Thus a case that was framed publicly as an instance of cultural violence and built on what Leti Volpp describes as the "terrain of gender subordination" (2000) became also wrapped into a discussion about home-grown concerns over national security and transnational iterations of terror. By reading the story of Tina Isa's murder and its public framings in relation to feminist theorizations of gendered and racial violence, this paper explores the interwoven contours of gendered violence and terror(ism) that mark narrations of honor-related violence in the U.S. context. In this presentation, I draw on this story in order to disrupt narratives of the honor crime's singularity and exceptionalism which have, in spite of years of feminist scholarship and activism, remained intact and continue to powerfully circulate in tandem with Islamophobic and Orientalist discourses. How and under what conditions does the honor crime enter and become shaped in and through U.S. media discourses? What do narratives about the honor crime provoke in U.S. readers' imaginaries about conceptions of citizenship, belonging, and un/homeliness? By addressing these questions, this paper explores the various political registers that are often concealed, downplayed, or suppressed in public framings of honored-related violence and death. Through its focus on honor related violence, this paper fits well into the conference track of "Violence in Feminist, Gay, Postcolonial Discourses."

Keywords: Gendered Violence; 'Honor Crime' Discourses; Racial Terror; Terrorism; U.S. Empire

[19]

AWARENESS OF BREAST CANCER AMONG TRIBAL WOMEN IN THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Breast Cancer is the Second leading cause of mortality and morbidity in both developed and developing countries. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 2012) worldwide report states that an estimated 1671149 new breast cancer cases and 521907 deaths and 144937 new breast cancer incidence and 70218 deaths in India. Mumbai is the highest breast cancer incidence in India as 5620 (30.3%) cancer cases, 5354 (28.5%) cancer incidence in Thiruvananthapuram and 3921 (22.4%) cancer incidence in Chennai reported by the Hospital Based Cancer Registry 2007-2011 in India. Though the government had taken action in XII five year plan for implementing the availability of opportunistic screening services for cancer at the Sub-Center, primary and district level centers in all 664 districts, women use the services at lower level because of fear and embarrassment. Breast cancer is a sensitive issue for women in the world. So, many of the women did not participated in screening tests. Poverty, lack of education, cultural beliefs, shortage of screening facilities, advanced stages at diagnosis and gender inequality in healthcare activities etc., these are all barriers for increasing the breast cancer incidence among women in India. The study aims to understand the level of awareness about breast cancer warning signs, risk factors, early detection measures and the source of information among tribal women in The Nilgiris District, Tamilnadu. There are 6 taluks in The Nilgiris District. Coonoor taluk was randomly selected. 23,387 females are living in the selected area. 100 women were randomly selected by using lottery method. The sample was collected from married women under the age group of 31-50 years. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect the data. The data were analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences Version 20. The research result revealed that the tribal women awareness level was poor in the Nilgiri district due to lack of education and their major source of information was found to be their forefathers and their community people.

Keywords: Breast cancer, awareness, tribal women.

[20]

NEWSPAPER REPORTING ON RAPE IN SRI LANKA SHAPING THE NATION'S MINDSET

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ABSTRACT

A woman is raped every 90 minute in Sri Lanka! The actual number is probably much higher. Most victims are afraid to report the crimes to the police because of social stigma and repercussions. News reports of rape and murder of a five year old Seya in September 2015 sensationalized the crime and police investigations. Details of the family and suspects were given wide publicity in the media. While the police was in pursuit of the criminals so were the journalists, resulting in hasty arrests in a bid to dilute pressure from the public and authorities. What drives media coverage of rape and sexual assault? Scholars and media critics have long worried that certain biases in news coverage of sexual violence, empathy towards accused perpetrators, blame and incredulity towards victims – may lead to an increased incidence of rape. This phenomenon called 'rape culture' operates through two mechanisms: first perpetrators may experience a sense of impunity and second future victims of rape may be less likely to report their attacks to authorities. The study attempt to systematically examine the existence of rape culture, across hundred news reports in English and Sinhala language newspapers over a period of twenty five years. Findings reveal that newspaper media helps to perpetuate misconceptions about rape by unethical reporting on rape in news stories. As an influential medium, with the power to influence men and women's understandings of gender roles, they should adhere to a policy of inculcating better national morals.

Keywords: Newspaper media, sexual violence, rape culture, women.

[21]

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMINANT CULTURE ON ADAPTATION OF FOREIGN WOMEN TO HEADSCARF TRENDS

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ABSTRACT

People's wearing style with its social meanings and values expresses their way of living and thinking. The headscarf trend referred to individual identities, consumption patterns and their adaptation to their cultural and social norms affects women's style of wearing. At present, the conspicuous consumption of Islamic wearing is building a new form of esthetic and taste in daily life rather than fulfilling the Islamic condition of covering in the Quran.

In this sense, wearing headscarf in Muslim countries is more than a sign of living up to Islamic norms and the main parameter in the identity construction of Muslim women. In Turkey, headscarf is sometimes used as a tool of joining public space, political symbol, esthetic and self-expression. In the Middle East countries including Turkey with densely Muslim population, headscarf as a sign of Islamic lifestyle is mingled with daily life on social, economic and political grounds. While some countries like Iran supports legal practice of wearing headscarf, other countries still have headscarf ban in the formal government structures. Also, Turkey had it in the past and has lifted the headscarf ban. On the other hand, the practices of Islam are similar in many densely Muslim populated countries but women's headscarf and outfit styles are different from each other and show their own identity. This sometimes varies with social economic class, regional and individual factors.

The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the foreign women's adaptation to popular fashion trends under the effect of dominant culture and how current social cultural and economic trends affect them. The study takes place in İstanbul University with foreign women students most of whom come from Middle East countries for studying in Turkey. 7 of these students have been depth- interviewed and the data for the present study have been analyzed. It is clearly seen in this study that the change in headscarf women's consumption schedule are because of social adaptation to the daily life of the target country as well as general economic factors. In this sense, the study points out that the extrinsic factors like social adaptation has much more impact on their style of wearing headscarf than the internal factors such as; determine or change a style.

Keyword: Headscarf trends, grounded theory, foreign women students, social adaptation.

[22]

TELECONFERENCE: A SPACE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND FORMATION OF NEW IDENTITIES

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ABSTRACT

Based on the findings from the ethnographic field work conducted in Queens New York among the Bangladeshi first and second generation Muslim women, this paper will highlight how a new set of identities are being formed in a transnational existence. The use of media and its diverse usage was the key lens for this research and the conduction of daily, weekly and bi-weekly Islamic classes and discussions over telephone conference calls were the main focus as the cultural site for knowledge production for its members. Identifying some of the scales and markers of gendered and social transformations that took place, this paper will highlight the dynamics of the use of media in producing new set of articulated Muslim selves and identities. It will also shed light about the dynamics of the two generation of women (first and second) and scrutinize how their experiences were varied and contested being involved with the same space. Some of the key methodologies used were participatory observations, spending time in the community, conducting of 50 open ended interviews and 45 extensive in-depth interviews, spending more than two years' time in the field from 2007-2009 and from March-August of 2013. This research suggests that this trend and the outcome of regularly meeting over the land/cell phones using 1-800 numbers to congregate together over a same platform for having discussions on different religious issues is both local and global or transnational at the same time.

Keywords: Islamic teleconference, identity, social movement, gender identity, migrant, first and second generation Muslim women.

[23]

UNDERSTANDING GENDER AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

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Being-a-woman and being-a-man in the world in which we live is not simply about assuming roles which have been pre-determined and passed on from generation to generation. Every generation redefines itself and priorities its values in response, not necessarily in imitation, to previous generations. (Joseph Selling)

This beautiful sentence created a great enthusiasm in my theological and ethical vision of gender, and my intellectual investigations in various issues related to gender. At present, gender issues are of great importance in contemporary Indian society and culture. Many current issues debated about gender, gender justice, gender roles (women's experience, status, and their roles) are still influenced by religious teachings, and are culturally and socially biased. The gender inequality affects every aspect of culture and society and its impact is prominent in the family structure, in the educational system, in the economy, in the political system. As a result, female oppression and male domination still persist in all society and family. (specialty in Asian countries) Men's domination over women starts in the family and is extended to the kinship group. In recent years, beyond doubt, nations have made efforts to become a modern and liberal state, free from its traditional past. Such efforts, however, have been undermined by the exponential growth in population and the lack of modernization and liberalization in the villages. I am convinced that higher education, material prosperity, better employment opportunities, personal freedom, and openness to other cultures, especially through the media, have sown the seeds of an attitude of gender relationship in the Indian culture similar to that of the Western societies. The positive and negative aspects of these movements must be understood. However, the rising trends of divorce, single parenthood, premarital sex, cohabitation, changes in family structure, the spread of HIV/AIDS etc., are alarming. Thus, the present study intends to contribute to an integral Christian view of gender by opening a dialogue between the official Catholic teachings and a number of (women's) issues being raised by contemporary moral theologians. It begins with an attempt to understand gender and women's movements. I will try to set the scene by reviewing our own, Judeo-Christian tradition and situating the place of women in that socio-religious context. What are today referred to as gender issues do not form part of that tradition, but neither do they appear in the wider anthropological and sociological experience of the majority of peoples of the world.

[24]

COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MALDIVES

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence in its various forms is on a rise in Maldives. As of December 2015, a total number of 359 domestic abuse cases were reported throughout the country. Even in the capital city of Male' the number of domestic abuse cases has risen from 62 in the year 2014, to 92 in 2015. As of April 2016, a total number of 82 cases of domestic violence have been reported so far. Following the incident of death of a woman in December 2015, due to sexual abuse the ministry of Law of Gender has expressed their concern over the prevalence of such issues and the fact that majority of such cases go unreported. In the light of this background it is imperative to study the trend and pattern of the issue of domestic violence of women in Maldives. The present study would involve a survey assessing the perception of women towards violence and the remedial measures taken (if any). The survey would revisit the causes of domestic violence towards women. In this regard a special focus would be made to assess the role of Islamic ideologies in the perpetration of violence against women. It is opined that religious preaching could go a long way towards eliminating violence against women. Furthermore, it would also be the endeavor of the study to identify the existing barriers in the implementation of the relevant laws and provide suggestions to overcome the said barriers. The study would be useful for law enforcement and other related agencies to curb the growing violence against women.

Keywords: Domestic violence, women, Maldives , Islam, remedial measures.

[25]

AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN: THE ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN SECUNDRABAD AND HYDERABAD

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ABSTRACT

Women's health, women's empowerment and AIDS eradication are all global concerns incorporated among the seven Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) propounded by the United Nations. Globally women are marginalized when it comes to AIDS awareness because there are very few awareness programmes specifically targeted towards women sex workers. In this paper, we study and examine the role of voluntary organizations (VO's) in combating the incidence of HIV/AIDS and sexually Transmitted Diseases among the female sex workers in the Hyderabad Secundrabad area. We trace the evolution of the voluntary organizations HLCHS (Hyderabad Leprosy Control Health Services), HOPES and Manavatha Parivarthan Society, towards becoming agents of information and prevention of AIDS in the region. HRG's (High-Risk Groups) and FSW's (Female Sex Workers) are identified as the target groups by APSAC's (Andhra Pradesh Society for AIDS Control) in their slum intervention program. Our focus is on how VO's interventions impact the prevention of HIV among female sex workers. The activities that contribute towards this aim are sexual health, counselling, medication and continuous health follow-ups. In addition, the VO's also have programs to counsel adolescent girls on their understanding of bodies, so as to prevent them from being subject to any form of Sexual disease. Purposive sampling methods are used in analysing the data quantitatively, qualitatively case studies are presented and analysed with an intersectionality framework

Keywords: Women's health, voluntary organizations, millennium development goals, AIDS awareness and prevention, sex workers, intersectionality.

[26]

AGE AT MENARCHE AND RISK FOR CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSITIES AMONG A TRIBAL NORTH INDIAN POPULATION

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ABSTRACT

The beginning of menarche, an important phenomenon of a female's life and is associated with the development of various physiological and metabolic changes. Innumerable studies have shown a positive association of early menarche with development of cardiometabolic risk factors. The present study deals with understanding the association if any between the age at menarche and increase in cardiovascular adversities among the higher altitude tribal Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh and further establishing that which group (early, normal or late menarche) is a better determinant of the same. is cross sectional household based study including 317 ever married Gaddi women aged 25-70 years from higher altitude Himachal Pradesh's two districts viz. Chamba and Kangra. Data pertaining to demographic, reproductive, anthropometric, physiological and biochemical variables were collected from these women. The mean age at menarche of the present population was observed to be 15.23 years, which is towards the higher side of the normal range. Also the number of females falling under the late menarcheal group is higher and close to 75%. Both general and abdominal obesity was significantly higher among early menarcheal group. Both pre hypertensive and hypertensive were higher among late menarcheal group while lipids are normal in both the groups. Thus age at menarche considered as a determinant for future cardiovascular adversities earlier, can be considered as an adaptive strategy. This can be attributed to the higher altitude, cold climate, hypoxia and epidemiologic transition of the tribe.

Keywords: Menarche, cardiovascular adversities, tribal, higher altitude, cold climate.

[27]

WOMEN IN SCIENCE FICTION-ECHOES FROM AN UNINHIBITED WORLD

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From the shelves devoted to Frankenstein in a book store to the possible Artificial Intelligence revolution in Ex-Machina in a multiplex theatre, science fiction has travelled some distance. Till date the exact definition of science fiction remains contested. This genre is still exploring the potential of retelling a fictitious tale of time, space, genetics, technology and experience. Infact science fiction as a genre of literature distinguishes itself from others by its portrayal of a world of imagination-utopia/dystopia. This genre plays an important role in society as it talks about an alternative world of possibilities, possibility of an equal world, where one can critique gender roles, traditions and values. A medium of communication to debate sex roles, life and changes. Post 1960s, after the women's liberation movement, changes were witnessed in the social, cultural, political and economic life of women and with this science fiction, the so called male dominated genre, also experienced changes. The popular belief of women writing only sorcery and fantasy was fading. This paper is an empirical study of women science fiction writers questioning the gender roles and advocating a social change in their fictitious worlds.

Keywords: Science fiction, women, gender roles, change.

[28]

CYBER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

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ABSTRACT

With the development of Information and Communication Technology, the number of men and women engaged these new technologies is increasing in all over the world including in developed countries as well as developing countries. As Information and Communication Technology plays wider role of their lives, technology related violence also is becoming an issue in the society. According to the report, released by the United Nations Broadband Commission in 2015, reveals that almost three quarters of women online have been exposed to some form of cyber violence. This study is to explain deeply about 'Cyber violence against woman and girls'. The research will help to arouse the public awareness of cyber violence and discuss possible approaches to avoid cyber violence. Research methodologies like Literature Review, Meta-Analysis and Systematic Reviews are used throughout this study. This detailed research results the very sensitive statistics of cyber violence against woman and girls and violence avoiding factors like education, laws and appropriate technologies. This study implies a useful source of information and constructive advice for the women and girls who will sense the seriousness and influence of cyber use. Further this topic may have implications on developing E-commerce, E-services, social networks and other web-based activities securely.

Keywords: Information and communication technology, cyber, violence.

[29]

ARAB SATELLITE TELEVISION AND THEIR RECEPTION AMONG DISADVANTAGED SAUDI WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

The focus of my research is on the television consumption of underprivileged women in the Saudi Arabian village of Goz Al Jaafarh. There is an overwhelming lack of research into media consumption amongst disadvantaged women in rural or village communities in both Saudi Arabia and the region as a whole.

Published in May 2015, my book *Screens of Influence: Arab Satellite Television & Social Development* analyses how media initiatives have sought to improve coverage of development goals - mainly poverty, illiteracy, and violence against disadvantaged Arab women - on private pan-Arab television channels. This was achieved by studying how the status of women has been explored on MBC1, an entertainment channel, and on Al Arabiya, a news channel. Programmes on MBC1 that related to poverty, illiteracy and violence were examined through the eyes of young disadvantaged women in a Saudi Arabian village. How Al Arabiya and MBC1 applied media initiatives in their programming to improve women's status was also examined through interviews with key players in Queen Rania's Media Office and in the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) Group. A textual analysis of programmes on MBC1 and Al Arabiya was also undertaken.

This paper will discuss the findings of my fieldwork that resulting from ethnographic study through spending months living in a remote, poor, rural community in the southern region of Saudi Arabia, to better understand television viewing habits and to witness social issues faced by the women and girls I met. This paper is also focused on the challenges and obstacles I faced, such as the struggle to gain the trust of the village women and their male relatives.

Nevertheless, after persevering I was able to talk to at least 80 people in the focus groups alone and more in the one-to-one interviews. I was able to produce succinct analysis and the research concluded that listening to and understanding the media consumer is the only feasible route when developing media content that might in any way help or inform that media-consumer. This research offers a real motivation for me to conduct other researches in other Arab countries to compare the results.

Keywords: Saudi Arabian village, underprivileged women, poverty, illiteracy, violence, Arab satellite television, social development.

[30]

HOW INDIAN WOMEN ARE USING NEW MEDIA FOR CONSUMPTION OF POLITICAL NEWS

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ABSTRACT

Technology and social media platforms are designed for all. Women make up approximately 50% of computer and social media users. Social networking sites have become an important additional arena for politics. They are a resource for political news, information, finding likeminded issue-oriented people, and a tool for voter outreach in the run-up to elections.

The use of social media is becoming a feature of political and civic engagement for many Indians. Overall, there are mixed partisan and ideological patterns among social media users when it comes to using social media like social networking sites and Twitter. The social media users who talk about politics on a regular basis are the most likely to use social media for civic or political purposes. And the social media users who have firmer party and ideological ties—more likely than moderates in all parties to use social media for these purposes.

Some of these activities are more likely to be pursued by women social media users compared with the social media users who are ages 50 or older. Younger users are more likely to post their own thoughts about issues, post links to political material, encourage others to take political action, belong to a political group on a social networking site, follow elected officials on social media, and like or promote political material others have posted.

The rise of Social media has been phenomenal in India in the recent decade, giving rise to various ways and patterns of news consumption, across media platforms for readers and audiences. Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and blogs have become popular platforms for news sharing among people. Several studies also indicate that mainstream media Journalists are increasingly engaging with Social media where news breaks first and intense debates and deliberations on important events takes place consequentially. The popularity of Social media is such in India that people across all age groups are beginning to view it as a source of news. At the moment, Facebook and, to a lesser extent, Twitter, dominate this intersection of social media and news.

Facebook has made several moves to shift the content of user's News Feed towards hard news — towards providing the RSS-like news experience people never knew they wanted. Facebook started with juicing the popularity of breaking stories by its favorite publishers inside the News Feed and Paper, its news app, but today, the company is taking its news efforts one step further. Facebook is announcing Newswire, an official Facebook page you can follow that aggregates the best original content posted on the site. If you'd like, you can even follow the channel on Twitter — which is precisely the service Newswire seems designed to compete with. With technology evolving at such a rapid rate, with a strong impact on Journalism and consumption of news, It is important to examine the role of social media news consumption among the users of social media.

Although social networking sites have primarily been seen as social tools connecting friends and family, news organizations have discovered the value of these sites to make stories go "viral" and get more traffic to their own sites. So users who may have signed up for Facebook primarily to connect with others could inadvertently see news content posted by friends in their network or subscribing to news feeds. The potential result? On one end -- unintended exposure to news and diversity of viewpoints -- and at the other end -- exposure to like-minded viewpoints resulting in an ever increasing cycle of selective exposure.

How do different social networking websites stack up when it comes to news? How many people engage with news across multiple social sites? And what are their news consumption habits on traditional platforms? This study examines and analyzes the characteristics of news consumers and the size of their population across social networking sites.

The study is based on a survey conducted among the users of Social Media in South India and aims to analyse how people consume news on Social Media.

Keywords: Social media, news, media technology.

[31]

MEDIA DEPICTION AND THE EMERGENCE OF GENDER BASED SOCIAL VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

Gender based violence remains pervasive world-wide. It is the most atrocious manifestation of the systematic discrimination and inequality which women continue to face every day in their lives around the world.

The initial impetus of the contemporary Indian Women's Movement, pushed the media into chronic reportage of gender based violence. Mass media promoted attitudinal change brought out by feminist activism and spread the ideas of women's liberation and emancipation. In spite of high reportage and attempt to bring about better social perception, what is more prevalent is the victimization of women. This has become more a sensational business compared to a desirable positive projection and social uplift.

The main purpose of this study is to analyse the existing trends in media coverage on women victims and the emergence of (social violence) in the form of depicting negative reinforcement in all channels of media. The research methodology used in the study is based on the reporting and picturisation of various case studies and the content analysis carried to understand the different avenues that are responsible for enhancing social violence. Further it also tries to identify that the reported cases are regulated by any follow up action and assess the role played by media in such circumstances. It also tries to capsule appropriate policy interventions for the positive narrations, without sensationalism of women victims in the media by mainstreaming gender with holistic devices.

Keywords: Gender based social violence, media depiction, women victims, sensationalism in news.

[32]

WOMEN'S WRITING AND WOMEN'S CULTURE

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The present paper shall first discuss how the process of defining the feminine took place, and postulating the question of essential difference between men and women, on the grounds of which, we constitute different spaces for them. Theories of women's writing presently make use of four models of difference: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural. The paper shall pursue its course with the help of a short discussion of a text for each model. However, the main crux of the paper shall focus on the model of women's culture. Though the other three root for the difference in men and women's writing; but it is the culture that forms a collective experience within the cultural whole. A model of the cultural situation of women is crucial to understanding how they are perceived by the society and how they perceive themselves and others. I shall discuss two essays by Edwin Ardener, "Belief and the Problem of women" (1972) and "The 'Problem' Revisited" (1975) which suggest that women constitute a muted group, the boundaries of whose culture and reality overlap, but are not wholly contained by, the dominant (male) group. Further the paper shall mainly discuss two texts, on the grounds how literature has helped and brought in the voice of the other, the muted on the front ground. These texts mainly relate to post-colonial theory and hence shall be discussed in post-colonial context- the double colonisation of women. The texts include Mahasweta Devi's "Draupati" translated by Gayatri Spivak and "Can the sub-alterns speak?" written by Mahsweta Devi herself.

Keywords: Writing, culture, women, muted, dominant, post-colonial, model.

[33]

TEACHING AUTHORSHIP, GENDER AND IDENTITY THROUGH *GRRRL* ZINES PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Zines are self- published, non-commercial magazines that range in size, form and genre, and that tackle the most disparate issues including stories from everyday life. While academia has been reluctant in bringing zines within the classroom due to their non-academic layout, multitude of styles, broken grammar, strong tones and content, this paper explains what brings zines into existence and how the latter give girls and women a chance to produce and write culture while creating new spaces of resistance. It will also investigate on the politics of writing, the contradictions in grrrl zines, and their potential in displacing the boundaries of socially established conventions about language and authorship. Mary Louise Pratt's (1991) theory of the 'Arts of the contact zone' will be used to investigate how auto ethnography, transculturation, critique, collaboration, bilingualism, mediation, parody, denunciation and vernacular expressions are incorporated in the zine MOON ROOT, AN EXPLORATION OF ASIAN WOMYN'S BODIES, which explores the diverse bodily experiences of women, gender queer and trans people of Asian descent living diaspora.

Keywords: Authorship, empowerment, gender, identity, zines, language, art.

[34]

SOCIAL MEDIA AND GENDER RIGHTS: AN EXPLORATION OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The focus of the study was to acknowledge the effect of social media on consumer population in relation to LGBT issue in advertising. To achieve this objective, 'the bold is beautiful', YouTube ad was studied to explore the consumer's perception of the power of social media to spread an uncommon and odd message of social acceptance in an orthodox society like India. An exploration was done on the youth population of one of the premier universities in Science and Technology in India. The survey was based on whether the social message is communicated clearly, how it impacts the brand image of the product advertised and its effect on the revenue generated by the sale of the product. Of all the people who took the survey, the majority of the people support the LGBT community. Approximately half the people who took the survey agreed this advertisement create an association between the brand and the social issue in their mind. The majority agreed that advertisements based on the issue encourage discussion among their family members and helps them in addressing the issue more openly and creates a sense of power to come forward and fight for justice and rights of the LGBT community. Approximately half the people who took the survey agreed that the advertisement create an association between the brand and the social issue in their mind. This advertisement acts as a compelling force to voice such opinions in the society for gender equality for sex preferences.

Keywords: Social messages, media, gender equality, consumer behavior, LGBT community.

[35]

TRACING VARIEGATED STREAKS OF FEMINISM IN THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN THROUGH PINTERESQUE JIGSAW

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ABSTRACT

Written for screen by one of the greatest English dramatists and Nobel Laureate, Harold Pinter and directed by Karel Reisz, the film *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, appearing in 1981, is the cinematic adaptation of John Fowles' novel by the same name that created ripples in the literary circles in 1969. Keeping in with the appreciation of the novel, the cinematic version of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* too continued to capture the imagination of the classes and the masses alike bagging several prestigious awards. The proposed paper intends to study all these variegated shades and designs that further intensify the experimental spirit of the film.

Focusing on the movie within the movie that imbues the cinematic adaptation of the novel with a quintessential Pinteresque intensity, the paper explores in depth the subtle nuances offered for intellectual probing through the ingeniously contrived sub-plot. Running as a subtle counterfoil to the main plot of Sarah and Charles, the tempestuous love affair between Mike and Anna - the actors playing Charles and Sarah respectively - the subtext of the movie invites concerted critical endeavours in exploring the intellectual conundrum that confronts us on the silver screen. The paper engages itself in the task of reading through such intellectually stimulating improvisations which subtly reflect the post-modernistic tone and tenor. For this purpose, the paper focusses especially on studying the parallels and proselytes that characterize the protagonists as Sarah and Anna in the main and the sub-plot respectively. The paper also studies the *misse-en-sense* devices such as light, sound, colours, camera movements, focus, background music, and different types of shots employed in the movie, all of which poetically render the rich contours of the work.

Keywords: The French lieutenant's woman, cinematic adaptation, Pinteresque, *misse-en-sense*, textual, sub-textual manoeuvres.

[36]

STATE, RELIGION AND MEDIA: THE CASE OF TURKEY'S DIYANET TVVatansever, F¹, Sarisakaloğlu, A² & Atay-Avşar, T³¹ *Independent Scholar, Australia*² *Department of Journalism, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep, Turkey & Communication Studies, Faculty of Cultural & Social Sciences, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria*³ *Department of Journalism & Women's Studies Centre, Faculty of Communication, Mustafa Kemal University, Turkey***ABSTRACT**

In 2012, one of Turkey's largest institutions, the Directorate of Religious Affairs, or Diyanet, began broadcasting a 24-hour television station, Diyanet TV, in partnership with the state-run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, TRT – a joint protocol being signed between them. Through the channel, available via satellite, cable and YouTube and aiming to reach a larger audience both nationally and abroad, Diyanet “began playing a more active role in assisting state politics and developing activities that would make it, and the religious and moral perspective it represents, more deeply embedded in everyday life (Turner & Zengin Arslan, 2013: 209).

This paper constitutes the first attempt at a detailed analysis of Diyanet TV since Diyanet's recent expansion of its media presence. Using Habermas' notion of the public sphere as a starting point, the study offers a visual and content analysis of a specific television program broadcast on the channel. It examines from a feminist theory perspective several episodes of the program Eksen İnsan ('Human Axis'), moderated by female presenter Şule Kala and hosting only female guests. The representation of women on Diyanet TV and their symbolic engagement are explored. While the program suggests the presence of women in television programming and creates a sense of equality within the dominant patriarchal order, the question of the manner and extent to which the program disrupts and reinforces assumptions about the position of women in contemporary Turkish society is carved out in this study.

Keywords: Media, religion, Turkey, Diyanet TV, TRT, gender equality, television programming, representation.

[37]

‘INVITED SPACES’ TO ‘INVENTED SPACES’: A CASE OF DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we present the case of *Gramamukhya*, a web-based platform and digital network of women heads of local governments in Kerala, India as a potential space for political mobilization and solidarity building. Through a discussion of the rationale for building *Gramamukhya* as part of an action research project supported by IDRC Canada, we raise the question of *how* technology can be appropriated for feminist goals. The global feminist rights based approach to information and communication technologies (ICT's) has viewed the potential of digital technologies as being able to give voice to women often in 'transgressive spaces' in countries in the Third World. But unless women are truly empowered to define the conditions under which they interact online and to form meaningful trans-local alliances towards transforming their personal and political contexts, the mere access to and use of ICT's does not amount to a feminist appropriation of technology. Furthermore, the recognition of heterogeneity amidst commonalities of interest in feminist praxis has meant the creation of a communication network of women engaging in politics at various levels, building solidarity by 'working together continuously across differences'. *Gramamukhya* brought together women leaders from diverse political backgrounds, united in their opposition to structures of local patriarchy. It addresses the feminist critique of top-down narratives of ICTs for development while aiming to create a dialogic communication community together with the possibility of the online meeting the offline within a newly emergent, technologically mediated space of feminist collective politics.

Keywords: Gramamukhya, ICTs, women in governance, feminist appropriation of technology.

[38]

ROLE OF WOMEN IN MEDIA IN EMPOWERING THE WOMEN IN GCC

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ABSTRACT

Media is seen to be playing an effective role in resolving the different issues. Also it has been the source of women empowerment also as it has provided the different women the opportunities to work in the field of media whether it is in front of the camera or behind the camera. Women who see the other women working positively and confidently; especially the women working in the media are seen to be considering them as the source of the inspiration. Also the positive impacts are seen in the GCC region and due to the increase representation of the women in the Gulf media it is seen that much attention is given towards the women empowerment. Especially in the GCC region, Bahrain is considered as the country giving the much attention towards empowerment, besides Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar have also taken the positive steps in this regard. In this study the women empowerment through the media is discussed and for the data collection both primary and secondary data was used.

Keywords: Women in GCC, women empowerment, media, women in media.

[39]

WHY DO BOYS HAVE ALL THE FUN: AD INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY

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ABSTRACT

Women had always been portrayed subservient to men in majority of advertisements. She has succumbed to stereotypical images because of the past. In the advertisement she is either objectified or depicted as sex symbol. However, some positive changes have been recently observed in the ads of BIBA, Ariel, Saffola, and Boys don't cry campaign. The theme is converging towards equality, giving the message that women is not only for household work but men has to contribute equally. If women care for men, they should also be cared, if boys can have fun, girls have the equal right. Such powerful messages do wonders in changing the traditional mindset of the people. The study attempts to do content analysis of the TV advertisements where women are depicted with the whiff of positivity. The selection will be done from primetime TV show from 8PM to 10 PM. The results of the study will help the advertisers to incorporate these themes in more ads to lure the customers and also to spread the social messages.

Keywords: Advertising, sex symbol, stereotype, ad campaign, social message.

[40]

SIGNATURES OF THE COLLECTIVE SELF: A STUDY OF SELECT CONTEMPORARY SOUTH INDIAN WOMEN ARTISTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper will reclaim the status of women artists of South India by a process of recovery and inclusion. The aspect of their marginalisation from mainstream art in India and subsequent disappearance from the annals of art history has been examined. Further, the reasons for this disappearance are investigated in terms of the overarching notion of gender, embedded in social and cultural parameters. The paper will also locate the manner in which these women artists are affected by familial, institutional and social systems and explore the experiences of the women artists in terms of their multiple roles. It can lead to an understanding of the negotiated spaces of private and public domains, which form the paradigms of art practice and are crucial to the expression of women artists.

Though Indian Art has grown in international stature and has gained a global visibility today, women artists remain underrepresented in many areas such as major curated shows, international expositions, award of international, national and regional prizes and scholarships. At the national level, South India continues to register minimally in the mainstream of modern Indian art. This research paper seeks to register the presence of a few women artists in South India from the twentieth century and their contribution. It essentially gains insights into the roles played out by the artists and their status not only in terms of gender but also culture and identity and examines the transformation achieved by women artists in South India over the years and the position they occupy.

[41]

RELIGION AND ITS IMPACT ON EMPOWERMENT OF INDIAN WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Women and girls are today a central focus of international development. Increased access to education, employment, healthcare, decision-making, and leadership has brought change to female lives within the home and family. Amidst these shifting social norms, religion plays an important role in shaping gender dynamics within families and society, yet religion's impact on the family is often poorly understood. It takes on a general notion that the religious scriptures promoted the practice such that the child preference in the family becomes highly unfavorable to women. This entrenched mindset furthers the idea of female infanticide, thus eliminating female infants at birth considering them as an economic burden. In the beginning, it was female infanticide; the advancement of technology changed this practice into foeticide. Thus, it argues, that the old notions of patriarchy and religion work much more intensively even if the society undergoes rapid changes. The politicisation of religion under the banner of a secular nation in a way engendered violence in our times. The fact that 'woman' is the most discriminated category — double discrimination — has not been a concern of the makers of the law of the land. The tearing of Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament shows how intolerant our representatives are towards the women's cause. The stereotypical portraying of women in social customs and morals irrespective of their caste, class and religious background makes women submissive in the male dominated society.

Keywords: Woman empowerment, religion, discrimination, politicisation of religion.

[42]

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: THE *DHAMMA* HAS NO GENDER

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The increasing influence and relevance of Buddhism in its various forms on a global scale have given rise to a vibrant and evolving movement, particularly in the West, loosely called Socially Engaged Buddhism or the *Fourth Yāna* with its roots in traditional Buddhist countries like Sri Lanka. Thus, today many practitioners, academics and activists look to Buddhism for answers to two of the most urgent and significant issues of our time – the protection of the planet and eradicating discrimination against half its population. As a result, over the last few decades Buddhism, environmentalism and feminism have been the subject of much interdisciplinary work. While there is general agreement that there are no explicit feminist or environmental theories in Buddhism, material relevant to these movements have been determined. Some, however, point to deep seated patriarchal and even misogynistic elements particularly in *Theravāda* Buddhist practices that persist even to date. This paper explores these issues from a *Theravāda* perspective using scriptural sources as well as recent works, conceding that while there is ambivalence towards women in the *Pāli* Canon and bias in institutionalized practices, Buddha's acceptance of a female monastic order and the unequivocal affirmation of their equality in intellectual and spiritual abilities in achieving the highest goals clearly establish a positive stance. This paper also contends that while social reform is essential, it is meditation that ultimately uproot the innate conditioning of both the oppressors and the oppressed as the *Dhamma* at its transformative core is genderless.

[43]

**VILLAGE BELIEFS SYSTEM ON WOMEN AS DEITIES AND DEVOTEES –A
CASE STUDY ON FOLK RELIGION IN USILAMPATTI TALUK OF MADURAI
DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU**

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ABSTRACT

Hinduism, a belief system is predominantly male dominated. Through Hindu religious beliefs, powerlessness was embedded in the minds of Indian women. The status of women showcases contrasting facets shrouded in ambiguity. Women have been exalted as Goddess, being identified with nature. The other, is the sub –subservient role of a domestic maiden trailing behind men for meeting all chores. This is reflected in both mainstream and folk stream of Hinduism. Folk religion is a belief system, comprising ethnic or regional religious traditions that practice under an established religion. Folk religion in Tamil Nadu encompasses both Gods and Goddesses. Herein, the deities are mostly Non- Brahmanical and guard the community. The female Goddesses in folk religion are as powerful as their male counterpart. The women in folk religion are often featured as deities and represent their community. As Gods, women enjoy enviable status but as devotee women remain subservient to men. The present paper highlights women both as deity and devotee with religion and belief system encompassing the village community. The patriarchal structure was institutionalized through village beliefs and exhibited in the rituals. The study was conducted in Usilampatti Taluk of Madurai District in Tamil Nadu. Among the Kula deities (more 200) three popular female folk deities are presented in the case study. They are Ochandamman of Pappavatti, Angaleshwari of Vallandur and Petchiamman of Karumathur. The primary data and key informants include the Priests, aged Villagers, and the Village Heads. The collected qualitative data has been presented through narrative technique.

Keywords: Folk religion, folk goddesses, female deities, belief system.

[44]

WOMEN AS ACTORS IN INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

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Based on Hill Fletcher's description of three models for inter-religious dialogue (parliament model, activist model, storytelling model) the paper will question the implications of women's participation in it; for the ongoing project of dialogue as well as for the participating women's theology, that is, their belief systems. Since Hill Fletcher's models were formulated based on North-American and European historical examples focusing on dialogue between monotheistic believers, the paper will try to critically assess and expand them by introducing examples from Asian fields in which monotheisms have won only minor shares of the population. Concerning the notion of deliberation in inter-religious dialogue, some women's insistence on the "messiness" and "un-capturability" of lived religion(s) as well as of their dialogical encounter seems to challenge rationally "controlled" dialogue projects. However, it will become clear that "deliberation" can be accounted for only by including the widest available range of perspectives and modes of expression.

Keywords: Inter-religious dialogue, women's participation, control, deliberation, Asian perspectives, women's theology.

[45]

RELIGION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS: AN ORTHODOX VIEWPOINT

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on religion and women's rights from an Orthodox point of view. Its starting point is the assumption that a decisive factor that shapes the thought and life of people and peoples is religion and culture. Since the antiquity different systems of beliefs were developed referring to God, implying religious and social behaviours. Issues as the creation and origin of the human being, its purpose in life, its relation to other human beings and the world has been puzzling the communities of believers; and answers to them have shaped the way they act and live. The relation between male and female consists a great area for thought concerning their purpose and their role in life, in religious communities and in societies. In this frame men's and women's rights are formed and seen as determined by God. Orthodox Theology sees male and female as co-creators of life grace to God-blessed union between man and woman. What is the impact of this teaching on the issue of women's rights? What is the understanding of the Orthodox towards women's human rights? Has it always been the same and unchangeable? Is there any pluralism in the interpretation, comprehension and reception of the Scriptures' teachings? Are there any influences (social, cultural etc.) affecting the understanding of these teachings? What the Orthodox Church has to contribute to the global ecumenical discussion on women's rights; her impact on empowering women through education and advancing gender equality? These are the issues the paper will deal with.

Keywords: Orthodoxy church and theology, bible, patristic theology, ecclesiology, women's rights, feminist theology.

[46]

THE ROLE OF MYTHOLOGIES IN EMPOWERING MALE/FEMALE SOCIAL STATUS: A STUDY OF POWER WITHIN ALGERIAN MYTHOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

Dealing with mythology in contemporary society is one of the challenges that attracted me, especially to embark on a multidisciplinary field and ponder elements that are in relation with the current scope of study. Therefore, Mythology, gender and power distribution form a paradigm which construct a whole study and include cumbersome investigations in different social context. The collected Algerian narratives within this work corpus are shadowed with both misogynist and misandry meanings. These narratives describe different tales and events where women are considered as monsters. However, these females rarely come as saviours or heroines, except for the example of /Tislit/ or the rain's bride. The other narratives are mostly invoked to depict female monsters and angry spirits, either to restraint behaviours for some people, or come to realise other functions related to the context of the summoner. Starting from a feminist point of view and according to charter myth, gender changes are exposed through paralinguistic devices and strengthened by monstification techniques. These changes are made in form of binaries such as: gods and goddesses, heroes/ heroines and monsters both males and females. Yet, these binaries are reflected rigorously through language, where biased representations are pulled out of texts and sustained by blind agents, forming of women and men an opposed dichotomy, either empowering or disempowering one another. As a result, prologues of either misogynist or misandry contexts are created and perpetuated from ancient times to our present, forming new types of mythologies and shaping realities.

Keywords: Mythology, gender, power, charter, myth's functions, worship, monstification.

[47]

**WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND JOB SATISFACTION AMONG FEMALE
PROFESSIONALS: A STUDY AT JNMC ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY,
ALIGARH**

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The objective of this study is to investigate the work-life balance and Job satisfaction among women employees in a hospital in India. It is believed that balancing a successful career with a family life or personal life can be challenging. WLB impacts on persons' satisfaction in their work and personal life roles (Broers, 2005).

Methodology: This study seeks to explore the impact of WLB on Job satisfaction among women employees. For this purpose, a questionnaire is developed with 22 items. The data is collected from women employees who are working in a hospital in Aligarh, India. The constructs considered in this study include WLB and Job satisfaction. The demographic and organisational variables considered in the study are gender, age and tenure of the Job. Factors of WLB are flexible working conditions, work-life balance programs, employee intention to change/leave a job, work pressure/stress and long working hours. This paper examines the relationship between work-family conflict, policies, and Job and life satisfaction. Appropriate statistical tool using SPSS will be applied to achieve the objective.

Managerial Implications: The anxiety over work-life balance is progressively becoming a common talk especially for female employees. Work life balance is a state in which a demand for both professional and personal life is equal. Managing rising demands from the work and family domains represent a source of high strain for many employees which even lead to the health problems among employees. Although it is believed that work-family role strain is more common among women employees. Therefore, the study will focus on these issues and will throw a light on WLB and job satisfaction among female professionals.

Keywords: Work- life balance, job satisfaction.

[48]

EMBRACING GENDER ROLES: A CASE OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally, African societies have prescribed roles that women must play. However, modernisation has successfully eradicated the norm and has further pushed for equality and equity. Notwithstanding some jobs are still predominantly considered to be more feminine than others especially the nursing profession. This paper is set on this premise and will further assert that inasmuch as nursing is seen as inferior to medicine, women have managed to make it a niche for themselves; to the extent that they (women) now perceive men as unsuitable for the job. A good place to situate the start of theoretical debates about women, class and work is in the social learning theory which stipulates that gender behaviours are directly or indirectly learnt from the environment. Also, Survey research design is used in the study. Data were drawn from primary and secondary sources. A sample size of 150 respondents was drawn from serving nurses in General Hospital Calabar, student nurses in College of Health Technology, Calabar and male students in the Department of radiography, anatomy and biochemistry in the University of Calabar, Cross River State. Data obtained was analyzed using Chi square statistical techniques, tested at .05 level of significant level. Results from the interviews and questionnaires reported herein prove that nurses in Calabar perceive the profession as feminine and this agrees with societal conceived perception and thus, male candidates who did not get admissions into medicine prefer to settle for courses like radiography, anatomy and biochemistry to name a few instead of nursing.

Keywords: Gender roles, nursing profession, social learning theory, cross river state, Nigeria, women.

[49]

INTERGENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN GENDER ROLES: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Socially framed responsibilities as defined by institutional structures through the process of socialization is generally defined as gender. This empirical study intends to assess the intergenerational differences in the perceived gender roles in a rural community of the Punjab, Pakistan. Expected role of men and women in decision making regarding various matters is also observed. These include property matters, family disputes, marriage and education decisions. To measure the intergenerational difference in perceptions, two age groups were selected. Probability sample survey was conducted for objectivity of the findings. Respondents from both the old and young groups were selected through systematic sampling technique. Interviews were conducted to gather the required information from both the age groups. The elderly respondents are of 60 years or above whereas the younger one fall in the category of age 15-35 years. Findings are expected to highlight the differences in the perceptions of social roles defined for men and women. It would also indicate the factors which might have contributed to change in traditional attitudes such as education, shift in economic structures (caste and class system), and development of infrastructure, media and migration.

Keywords: Gender roles, outdoor earnings, intergenerational differences, education, economic factor, infrastructure.

[50]

WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MEN ASHAPURNA DEVI AS A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study, as the title suggests, will attempt to address that there are several empowering strategies in woman studies, like, literary feminism, theoretical feminism and practical feminism. That is, there is not one feminism but many feminisms. With this objective, which indicates a 'quantitative' approach, the present focus will be on Ashapura Devi (1909-1995) a well-known feminist writer of Bengal (India). Ashapura witnessed the transitions and transformations that took place in society, culture and family life through the colonial times and after India gained political independence. Therefore, Ashapura did not see men and women as 'opposing parties'. Yet, in her comprehensive understanding of the man–woman relationship, a twenty-first century reader would indeed notice a trenchant critique on certain gendered assumptions (on marriage and education, marriage and divorce, marriage and child-rearing, marriage and career amongst several other 'foundational' issues) operative in society. Referring to her essays, especially "Indian Women: A Myth and Reality" and "Present Education System and Women's Self-sufficiency", there will be an attempt to show that besides the specificities of location and its varied cultural inhibitions, both literary feminism and practical feminism with their obvious basis on theoretical feminism can contribute towards the basic needs for human rights across borders, which are still in jeopardy.

Keywords: Transition, transformation, gender relations, nationalism and feminism.

[51]

WOMEN SITUATION FROM TRADITIONAL FAMILY TO MODERN FAMILY IN TEHRAN

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ABSTRACT

Family is one of the oldest common human institutions. Since prehistoric times, the family has been an important organization in society. In this research I have been study in course of transition from tradition to modernity regarding the role and status of women in the family. The population of this study is the women faculty members of Tehran university consisting 2016 persons that after used systematic of random sampling, in finally obvious 153 sample. For examine of hypothesis I use questionnaire as a technique for data collection and chi square test χ^2 so multivariate regression analyses. This result shows is significant relation between women situation in the family and 4 factors evolution of economic, cultural ,social and demographic.

Keyword: Women, family, status, role.

[52]

WOMEN HOMEWORKERS IN THAILAND'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

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Home-based work (subcontracted work to be done at home) is widespread in all regions of Thailand. Most homeworkers use their houses as the workplace for producing textiles and garments, wood products, basketry, artificial flower making, food processing, leather goods and plastics, metal products and jewelry, and then deliver them to the employers or business mediators. This is not the same as production for direct sale. In 2007, the National Statistical Office (NSO) reported that out of the 249,290 households, there were 440,251 people earning their livelihood through homeworking. Of this number, 337,526 or slightly more than three quarters of them were women and 102,725 were men. This study builds on previous research conducted in 2006 on the status of women homeworkers in Thailand and their use of ICT to promote economic empowerment and generate new income opportunities. Since 2006, Thailand has undergone numerous social, economic, and political changes. Acknowledging the problems homeworkers face, in 2010, the Thai Parliament passed the Homeworkers Protection Act B.E. 2553 and a social protection policy came into force in May 2011. The law mandates fair wages, including equal pay for men and women doing the same job. Even though this Act is into effect, most homeworkers are still not aware of their legal rights and keep working under unfair conditions. This research study will present the enabling and disabling environments for the material wellbeing of women homeworkers, their level of awareness and ability to improve their situation, and their access to and control of resources to use ICT to develop their businesses in Thailand's fast growing digital economy. It will also examine the activities related to gender equality issues in women's use of ICT and the effects of these efforts for gender governance and women's economic empowerment.

Keywords: Homeworkers, digital economy, ICT, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment.

[53]

**CHINESE WOMEN'S FAMILY STATUS: ANALYSIS OF CHINESE
DECENNIALSURVEYS 1990-2010**

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ABSTRACT

Chinese women's experiences and status have significantly changed over the last two to three decades along with China's modernization processes. In this article we investigate domestic division of labour between both sexes in present-day regarding gender equality. Based on data from three Survey's on Chinese Women's Social Status in 1990, 2000 and 2010, the article focuses on important dimensions of women's family status, such as the general changes in domestic decision making and women's domestic labor time, including rural-urban differences. The article points to "equal rights for both husband and wife" (Fu Qi Ping Quan, 夫妻平权) as the major pattern in domestic decision making, yet men have still more rights than women. Also women are still the main force in domestic laboring although the difference between domestic labour time of women and men has gradually narrowed. It also seems as if there are correlations between education and women's status in rural areas, more so than in urban areas.

Keywords: Family, gender equality, domestic work, women's status.

[54]

RISE OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS IN TURKISH POLITICS

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Pakistan***ABSTRACT**

The Western feminist movements pinned themselves against the patriarchal system. Turkish patriarchy was using Islam as a tool of enforcement for their benefit. The rise of feminist movements against the patriarchal system set a precedent for women across the Muslim diaspora. Women demanded their rights such as scholarly research on Islam. Diligent involvement of women in religious and social circles offered better understanding of the Quran and Hadeeth. Interpretation of the Quran and Hadeeth stipulate that women are not inferior to men; furthermore, they emphasize the creation of a fair relationship between the two sexes. Turkey's Ottoman Era suppressed all rights of women. Beginning in early 1920s, Turkish women began demanding their rights. It took more than five decades for women to create an autonomous society for themselves. As of 2001, Turkish women work side by side with men. The rates of domestic abuse, trafficking and child marriages are decreasing. More and more women are running for government office, while others continue to increase the breadth of their rights. Interestingly, Turkey's issue on the headscarf ban, which had divided people for centuries, now seems be nearing resolution. More and more people consider the headscarf to be a choice, and adopting the headscarf is not seen as a sign of oppression.

[55]

**COLONIZING THE OTHER – HOW WESTERN PERCEPTIONS OF THIRD
WORLD WOMEN HAVE REINFORCED DIFFERENCES AND HIERARCHICAL
RELATIONSHIPS?**

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ABSTRACT

The term 'other' created by Western feminists to define the women of the developing countries or that outside the West contributed a lot to represent women with a different identity regardless their actual social or ethnic identity. History give evidence that Western feminism always describes the women of the developing countries in their own way to show the differences regarding ethnicity and class between Western women and the women of Third World. Western women particularly, have in the following examples, been highly influential in merging the image of “the other”. I want to say that describing circumstances in the same way as they happened is really a difficult task to do. It's not easy to perceive the real history and desires of women. We may raise our voice in favour of justice and better future for women. But we cannot agree to the fact that justice or future plan will be different for different group of women (Abu-Lughod, 2002). If a researcher fails to understand foreign culture properly, it is difficult for him to make the real picture of any society where he is not in. In this paper I will adopt feminist theory as the base of my research to find out the origin of the term “other or otherness”. I will also show the views of woman feminists about "the others". But I could not describe them as deeply as I wanted because there is a limitation of both words and size of this paper. I attempted to generalize the women of different society in case of their social identity. For example, the women of Indonesia and India do not bear the same homogeneous identity in the context of society, culture and history. But they belong to the same class "the other" created by western feminism since both group of women are the inhabitants of the 'Third World'.

Keywords: Chandra Mohanty, Edward said, the other, third world women, feminism, gender, intersectionality theory, colonialism.

[56]

CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND GENDER FACTOR IN PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Women are recognized for their possession of positive effects that improve corporate performance. Their advancement into senior executive positions has been rather very slow; with considerable progress in their pursuit to participate more and make their presence known in public existence. Literature shows only a few of them occupy key positions. South Africa today, is trying to meet up with the global needs of women through rapid transformation.

Method: Using selected South African public service organisations, a self-administered electronic questionnaire hosted on Question Pro will be developed and a five point Likert type scale with end-points anchored by “strongly disagree” and “strongly agree” will be used. Data will be analysed using Question Pro’s analytical tools and SPSS.

Results: This situation is global; women managers are still under-represented in the workplace. There is dearth of female career barriers in South Africa, with women still given a low, unequal amount of education by the government, and are not employed at equal rates with their male counterparts.

Conclusions / Implications: A major challenge envisaged is the low rate/ level of education given to the girls/women due to early pregnancy and incentives attached to this periods and successful child birth, which in turn discourages and prevents them from getting back to school to concentrate on their original plans for attending school; also, poor implementation of policies as well as women having to conform to pre-existing norms.

Keywords: Career development, gender, gender equality, gender equity, glass ceiling.

[57]

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

“There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing.”

..... Swami Vivekanand

The status of Women has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennium. The origins of the concept of empowerment go back to the civil rights movement in the USA in such different sectors a business, social work, development discourse and by advocates of very different political agendas. The different definitions of empowerment range between defining it as a largely individual process of taking control of and responsibility for one's life and situation and defining it as a political process of granting human rights and social justice to disadvantaged group of people. The fourth World Conference on women in Beijing 1995 where Governments committed themselves to the “empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral ethical spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, In spite of the various measures taken up by the government of India after Independence and the male female ratio is still far from satisfactory. It is 940 women per thousand men for India. The female literacy rate is also lower than the male literacy rate. The ground reality is deprivation, degradation and exploitation of women especially from the deprived sectors of the society. Globalization has presented new challenges for the realization of the goal of Women's equality, the gender impact of which has not been systematically evaluated. Hence, there is a need for re-framing policies for access to employment and education. The uneven distribution of benefits of growing global economy has to be designed to enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the negative social and economic impacts. A vigil on the social stigma of female foeticide, child abuse, child prostitution and ensuring gender sensitivity and greater access to education will check the battle of the exploited lot.

Keywords: Empowerment, measures, female foeticide, millennium, gender sensitivity.

[58]

GENDER EQUALITY AND INDIAN WOMEN

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Gender inequality is a pressing human issue but also has huge ramifications for jobs, productivity, GDP growth, and inequality. The role of women in the workplace cannot be viewed in isolation from their role in society. Women are currently particularly under-represented in India's economy compared with their potential. Underlying social attitudes about the role of women are, arguably, some of the biggest barriers India's women face. The economic potential of India's women is not achievable without gender gaps in society being addressed. India's economy would have the highest relative boost among all regions of the world if its women participated in paid work in the market economy on a similar basis to men, erasing the current gaps in labour-force participation rates, hours worked, and representation within each sector. To bring more women into the non-farm labour force over the next decade, India's policy makers, business leaders, and social-sector leaders need to focus concerted action in eight areas viz. Closing gender gaps in secondary and tertiary education in India's large states; Lowering barriers to job creation; Expanding skills training for women in key sectors; Expanding the reach of financial and digital services to enable women entrepreneurs; Stepping up gender diversity policies and practices in private-sector organizations; Further strengthening legal provisions for women and the enforcement of laws; Improving infrastructure and services to address the high burden of routine domestic work, childcare and elder care; and Reshaping deep-rooted attitudes about the role of women in work and in society.

Keywords: Gender equality, Indian woman, social attitudes, potential.

[59]

FROM RESTRICTED TO CONDITIONAL MOBILITY SHIFTING OF NORMS AROUND WOMEN'S MOBILITY THROUGH SPORT BASED PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

There are conflicting views on the efficacy of sport for gender equality. Studies have noted that a sports-based gender and empowerment intervention with women enhances communication, networking and teamwork and successfully challenge social norms. Contrary it is also found that women in sports are targets for gender based violence and stigmatization. In India, where women are often subjected to strict social norms, sport can play an important role in increasing women's self-confidence and mobility. This study tries to explore how shifting social norms through an empowerment program redefined the structure of women mobility. The study includes two rounds of 10 case studies with young women (20-24 years) from a slum community in Mumbai, India. Women involved in sport based program as mentors have demonstrated an increase in self-confidence and were treated with more respect by their families and neighbors. This often led to an increase in mobility, as the mentors were able to assert themselves in public space and challenge social norms of segregation. The mentors seemed to be successful in challenging social norms surrounding modesty as their mobility and time spent away from the house was accepted; however, this mobility seemed to be conditional on the mentors adhering to purity norms and maintaining a good reputation. These findings are important for the feasibility of women empowerment programs as they could indicate that modesty norms are more malleable and susceptible to change thereby indicating a possible route through which to shift notions of women's mobility in a given community.

Keywords: Gender equality, empowerment, social norms, gender based violence, mobility, purity.

[60]

STUDY ON DESIGN ELEMENTS OF RURAL MURAL ART OF SANTHAL PARGANA, JHARKHAND

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ABSTRACT

Mural art forms of Santhal Pargana define the artistic skills of rural women. During local festivals and marriage ceremonies the women of selected districts (Dumka, Godda, Deoghar, Jamtara, Pakur and Sahebganj) decorate their mud houses generally in curved shape designs that resemble letters like C, S and V in Latin typeface. The women of these areas create most of the mural arts that comprises visual borders and motifs. To study the art form, a pilot study was carried out with the women artists of Santhal Pargana, Jharkhand. The framework for the visual analysis is based on Jeong Seon Sang's schematic illustrations of seven frieze patterns and Marjan Vazirian's distinct symmetry operations such as translation, rotation, reflection and glide reflection. This paper examines the various artistic expressions of the rural women of Santhal Pargana. From the study, it is observed that the art forms are mainly dominated by the motifs and borders which are two dimensional designs. Only 70% of the design follows the existing framework of symmetry group. The study also suggests towards the development of more frameworks to analyses the entire design elements in this art form.

Keywords: Rural mural art, symmetry operation, design elements.

[61]

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT A SYSTEMATIC
REVIEW ON RESULT STATISTICS OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER
SECONDARY EXAMINATION IN PAKISTAN**

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ABSTRACT

Using data from major secondary and higher secondary annual examinations held by Govt. of Punjab, this study shows that, from the 2003 to the 2015s, the mode of girls' academic performance has been superior than boys. Data has exposed a positive increase in women's literacy rates (currently 38%), resulting in less gender disparity in literacy proportions all across the Pakistan. Although these trends has been uneven through provinces. Data shows better academic performance in nearly every subject and at every level. Data reflects that not only the pass percentage of the female students is relatively higher than that the male students, their grades are also higher. When compared with other provinces of the country, the Province of Punjab emerges as the most literate province and having less rate of gender disparity. This trend is also mirrored in Systematic Statistics from the province of Punjab (2011-2015). Moreover Systematic review of factors contributing to gender differences in academic achievement (1990-2015) has publicized that the female students to be significantly better in academic performance, reading habits, study habits and positive study attitude as compare to male students. Girls showed positive attitudes and proceeded in subjects which were previously male oriented i.e. science and math. The investigators also exposed the performance of female students' in higher education is better as compared to the male students. Other causative aspects (HEC, Media, UN, & National level efforts) for ensuring gender equality in general and Implication of this review has also been discussed.

Keywords: Reduced gender disparity, girls' outperformance, causative aspects.

[62]

WOMEN IN ASSAM POLICE AND WELLBEING ISSUESBora, S¹, Chatterjee, A², Rani, P³, Chakrabarti, D⁴^{1, 2, 3, 4} *Ergonomics Laboratory, Department of design, IIT Guwahati, India***ABSTRACT**

Government of India looks after 33 per cent reservation to women in police. It requires enhancing capacity building, attitudinal and behavioural changes to enable women in police force. A study was conducted with existing all-women police station and other police stations in Guwahati, Assam, India, considering their occupational stress and hazards related to womanhood related issues. In this descriptive study a sample of 43 women police was selected by adopting purposive non-probability sampling and responses were collected using a questionnaire method and conducting group meetings.

Women well-being as well as levels of satisfaction and commitment to the police organization has each been identified where most of them opinion experiencing occupational stress and hazards related womanhood specific issues. Developments considering ergonomics on-job criteria and appropriate design interventions may address the stress with specific reference to the women personnel. Hygiene on womanhood specific issues prevalent in their workplace imposes a major concern. Few remedial design attempts have been carried out and some of such developments have been implemented by authorities for up gradation of women police station. In addition to helping physical and mental well-being of existing personnel to perform their duties effectively and efficiently, such sympathetic development has created a positive niche to draw more young women in the police force.

Keyword: Indian women police, occupational stress, womanhood issues and police work-station.

[63]

RESTROOMS: THE FAILED QUALITATIVE MANAGEMENT OF TOURISM

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The main purpose of study is to compare the preparation of men and women restrooms for tourists in Thailand because the one essential goal of Thailand Tourism is to promote tourism to Thai and foreign tourists for the last two decades now. The research methodology is a field trip at the main tourist attractions in twelve provinces in Thailand. The researcher found out that all of the tourist attractions visited almost have the same number of men's toilette room and women's toilette room. But those men's toilette rooms all have urinals and toilets making it acquire more space or square footage than the women's toilette room. Unfortunately, such a fact come from a lack of in-depth conceptual thinking for the diversity of sexes and their need by the responsible for it. As a result, the management of tourism in Thailand is prone to equality rather than equity because the assumption commonly used is that the number of female tourists is equal to that of male despite the fact that the former is more than the latter. Thus, it should be called a failed assumption. In addition, like in other Asian countries, in Thailand, women are limited by culture, religious and value, making them differ from men; an unequal content. Furthermore, when the conceptual thinking of tourism management does not include these sexual issues in its planning, the outcome typically leads to such problems as the restrooms for tourists. In Thailand, only the number of tourist toilet rooms is used in math to make a so-called equality of men and women in the toilette. Instead, it causes equality because in the men's rooms, a male user has a choice of urinals and toilets while a female one has only toilets to choose. What's more, unlike men, women have body structure and toilet habits more complicated. Therefore, equity arises in term of the number and the square footage that can be truly used in each restroom.

Such mislead equality has been with Thai society so long that it is considered a making-sense equality, and men have never been seen receiving more privilege of toilette than women. However, the failed quantitative measurement only causes equity when women are taken advantage of and underprivileged.

Keywords: Women's toilet, Thailand tourism, sexes, qualitative management.

[64]

FEMINIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN NEPAL: A BURDEN OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN?

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ABSTRACT

Rural Nepal is going through unprecedented socio-economic and political changes including high youth out-migration from villages to cities and overseas in search of better employment opportunities. Remittance economy is one of the strong factors contributing on these changes leading towards feminization of local communities including agriculture. Feminization is forcing women to take additional responsibilities of household and agriculture performance. This paper is based on field research carried out in two rural villages in Nepal employing mixed methods generating both qualitative and quantitative data to explore how is feminization occurring and what are the impacts on women and their traditional gender roles.

The study suggests that in one hand, this had lead women to take additional responsibilities in household and farming within the traditionally male-dominant farming practices which is not only inappropriate and unfriendly to women. This is leading towards increased workload to women as labor supplier, less production causing food insecurity. In other hand, there are increased windows of opportunities for women for increased participation in social domain, decision-making at household levels, and access to and control over productive resources including land. Who is benefiting and who is bearing the burden depends on the diverse wealth and caste/ethnic category as well as family and community structure. However, there is no choice to revisit both at policy and practice to make the male dominant farming technologies more female friendly and less labor intensive to empower women and develop their entrepreneurship who engage in farming for food security.

Keywords: Feminization, women-friendly, outmigration, empowerment, entrepreneurship.

[65]

EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN GIRLS: EMPOWERING HUMANITY (SOCIAL & POLITICAL)

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of Study: The Purpose of the study is to develop insight into the current status of women and Girls to know how far they have come out of the miserable condition they were compelled to live in earlier. The Putty also arrive at collecting information and statistics about the efforts put into bettering the position of women and girls in order to make them self – reliant and powerful. Politic sing women's issue and their sociological relevance will be examined and assessed, so that further needs to expresser women and girls in established efforts will also be made to link empowering women and girls with the humanity at large raising the issue on a larger proportion.

Research Methodology: Since the topic can sociological overtones and political relevance to some effect both qualitative and quantity research methodology will be applied and adopted Introduction with various social groups and the conclusion therefore will play a major role in the research study.

Major Results: The expected results are not very satisfactory as a large number of women, particularly. The Third world countries, are still struggling against the adds, and are being treated as secondary citizens. As can be foretold and visualized at this stage, the major results would be mixed the women and girls in the westeror countries enjoying full freedom while the women in the third world countries being subjugated to secondary.

Implications: The Implications of the study would be imitating and might into women position today. Though the study continues itself to the efforts put forward towards empowering women and girls is the developing countries the statues the western women will also be considered. Therefore, the study offers a good scope to understand one of the major sociological issue of today.

Keywords: The Study of Women's issue falls into a sociological spheres of knowledge there such concepts and Keywords as patriarchy, feminism, abolition, binary thought, capitalism, civil night, colomalism, eco-feminism, Postmodernism , gender , ideology lesbianism, hetero sexuality, infertility, morality maternity, misogyny, parenting, paternalism prostitution, reproduction, sexuality, suffrage, third world etc. operate within the study freely however, efforts will be made to offer cowimang agreement without making the narrative unduly organized and complicated.

[66]

A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE LINK BETWEEN NATIONAL UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN'S OPPRESSION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Under development in Nigeria has become problematic since it has defied solution for more than five decades since Independence. A sustainable approach to solving the underdevelopment crisis in Nigeria demands that the source of the problem be dialectically traced, analyzed and understood. In the first place, it should be appreciated that Nigeria's underdevelopment crisis is historically rooted in poverty, alienation, exploitation, class and gender inequality, unbridled capitalism. The application of Marxist analysis as its theoretical thread, this article seeks to single out and expose the social role of gender inequality and women's oppression as one of the enduring dynamics of poverty and persistent underdevelopment in Nigeria. It is the singular view of this research paper that the phenomenon of persistent gender and inter-gender exploitation of women in the national and domestic economy landed Nigeria in a vicious cycle of anomie and led to underdevelopment of the poor in Nigeria. The establishment of social justice, gender equality and mainstreaming is an expository Marxist offering, a sustainable fallout from its dialectical and historical ideology, praxis and a platform that will achieve national, end gender injustice, bring about social justice, stop the track of persistent underdevelopment and help Nigeria to achieve sustainable development.

[67]

**SILENCE BY DEFAULT: WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR SEXUAL
ASSAULT CASES IN THE THAI CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to discover "how" the pre-process socio-cultural context and the actual criminal justice process hinders the female victims of sexually assaulted, especially rape cases to enter and drop out of the process through which "seeking" of the justice by a legal means. The research design has been drawn up on a case study exclusively focus on sexually assaulted cases in 3 provinces, of which represent 3 regions of Thailand, i.e. Chiang Mai in the North, Bangkok in the Center, and Songkha in the South. These 3 provinces were selected based on a matter of size and density and also these selected provinces perfectly meet the criteria of having a female police officer. Interview has been used as major tool for collecting data. Apart from that, the legal documents were explored in the study in order to frame and confirm this study.

The research found that Thai patriarchal structure and socio-cultural context, together with a male-dominated criminal justice process are, definitely, the substantial causes of silencing female victims memories. The "blame and shame" which has been found among the socio-cultural context findings portray the social norms which have also become a significant reinforcement. While the criminal justice process study reveals that underneath the main problems from its structure and process. Its nature also constantly reproduces pains and re-victimizes the victim-female victims in this study. Crucially, not the main findings above which deliberately obstruct victims from seeking the justice. Arguably, gender-insensitivity issue is, in fact, a deep root cause that creates an enormous problem, then, transforms such screams become the so-called "silence by default"

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**BEYOND THE LEGAL ORBIT: MAPPING ELUSIVE GENDER INJUSTICE
THROUGH LITERARY EXPRESSIONS**

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The inherent plurality of the concept of social justice defies any monolithic understanding of its meaning and implications. Social justice has multiple contexts and sites as it is influenced by various ideas, expectation, mechanisms and practices. It is rather relative, depending upon varying situations, subjectivities and marginalities. The position of women and their status in any society is an index of its civilization. It goes without saying that women ought to go hand in hand with men and contribute towards nation- building. And this realization resulted in the issue of women empowerment having gained tremendous momentum in recent decades in India. However, the sheer durability of the marginalisation of women and gender inequality led to various movements and campaigns in India. Blurring the public/private dichotomy, such campaigns resulted in a broad spectrum of legal and governmental measures that were not confined to merely political or economic justice but encompassed issues like bodily integrity, domestic violence, health, education and women's social status. However, besides these conventional parameters, there are certain non-conventional dimensions like mental and emotional well-being, dignity, self-respect, betrayal, non-humiliation, agency and freedom of choice that are particularly salient for women. They may be difficult to measure and therefore escape the legal orbit, but need to be taken into account and given due consideration in order to make social justice more inclusive and comprehensive. My paper seeks to explore such aspects and foreground their palpability and pervasiveness.

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MORALITY IN MAINTAINANCE LAWS OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The marriage laws in India are based on sexual exclusivity between husband and wife during marriage. An act of 'adultery' is recognized as a valid ground for dissolving the marriage by divorce but the obligation to provide economic support to the wife continues even after dissolution. However, the moralism associated with notions of sexual propriety in marriage also affects post dissolution economic entitlement of the parties. Section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code ('CrPc') of India disentitles women 'living in adultery' from claiming maintenance. This paper aims to critically analyze the maintenance laws in India. This paper explores the validity and rationale behind this disqualification as punishment for engaging in adultery. The authors claim that a social welfare provision like 125 CrPc should not be couched in moralistic terms. It becomes an easy way for husbands to make allegation against the wives of 'living in adultery' so that they can escape their responsibility to pay maintenance. We argue that this language of the Section needs to be changed. Section 125 of the CrPC needs to be reframed without reference to a morally laden term like "adultery".

Keywords: Marriage, dissolution of marriage, morality, adultery, maintenance.

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A CRUSADE AGAINST VIOLENCE OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS: WITCH HUNTING IN ASSAM AND THE MISSION BIRUBALA

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ABSTRACT

Gender inequality and discrimination against women has been a known fact. Society's indulgence in superstitious beliefs has resulted in witch hunting and other taboos. Witch hunting involves branding woman as a witch based on the declaration of a quack. This usually happens in a community where people are backward and not educated. Women are tortured both mentally and physically and their very right of being human is violated. In Assam, the witch hunting has been a regular phenomenon and even after agencies, both Government and Non-Government, playing a significant role to wage a war against it, witch hunting is still rampant. Assam Mahila Samata Samiti, (a unit of the Mahila Samkhyas Programme of GOI) has been crusading a battle against witch hunting. It has encouraged, assisted and promoted collective reflection, decision making and group action by rural women of marginalised communities and tribes as a means to their empowerment. However, all these have not succeeded in eliminating witch hunting from those societies. This paper is an attempt to throw light on the menace called witch hunting and the reasons behind such heinous acts. Further, this paper will analyse the intervention of AMSS and other Govt. and Non Govt. agencies to stop witch hunting. In this regard, the 'Mission Birubala' becomes pertinent as its founder Dr. Birubala Rabha is a crusader in spreading awareness and fighting against witch hunting. This paper will further seek to analyze the role of this mission in combating Witch hunting.

Keywords: Witch hunting, human rights, violence, AMSS, Mission Birubala.

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DISCRIMINATION IN PROPERTY ALIENATION

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ABSTRACT

This study is about Section 6 and Section 8 of the Jaffna Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance (JMRO) No1 of 1911 which gives a discriminatory condition for women who are governed under the 'Thesawalame Law' (personal law applicable to the people of Jaffna in Sri Lanka). According to section 6 of the JMRO a woman cannot alienate even her own property without taking the written consent of her husband. Section 8 has provided some limited situations where the consent of the husband need not be taken and it is mandatory for women to file a petition in the District Court and thereby get an order to legally deal with land matters. This situation has led many Tamil women to face violation of their inherent human rights. In this context the main objective of this paper is to compare the Sri Lankan situation with the International Obligations undertaken by Sri Lanka and to appraise the possibility of the given modern and human rights based approaches to this situation. This study is a legal analysis and has used the critical, philosophical and comparative study method as the methodology of coming to conclusions which are based mainly on International Conventions, Domestic Statutes including the 1978 Constitution, case laws and legal writers' opinions. Sri Lanka has been a state party to many of the international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against women (CEDAW). Under those treaty obligations and according to Article 12 of the Constitution (Right to Equality) women are supposed to get equal treatment in such a situation and it is high time the legislature (Parliament) or the Judiciary took action to remove the discriminatory provision of the JMRO which is against international human rights norms.

Keywords: Equality, JMRO, discrimination, Thesawalame law.

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GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE INDIAN INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the prevailing gender inequality in the Institution of marriage in India. Through theoretical and qualitative research study, it focusses on the few prominent marital rituals, social customs, and marriage ceremonies and debunks the inherent gender bias in them. It seeks to trace the historical relevance of the rituals and customs and critically analyze their relevance in the today's age of progression and equality debate. Paper also discusses the laws relating to offences in marriage and the intrinsic gender bias in them. It focusses primarily on the issue of marital rape: not being recognized as a crime and the laws on adultery which reiterate woman as a 'property' to the husband.

Keywords: Indian marriage rituals, gender inequality, women 'property of husband, gendered laws.

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**RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S UNACCOUNTED WORK TO REDUCE POVERTY
–VAW AND INEQUALITIES**

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ABSTRACT

Many factors are contributing towards the economic growth & development in a country. One of the major issues the non-recognition of women's unaccounted work contributes to the continued subordination of their position in the family and society. However, it should be remembered that it is the unaccounted work of women both productive and reproductive that underpins society's well-being, social development and economic growth. The objective of this paper is to highlight the importance of women's unpaid work including care work and its far reaching implications for gender relations, power relations and inequalities, poverty as well as the enjoyment of their human rights. The time and difficulty of engaging in unpaid care work are directly linked to levels of poverty, domestic violence and barrier towards women's empowerment. Inadequate or absence of State policies and practices regarding unpaid work may also challenge or interrupt women's rights to the highest attainable standard of health and an adequate standard of living. There is need to push government for making the unpaid care work visible to rethink about the economic planning to give priority and ensure allocation for public resources as well as to think of the System of National Account (SNA) differently so that women's unaccounted contribution to the economy is considered in the GDP. Reducing and redistributing unpaid care work can have a major positive impact on achieving gender equality and in meeting other development goals and boosting their social status, earning power and involved in economic and political arena.

Keywords: Gender role, inequality, women human rights, poverty, women's empowerment.

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WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHT IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HINDUS

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ABSTRACT

Women's rights are human rights and gender justice is integral to social justice, which demands that a woman should be treated equally both in the economic and the social sphere. It is widely acknowledged in India, that Hindu Women have by and large not exercised legal rights guaranteed to them. The conceptualization of rights to property for women in India is problematic, as both Constitutional and Legal frameworks, which aim to confer the right to property, upon a woman are framed by religion. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956, has given Hindu women absolute property rights in their husband's inherited property and daughter are also granted property rights in their father's estate but, still it was discriminatory as equal rights were not given to daughter as that of son by the legislatures amongst the members of a Joint Hindu Family. To remove this discrimination, amendment was made in the year 2005 in the Hindu Succession Act, and daughters were made coparceners in Joint Hindu Family. It was a watershed moment in the women's movement in India as it puts Hindu Women at par with their brothers as inheritors of family property, still there are challenges. The researcher through empirical study has delve into the institutional factors within the family and community that either facilitate or constrain women from asserting their rights relating to property matters, who, despite their empowered position by law, are not able to convert their de jure rights to defacto rights and effective control over it.

Keywords: Women's estate, Stridhan, coparcenary property, patriarchy, Hindu succession act.

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**CASE STUDY ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT CASE: THE
PROSECUTOR V. LAURENT GBAGBO**

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ABSTRACT

The following paper focuses on the confirmation of charges against former Côte d'Ivoire Head of State, Laurent Gbagbo, in THE PROSECUTOR V. LAURENT GBAGBO. The case is currently in the International Criminal Court (ICC) and surrounds incidents of violence against women. The charges arise from the occurrence of four incidents, two specifically targeting women throughout Côte d'Ivoire committed by a variety of factors including Gbagbo, his inner circle, and various military forces. The ICC charged Gbagbo with crimes against humanity and sought murder, rape, other inhumane acts, and persecution. This paper will first focus on the Article 7(1)(g) rape charge under the ICC and crimes against humanity statutes and then examine the Article 7(1)(h) persecution charge under the ICC and crimes against humanity statutes, including political, ethnic, national, and religious grounds. Particularly, this paper will explore the significant role that gender plays within both charges and crimes against humanity as a whole. This paper will then argue that gender based persecution should be an added charge against Gbagbo because of the two violent incidents targeting women and because of the importance of the genocide convention and notions of group protection throughout the history of law. The use of U.S. hate crime statutes incorporating similar mens rea elements and the new Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes promulgated by the ICC Chief Prosecutor alleviate concerns with bringing a persecution charge. Finally, this paper explores the importance of recognizing gender based violence for women, especially those in vulnerable situations.

Keywords: International criminal court, international law, gender, violence, crimes against humanity, persecution, rape, Côte d'Ivoire.

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**ENVISIONING A ROAD TO SOCIAL JUSTICE: ADDRESSING GENDER
INEQUALITY IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY THROUGH CAPABILITY
APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

The focus of the study is to examine and relocate gender equality in higher education (as a workplace) using Capability Approach as the background frame. The succeeding question in the process would be how these social, cultural and psychological phenomena are addressed? It attempts to explore the factors prevalent in the structure which impacts woman's opportunities and functionalities in the higher education. Hence, this paper attempts to highlight a list of capabilities which are imperative in conceptualizing and assessing gender inequality in Higher Education. The nature of the research problem requires investigation from the ethno-methodological approach. The database includes female teachers from one of the universities by random sampling technique. The empirical study by employing a triangulation strategy deals with the dynamics of constructs in Science and Technology indicating socio- psychological obstructions faced by women in higher education. Through this study, the capability that needs to be enriched for women can be contemplated which helps in reducing the existing disparity. Inspecting the semi-structured interviews, one can conceptualize the oppressed capabilities of women thereby enabling the researchers to relocate the gender equality in the domain of higher education. The intention of the study is essentially not to quantify the attributes of inequality to make them measurable, but to choose attributes which enable an effective comparative basis to address inequality. The empirical study reveals an existence of the element of stereotyping as a single entity and capability approach restores the uniqueness by the fractional combination of capabilities listed.

Keywords: Gender, discrimination, science and technology, higher education.

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THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN UNDER LAW AND RELIGION- AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity. Women like men should also feel safe and secure on the face this earth. The claim of a country to civilization depends upon its treatment provided to the women in their different roles like mother, daughter, sister and wife. The most certain test by which we may judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security provided to the women in the society. Since men and women are considered as two wheels of vehicles of a society, the progress and all round development of a country depends upon harmonizing the skills and abilities of all sections of society regardless of caste, creed, religion and sex. History knows that in spite of religious sanctions and legal provisions, women have been discriminated for ages and they have not been given equal opportunities in many social, economic and cultural spheres, rather they have been victim of violence, exploitation and discrimination. The modern age is the age of transformation in the status of women all over the world. Women struggled towards new freedom and identities. Hence the consciousness among women increased leading to organization and global conferences and movement to modernization. Inseparable from the right is their guarantee-legal and political. Legal guarantee lies in the international conventions, declarations and constitutions. Political guarantee lies in the structure of the state which includes political parties and its electoral system. Another aspect of protection is the religious protection which has been used and misused from time to time. In this background the purpose of this paper is to discuss the different international conventions and constitutional provisions pertaining to the protection of women. Religious provisions particularly the Islamic law in books and practice will also be analyzed.

Keywords: Conventions, legal provision, religious norms, mindset and will of the authority.

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BEYOND THE DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The Western feminism, with an agenda of re-presentation of the 'third world women', doubly oppresses the discourse of feminism which is not monolithic. The voice of dissent from within the discourse consolidates feminism as a strong paradigm to the idea of universal social justice which does not at the same time, as Martha Nussbaum argues, compromise with pluralism and cultural differences. The paper examines the discourse of feminism as an alternative, constructive paradigm of knowledge and education as opposed to the hegemony of traditional disciplinary boundaries that rest on the binaries of absolute/historical, nature/culture, objective/subjective, core/periphery etc. Feminism opposes the violence committed by the language of binaries but, at the same time, puts them into dialectic mediation (the complementarity of care and justice in Gilligan, for e.g.) and fosters the liberal idea of transdisciplinarity of knowledge. In grounding the human agency in the nuanced political-economic 'effective-history', and with a focus on narrative unfolding, participatory and collective learning, problem solving and strategic decision making modalities, feminism opens up aesthetic, affective, intuitive and moral rationalities in the domain of knowledge-production and transformative pedagogies. This philosophical, exploratory work of theorizing knowledge and education as an alternative paradigm in the feminist discourse empowers the feminist voice for social justice.

Keywords: Education, feminist discourse, knowledge, social justice.

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BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING: GENDERED CITIZENSHIP IN POST-WAR SRI LANKAN CLASSROOMS

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ABSTRACT

Reforms to both the official and unofficial curriculum, in the form of learning materials, pedagogy, and the organization of the school, can act as catalysts for transformative change for gender equity (Maclure & Denov, 2009) and social cohesion as a whole. Official curricula such as textbooks, syllabi, and teacher manuals are key instruments for organizing and directing classroom teaching and learning. Learning materials are critical for the transmission of knowledge and social norms of society (Schissler, 1990), particularly the citizenship curriculum, which is designed to transmit not only the norms but also the conventions of society. However, with respect to gender equality, classrooms and schools are often embedded with gender boundaries that reproduce powerful patriarchal hierarchies. Social studies and civics curricula, tend to reinforce and transmit conventional gender stereotypes and existing social relations (Durrani, 2008). This paper reflects on how gender equity and citizenship are represented in the revised citizenship & life skills curriculum in comparison to the former. It also presents teachers perspectives on their understanding of gender equity and citizenship education and suggests ways in which citizenship education can be gendered. This is a mixed methods study that utilizes a conceptual framework informed by a hybrid post-colonial feminist-critical institutional perspective. Drawing on content analysis of the civics textbooks for grades 6-11 and interviews with civics teachers, this paper provides quantitative and qualitative evidence of the driving factors behind what is often described as the glass ceiling effect (Jayaweera, Gunawardena, & Edirisinghe, 2008) for women in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Gender, education, citizenship education, Sri Lanka, curriculum.

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**EMPOWERING TRIBAL WOMEN OF MELGHAT IN WESTERN VIDBRHA
REGION OF MAHARASHTRA STATE THROUGH EDUCATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

As per 2011 census the tribal population in India was 10, 42, 81,034 or 8.6 percent of total population and as per the 2011 census of Maharashtra the ST population was 9.4 percent. There are five districts Amravati, Buldana, Akola, and Washim & Yavatmal in western Vidbrha region of Maharashtra State of India. The combined area of Dharni and Chikhaldara Tahsil of Amravati district is known as Melghat Region. In this region the percentage of tribal population is 77 percent. In India under the 342 article of our constitution tribal communities or groups within are included in Scheduled Tribes. Women play an important role in tribal culture. Empowerment of tribal women is essential to harness the tribal women in the main stream of economic development. Empowerment of women is a holistic concept. Women are an integral part of every economy. Entrepreneurship development and income generating activities are a feasible solution for empowering tribal women. It generates income and also provides flexible working hours according to the needs. Economic independence is the need of the hour. Participation in income generating activities helps in the overall empowerment of tribal women. Empowering tribal women through education, ideas, consciousness, mobilization and participatory approach can enable them to take their own decisions, make them self-reliant and self-confident. But all above things not properly happened in the Melghat region because of the reasons such as female literacy rate in Melghat region is only 55 percent ,the early marriage tendency among tribal women, lack of skill based vocational education and lack of entrepreneurship development programme. So to Empowering tribal women of Melghat region in western Vidbrha region of Maharashtra state through education and entrepreneurship it is necessary to give skill based vocational education and run an entrepreneurship development programme for tribal women of Melghat region.

Keywords: Empowerment, tribal women, education, entrepreneurship, Melghat region.

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RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN PAKISTAN

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In Pakistan, women empowerment has always been a subjective matter of debate among media, civil society and state machinery because of its multifarious connotations and dimensions. The focus of my study is to evaluate that along with many other agents of modernization, how female education play a fundamental role in transforming traditionally conceived submissive role of women in to an effective individual. Although in comparison with male; female literacy rate and workforce percentage has been disappointing in Pakistan, but nevertheless some improvement can be witnessed, depending on the geographic dispensation. In recent years, through survey questionnaire and focused group discussions targeting female university students, it has been observed that in comparison with illiterate women; educated and professional females have not only been sensitized but also are equipped to deal with various issues of life, ranging from health to financial needs. Though, they have serious limitations. My findings from qualitative and quantitative data analysis convey that despite of gaining education and professional expertise; majority of them are not completely free in their decisions about basic personal matters of life like, marriage, divorce, mobility and claim over ancestral inheritance. The results of my research indicate that various reasons can be cited for this lacuna. First is a centuries old gender biased socio-cultural practices, which unlike men, confine, scrutinize and specify role of women in the society. Second is miss-interpretation of religion by orthodoxy; overlooking the contextual meaning of Quranic versus. Although these cultural practices and religious orientations are two separate domains, but in Pakistani society over the period of time these distinctive concepts have been overlapped in a way that it is has become difficult to discriminate. My research concludes that there is a need to transform the mind-set of an over-all society through effective education, mass media campaign (print, electronic and social) and civil society support; to the level, where the society understands the utility of women education with an endorsement of their equal rights in all decisions of life, converting women empowerment into a reality.

Keywords: Education, civil society, orthodoxy, workforce, literacy, women empowerment, Pakistan.

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RHETORIC AND REALITY: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH HIGHER EDHartman, K¹ & Stanlake, J²^{1, 2} *Access Academy, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh***ABSTRACT**

The United Nations has named as two among its sustainable development goals for 2016 to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” In conceiving this paper, we draw from our experience directing a pre-undergraduate program at an international women’s university, located in Chittagong, Bangladesh, to discuss the ways in which the rhetoric of women’s empowerment is perceived by teachers and students in relation to the reality of their lived experiences on campus. Our methodology is both quantitative and qualitative, in that we use online anonymous surveys and in-person interviews with open-ended questions to elicit subjects’ perceptions of disjunctions between the rhetoric of women’s empowerment and their educational experiences. Questions that interest us include: what academic and residential policies seem designed to encourage and/or discourage students’ autonomy and decision-making ability? What role do Western (ized) professors play in terms of challenging traditional gender roles on campus? What strategies do students adopt when faced with institutional policies that they perceive as disempowering? Ultimately, we suggest that in order for educators to make progress on the UN’s 2016 sustainable development goals, we must resist easy rhetoric and instead perform the demanding work of designing learning environments that genuinely empower girls and women students.

Keywords: Higher Ed, women’s empowerment, international university, sustainable development goals.

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ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND WOMEN'S ENTITLEMENTS – BREAKING UNEQUAL PATHWAYS

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ABSTRACT

While working closely with Breakthrough's Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS) in Haryana, I have learned is that as patriarchal norms are deep rooted, women face varied discriminations in educational, clothing, mobility, food, recreational, job, and access to technology. Also, sex ratio of Haryana is highly skewed and the key reasons found include, boys help to continue lineage, support for parents during old age, don't have to think of dowry, bring respect to family, property is not divided, etc. This changes the discourse about equal rights for women and girl, hence asking establishing equal choices becomes challenging. The key purpose of the study would be to understand how equal access to technology vis-à-vis improved knowledge, attitudes and practices enable women and girls to speak for their equal rights and support making violence against women 'unacceptable'. The sample data will be collected from four districts of Haryana (Rohtak, Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonipat) involving youth, community members and influencers. As part of data collection, personal interviews with youth, FGDs and KIIs with community members other stakeholders. The key expected results of the study would be to understand i) how improved knowledge about human rights and individual entitlements contribute towards equal access to technology (use of mobile phones, internet) among women and girls? Does improved knowledge and perceptions related to gender equality enable women and girls improve access to education, opportunities of employment and contribute in decision making. Also, has knowledge about gender stereotypes, rights and issues related to practice of sex selection helped women to take initiatives towards improving their entitlements vis-à-vis access to technology. It would be interesting to know how gender biased norms and stereotypes contribute towards making access to technology and other entitlements challenging for women.

Keywords: Gender equality, gender bias, technology, human rights, entitlements, sex selection, sex ratio, attitudes, perceptions, employment, women, choices, knowledge, education, discrimination.

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**GENDER INEQUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA AND THE
NETHERLANDS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FACED BY WOMEN ACADEMICS**

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ABSTRACT

This paper unpacks the experiential realities of gender inequality at workplace for women academics in the Indian and the Dutch academic settings. Usually, the socio-cultural factors informing gender roles and behavior are unaccounted for while designing policies for a gender equal workspace. Whereas, the challenges and opportunities women academics face in higher education context largely depend upon the same socio-cultural milieu. Oftentimes, the female professors teaching gender/women's studies courses also cannot escape the brunt of the exploitative gender norms and regulations prevalent at workplace. This paper analyses the plethora of factors (both the formal measures and the informal practices) that perpetuate gender inequality at workplace for women academics, and also tries to capture the differences in the experiential realities of the Indian and the Dutch women academics. This is done through a comparative study of both settings with the help of an ethnographic qualitative inquiry. A total of 30 participants from both contexts are included in the study. In-depth interviews and participant observation were used along with adoption of the ethnographic "immersion" technique for developing insights into the respondents' life-worlds. Author's exposure to the Dutch and the Indian higher education contexts for close to 15 years enabled a grounded analysis. It is found that the women academics in the Netherlands are in a relatively better position while confronting the gender based inequalities at the workplace compared to their counterparts in India. However, both the contexts had thrown up good practices for enhancing gender equal work cultures at large.

Keywords: Women academics, higher education, gender inequality, India, the Netherlands, life-worlds.

[85]

WOMEN EDUCATION, NOT FOR JOB: A CATALYST FOR ENHANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Globally gender equality and women empowerment have been recognised as the vital component to achieve overall development. Education is the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills necessary to participate fully in the development process. Today, a greater emphasis is being placed on examining the range of capabilities available to women in many countries throughout the world. Increases in female education associates strongly with high levels of human development. Therefore, there is a strong correlation between HDI rank and women education in a country. The status of women education reflects on the rank held by a country in HDI. As such, improvements in human development can be achieved by focusing on expanding the capabilities available to women and the only key element is education. Increases in female education associates strongly with high levels of human development. The main purpose of this paper is to study the association between Women education and Human Development for the national progress and socio economic development. The study is based on secondary data viz. Census, 2011 and UNDP report, 2015 in order to find out the relationship between women education and Human Development rank. The major findings of the study envisaged that the countries, which have higher female adult literacy rate, are ranked high in HDI. Hence, the paper concludes that education will definitely enhance the women's capacity for participation in an increasingly knowledge based world economic growth and reduce the poverty which will serve as a tool for women empowerment and reflect in sustainable human development.

Keywords: Women, education, HDI, rank, literacy rate, social development, sustainable development.

POSTER PRESENTATION

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WHEN ENOUGH IS NOT ENOUGH: WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Similar to many countries in the region, men outnumber women exceedingly in the police force in Thailand. Policing is perceived as more suitable for men and women are to be protected rather than acting as protector or enforcer of the law. Women police officers, few in number and even fewer in leadership position, are clustered in administrative or public relations domains. However the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy has recently accepted 70 female cadets per year compared to 210 men. Although this is regarded as a promising start, it is undeniable that women police officers have to face many challenges and bottlenecks in order to excel and progress in their careers. This paper is part of a study on the value and indispensability of women police officers in the Thai police system. It sets out to examine the history of police system and policing culture in the country where patriarchy is deeply embedded in its social fabric. It seeks to construe recent changes within the police system to be more supportive and welcoming to women. Further, using life history and in depth interviews as one of the key methodologies, it aims to understand and demonstrate the roles, trajectories and influence women police officers have not only in transforming the police system itself but also to the betterment of women's access to justice in Thailand.

Keywords: Police system, gender equality, reform, women's access to justice.

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TO CAPACITATE HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER ON 'CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR IMPROVED MATERNAL HEALTH UNDER RMNCH+A STRATEGY' WITH A FOCUS ON PRE-CONCEPTION CARE IN 4 REMOTE DISTRICTS OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Currently young married women (15-24 years) in India forms one of the largest groups with high burden of an unmet need for reproductive health services. 67% of maternal deaths occur in the age group of 20-29 years. An inadequate & trained health service provider is one of the major hindrance behind it. Within a large scale-up project for improving the maternal health of young married women, we trained all health care providers in four districts (99 Medical officers, 336 master trainers and 1272 front line workers) on Continuum of Care with a focus on Pre-conception care. Pre and post training changes in knowledge was assessed using a questionnaire on the "Continuum of care" framework of RMNCH+A strategy focusing on the needs of young married women. The project is being implemented in four districts (in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan), India MO training resulted in 18.4% increased knowledge in pre-conception care, 36% increased knowledge in PPH management & 15.7% increased knowledge to manage Hyperthermia. Further, among the master trainers, 14.5 % increased knowledge on pre-conception care, and 10% increased knowledge in danger sign of pregnancy. Among AWW, 29% increased knowledge on preconception care. Evidence from pre and post test assessment showed that training had a significant impact on the knowledge, capacities and skills of participants for service delivery to young married women specifically on preconception care. Regular trainings are recommended and need to ensure the maximum participation of the health care providers.

Keywords: Training, pre-post knowledge assessment, health service provider, continuum of care, RMNCH+A, pre-conception care, rural India.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

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MOTHERHOOD AND MATERNAL PRACTICES OF PROSTITUTED WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES: A NARRATIVE CASE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative study explored the lives of three trafficking survivors, particularly on how they view and portray their role as a mother in the lives of their children, and on how their stories reflect the existing societal, and institutional problems in the Philippines. Through a series of interviews with the subjects, an institutional key informant interview with the executive director of Coalition against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific (CATW-AP), participant observation, and a narrative analysis of the constructed data, the researcher discovered that how the three former prostituted mothers view themselves as mothers are different from how they portray it. Furthermore, how they portray their roles diverge as they mature. Standpoint, Maternal thinking, Narrative, Life course, and Convoy theories were integrated into a framework that guided the researcher in analyzing and deconstructing the narrated experiences of the subjects. Poverty, lack of proper education and of good family structure, and the presence of trafficking led these three women to prostitution but their motive for staying is to help their family. They view motherhood and mothering as a hard, yet rewarding role and they may not be very capable and educated enough to rear children but their love for them outweighs their shortcomings, thus, it became their reason for exiting prostitution and strive to become good mothers.

Keywords: Motherhood, prostitution, poverty, maternal practices.

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**TO GO TO SCHOOL OR NOT? – USE OF SOCIAL COGNITIVE CAREER
THEORY TO UNDERSTAND NON-PARTICIPATION OF RURAL GIRLS IN
FORMAL SCHOOLS**

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ABSTRACT

Majority of out of school girls are located in rural areas of the world. There exist many challenges both at the demand side and the supply side which keep them away for school. Much research exists for tackling supply-side barriers but tackling demand side barriers still has a long way to go. This essay conducts a literature review of all such challenges and uses the Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) to identify possible reasons for non-participation of girls in schools in rural areas. SCCT is based on the original social cognitive theory by Albert Bandura. Firstly, an extensive literature review of challenges faced by rural girls is completed. Then, the SCCT is applied to the issue at hand which provides details of how a rural girl thinks and what factors are responsible for such thinking. The review finds that girls in rural areas suffer from low self-efficacy and possess non-ambitious outcome expectations with respect to educational and occupational pursuits in life, which also lead to low goal settings. The main reasons for this are traditional gender role expectations from girls by community, economic condition of a family, absence of positive role models amongst others. Possible interventions to increase participation of girls in rural areas include introduction/promotion of women teachers, gender sensitive curriculum and career and educational counselling. It is hoped that policy makers will address the demand-side barriers in designing educational policies which will result in better participation and continuation of rural girls in schools.

Keywords: Rural, girls, women, education, social cognitive theory, career, self-efficacy.

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**DIGNITY AND EMPOWERMENT: AN EXPLORATION OF THE MICROCREDIT
EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

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Modern microcredit policy emerged with the assumption of promoting women's empowerment. Some researchers found the microcredit policy has had a significant amount of success according to that assumption. However, they ignored the subjective history of the participants. To the contrary, the critical view presented microcredit policy as a Western World notion which exploits the local context. This view failed to take into account women's empowerment issues in relation to the current modern development ideologies of the State. This project focuses on the drawbacks of both approaches. The investigation is rooted in the phenomenological hermeneutics tradition. Through a convenience sampling, this project conducted in-depth interviews with a semi-structured questionnaire. These methodological choices allowed the participants to express their meaning of dignity and empowerment in their lives, and, the way they negotiate in their personal lives between that perceived meaning, and the assumed meaning of empowerment through the microcredit policy. The result emerged that family life with economic progress was the first and foremost meaning of dignity for all the participants. Additional meanings for dignity of life emerged. After experiencing the microcredit policy, some found the meaning of dignity as they defined. The remaining participants experienced microcredit with feelings of risk, stress, shame, marginalization, vulnerability, and other challenges. Recommendations advocate for skill based and/or creating alternative ways for the goal of promoting the perceived meanings of dignity and empowerment

Keywords: Dignity, empowerment, microcredit, women.

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**PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACES:
SEEKING GENDER EQUALITY AT WORK**

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ABSTRACT

B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, once stated that the measure of progress of a community is the degree of progress achieved by its women. Education and financial independence are two of the most essential sources of women's progress and empowerment. Education allows a woman to see herself beyond misogyny, patriarchy and male chauvinism, as a strong and capable individual. Financial independence gives her the confidence to confront these. However, the financial independence often comes at a cost, that of unwanted sexual attention at workplaces. Sexual Harassment at workplaces is a more subtle form of gender violence as compared to rapes and sexual assault and can often go unchecked. It is a product of the deep rooted patriarchal perception that men are superior to women and certain forms of violence against them is harmless and acceptable.

This paper is an attempt to analyze the definition and components of sexual harassment and its extent and types. It seeks to provide a glimpse of various milestones achieved in the International Legal History on this front and its impact in ensuring gender justice and equality at workplaces around the world with specific reference to India.

It analyzes the Constitutional and legal framework for prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces in India through landmark judicial pronouncements and Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2013.

Keywords: Sexual harassment, international legal history, constitutional framework, sexual harassment of women at work place act, 2013.

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WOMEN, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

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Women represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labors and entrepreneurs. This study examines the contribution of women in the process of small scale organic tea cultivation as gender division of labor. Gurukelle, a village in Doluwa secretarial division is one of the major small scale organic tea product units. The lands of the study area have been converting rapidly into organic tea cultivation as it is a sustainable farming method. This paper is based on the field data of a Gender Analysis research. A 10 percent sample was taken in a random way to gather the information from a questionnaire and field observations. The women as gender division of labor are significant. This study affirms that there is an emerging agricultural feminization in study area while the roles of men have been diminishing. The whole process of tea cultivation from land preparation to transportation of plucked tea to the collecting center is dominated by women division of labor that is shared as well as paid monthly or daily. In terms of gender division of labor, women are the laborers, farmers and decision makers in tea lands while undertaking the challenge to enhance the economy of their families despite the fact that the land tenure is not with their hands.

Keywords: Women, small scale organic tea, gender division of labor, feminization.

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THE CHANGING FACES OF WOMEN IN INDIA: THROUGH THE LENSES OF ACTIVIST ART AND ARTISTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to examine the political and feminist agenda of contemporary women's movements and artists in modern India. Analyse and examine the evolution and current position of women of different classes and ethnicities. Amongst the questions being addressed are:

- Is the status of the masses of women truly evolving positively?
- Is art and activism effectively raising awareness and provoking changes in attitudes?
- Do enough feminists or women artists and intellectuals consider the emancipation of fellow women in India a worthy enough cause for attention?
- An examination of the origins and initiatives of a sampling of artists and movements that have effectively raised some awareness and induced a measure of positive alternatives.

- 1) The Blank Noise Project. (Addressing the Infamous Phenomena of "Eve Teasing")
- 2) The Gulabi Gang (Pink Ladies in India, In Response to Wide Spread State and Officially Endorsed / Induced Corruption, Oppression, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse).
- 3) Navjot Altaf (Interactive Collaborative Art: Beyond the Boundaries of Traditional Art Forms; Interrogating Established Power Structures).

The nature of this study requires it be thoroughly grounded in theoretical discourse and mixed qualitative research involving life and oral history, in-depth analysis of existing data, literature and theory. Advances in information and communication technologies, the expansive growth of the internet and spectacular increase in reliable on-line data reserves have effectively provided innovative means of accessing and collecting up to date qualitative records and documentation apt for this study, while successfully eliminating geographical barriers and restrictions.

Keywords: Activism, artists, gender, politics, empowerment.

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**ENGENDERING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAND OF PROMISE:
MARANAO WOMEN IN MINDANAO PEACEBUILDING PROGRAM, THE
PHILIPPINES**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the engendered pattern of power relations in one peacebuilding program, the Peace and Development Community (PDC) in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. It problematize the theory of intersectionality and inclusivity as contrasting paradigms, and from this starting point investigates Maranao women's positioning, views, experiences and power relations in establishing a PDC in Barangay Muntay, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao. It is a mixed community of Muslims and Christians, where former MNLF rebels integrated themselves into mainstream society, and established a PDC. The study shows that Maranao women have a high level of equality with men in the religious and cultural context of peace and development efforts. However the existing dilemmas on (mis)representation of Maranao Women through Muslim identities affect how women are being engaged in the peacebuilding program. There is double standard perceptions that may help build, and hinder, women engagement in peacebuilding. Furthermore, this study has shown that gender discourses cannot be divorced from reality and from ideologies, or from relations of power within the community that was researched. What this suggests is that for a lasting and sustainable peace and development process to be possible, there is a need for a meeting point that can achieve consensus. Also, the study claimed that the benchmarks of development success are gender awareness, a pronounced leadership role for women in their own context, and good leadership, contributing to widely shared power.

Keywords: Peace and development community, intersectionality, peacebuilding, gendered peace.

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TO VEIL OR NOT TO VEIL

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ABSTRACT

In democratic countries, gender roles and sexuality are regulated by individuals or their families, but in extremist societies in the Middle East, they are regulated by extremists, or state laws. Extremist leaders in Middle Eastern countries are against the concept of individual rights as a Western idea. They believe that in a Muslim society, individual rights are meaningless; the priority should be Muslim community, so the other concepts must be sacrificed to save the community. In the light of such a belief, their official policies justify any desexualized, such as the hijab and punishment of adultery, of women outside their homes. In such societies, women are considered 'others' and are dehumanized. Forcing women to wear the hijab can be considered as an implication to degradation of women; such dehumanization and objectification serve as hatred of women, so compulsory hijab is an attempt to humiliate and degrade the female body. Women in such societies are considered sex objects, robots, and an agent for corrupting the safety and security of society. In this paper, I argue that the premise of pornography and the compulsory hijab is the same: dehumanization of women.

Keywords: Pornography, compulsory hijab, extremism, patriarchy.

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**DEMOLISHING THE DOMESTIC THRESHOLD: A FEMINIST ANALYSIS OF
THE LEGAL CONDITION OF WOMEN ENGAGED IN HOUSEHOLD WORK IN
INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

According to the Report on Men and Women (15th Issue) submitted by the Central Statistics Office in 2013, workplace participation of women in the urban sector was limited to 25.51% in the urban areas and 30.02% in rural areas. This is a clear indication of the fact that the vast majority of women in our country are engaged in housework, for which they receive no recognition, legal and otherwise. A position of women can be considered as a social replica of capitalism. Since the work done as mothers and house workers is not considered as a contribution to the value addition in society, it is not treated at par with organized labour. Furthermore, this leads to a psychological divide between the sexes. Since they are legally and financially deprived of benefits and since their skill is undervalued, they are also psychologically denied of personhood. It is because of this that feminists, irrespective of their further leanings, consider women as doubly alienated. A few countries, including Venezuela, have taken a positive step in this direction by according pension benefits to women engaged in domestic work. This paper will explore the legal and societal condition of women engaged in housework. The researchers will analyse, from the feminist perspective, the importance of recognizing their skill and contribution. The steps that need to be taken to grant them legal recognition and protection will be highlighted.

Keywords: Domestic work, women, feminism, protection.