



FUTURE OF
WOMEN

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**“INDONESIAN WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND
GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ”**

at the

**International Conference on
Future of Women’18**

“A Prospect for Greater Vision.”



06th - 07th February 2018
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Anita Singh

Prof. Anita Singh
Conference Chair

Isanka P. Gamage

Mr. Isanka P. Gamage
Conference Convenor



Vaasanta College for Women
Admitted to the Privileges of
Banaras Hindu University,
India



Department of Women's Studies,
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Dr. Alka Singh
Principal



We sincerely feel privileged to be a hosting partner of the prestigious International Conference on **Future of Women '18** organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the theme "**A Prospect for Greater Vision**". Being a woman Principal of one of the oldest women's college, it gives me immense pleasure to note that this conference on women issues is being convened. The outstanding contribution of Dr. Annie Besant and Sri Jiddu Krishnamurti, who established this college to the cause of women education, comes to the forefront.

The theme of the conference will give us opportunities to discuss the present and the future of women. Taking into account current challenges, the inward emphases of this conference will be the environment, security; economic stability and participation of women in all decision-making processes in familial, local and global spaces among other many issues which we hope that this conference will effectively address. This conference is particularly timely in addressing these issues.

I congratulate the conference organizers and wish the conference a great success and hope that each and every one enjoys this intellectual exercise to further bring about a holistic positive approach in the society at large.

Alka Singh

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"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing." — Swami Vivekananda

We are delighted and honored to welcome you to this International Conference on Future of Women '18 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the theme "A Prospect for Greater Vision." In 2018 we are challenged to think about what constitute women and what should the next steps be for the women's movement. More broadly, there is an increasing attentiveness towards — reproductive rights, women's health and safety, workplace development, the fight against sexual harassment and violence, economic empowerment, literacy programs and increasing women's presence in peace and security among others. Our expressive concerns are ending Violence, Reproductive Rights, L.G.B.T. Rights, Human Rights, Civil Rights, Disability Rights, Immigrant Rights, and Environmental Justice. Our professed goal is to build cooperative and dynamic pathways for enabling dialogues between researchers, thinkers, academics, practitioners, representatives of government agencies and the NGO's. We hope through this conference to cast innovative and informative light on how gender structures and processes in the world are different for women, men, and other genders. The conference purposes to go further to present new research & path breaking practices, collaborations & policies, possible solutions & linkages with policy decisions that offer new insights into contemporary concerns.

I will close with what Audre Lorde aptly said: "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives". I wish the participants fruitful and productive Sessions.

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS**HISTORY (A)**

A1	01	Assessment of Gender Gap in Formal and Informal Relationship Networks	03
		<i>M. Azani, F.K. Amiri and M. Hosseinzadeh</i>	
A2	02	The Literary Progenitors of American Feminism: Implication for the Contemporary Pashtun Women in Pakistan	04
		<i>I. Ali</i>	
A3	03	Histories of Doing: Mapping Trajectories of Women's Movement and Its Implications for the 21 st -Century Condition of Women in India	05
		<i>P. Singh</i>	

WORKING WOMEN, MARRIAGES, MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY (B)

B1	04	Interior Design as an Identity and Spatial Decolonization Agent	06
		<i>J. Burgos-Diaz</i>	
B2	05	Women Entrepreneurs: How Pakistani Women Deal Effectively with Exigent Demands of Work and Family	07
		<i>H. Maqsood, S. Liaquat and H. Rehman</i>	
B3	06	Possibilities of Peace Journalism as an Alternative to Conventional Journalism	08
		<i>S. Alankus</i>	
B4	07	Child Marriage Practices in Indonesia	09
		<i>S.D. Judiasih, S. Suparto, A. Afriana and D. Yunitasari</i>	
B5	08	Women Objectification in the Mass Media Industry in Indonesia	10
		<i>D. Cahayani, M.H. Asrori and A. Sulistyono</i>	

HEALTH (C)

C1	09	Violation of Reproductive Health Rights of Women & Improvement Strategies in Bangaluru Slums	11
		<i>M.V. Manavade</i>	
C2	10	Women's Health: Home Makers - Voices and Concerns	12
		<i>S.P. Srimathi</i>	
C3	11	Reproductive Health Policies - Awareness and Adoption among Women in Karnataka - A Case Study of Selected Villages in Bangalore Rural Talukas	13
		<i>H.S. Roopa</i>	
C4	12	Capital Utilization and Happiness of Labour Migrant Households, Thailand	14
		<i>W. Narongchai, D. Ayuwat and A. Rengmanawong</i>	
C5	13	A Critical Study on Hindu Woman's Right to Property and to Divorce: Bangladesh Perspective	15
		<i>R. Khatun and F. Abedin</i>	

LITERATURE (D)

D1	14	Woman, Body and Virtual Space: A Critical Study of Manjula Padmanabhan's Play <i>Harvest</i>	16
		<i>R. Pandey</i>	
D2	15	Towards the Possibility of Redemption Khaled Hosseini's <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> in Context	17
		<i>M. Shukla</i>	
D3	16	Refiguring of Myth: A Study of Selected Novels	18
		<i>I.B. Das</i>	
D4	17	Women Writers' Autobiographies: Issues of Representations	19
		<i>N. Singh</i>	

VIOLENCE (E)

E1	18	Violence against Women: An Analytic Survey <i>A.G. Vaidya</i>	20
E2	19	Prevalence of Female Genital Incision among Muslim Minorities in Sri Lanka: An Exploratory Sociological Analysis <i>A.W.N. Naleefa and A.L.A. Najeefer</i>	21
E3	20	Gender and Identity: The Rwandan Genocide <i>J. Stanlake</i>	22
E4	21	Influential Factors among Male Population, which Associated with the Economic Violence against Women in Laos <i>D. Ayuwat and S. Sananikone</i>	23
E5	22	Saga of Child Rape Victims in India - A Case Study <i>S. Gupta</i>	24
E6	23	Gender Perspectives of Violence in Karachi: Can Education Help? <i>Z. Habib</i>	25
E7	24	Philosophy of 'Sexual Consent': The Perspectives of Those of the Inferior Positions <i>E.K. Poerwandari, V. Lazzarini, R.B. Munti, I. Primasari and L.D. Pohan</i>	26

RELIGION / TRADITION, GLOBALIZATION & AGE (F)

F1	25	'The Invisible Generation': Questioning Ageism, Challenging Myths, Refashioning Selves <i>A. Singh</i>	27
F2	26	Social Security and Protection for the Elderly Women in India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects <i>N. Baura</i>	28

F3	27	Aging Issues Faced by the Economically Disadvantaged Women in Pakistan	29
----	----	--	----

M.A. Kakar, S. Gichki, D. Ashraf, K. Shah, A. Jakhrani, S. Ali and Z. Basharat

F4	28	'The Wives of the Quran; A Tradition for Property and Purity in Pakistan <i>S. Rasool</i>	30
----	----	--	----

PEDAGOGY & PERFORMANCE (G)

G1	29	Educating Women in a Peripheral Society: Relevance of a Renaissance Bengali Muslim Woman <i>N. Hussain and M. Rahman</i>	31
G2	30	Women in Academic Leadership: Struggles, Strategies and Personal Choices <i>E. Adefunke</i>	32
G3	31	<i>Phadchitra</i> of Rajasthan: A Significant Female Artist's Contribution among Unique Art Forms <i>S. Shukla</i>	33
G4	32	Body, Image and Identity: A Study of Select Contemporary Women Artists from the South of India and Their Artistic Practice <i>L.P. Daniel</i>	34

DEMOCRACY & PERFORMANCE (H)

H1	33	Political Participation of Women in Himachal Pradesh in India: Impact on Social Change <i>A.C. Khimta</i>	35
H2	34	Indonesian Women's Participation in Politics and Governance: Challenges and Opportunities <i>A.M. Sugiana</i>	36

H3	35	Girls Education in Madrasas	37
		<i>M. Badrunnesha</i>	
H4	36	Critical Analysis of Female Right to Participate in Election for Vote Casting: A Dilemma, with Special Reference to Southern Punjab Pakistan	38
		<i>I. Jamil, I.A. Warraich and K. Parveen</i>	

EMPOWERMENT (J)

J1	37	Emergence of Women Empowerment through Inclusive Democracy in Pakistan	39
		<i>R. Shahid</i>	
J2	38	Necva Foundation: An Effort for the Women, by the Women, to Empower Them and Create Awareness about Decreasing Child sex Ratio in India	40
		<i>S. Gyan</i>	
J3	39	A Conceptual Framework for Socio-Cognitive Empowerment among Women	41
		<i>H.A. Rasi</i>	
J4	40	Re-evaluating Gender Reforms in Non-Western Nations: A Case Study of Top-Down Approaches to Women's Empowerment in Japan and Tunisia	42
		<i>M.M.A. Al-kubati</i>	
J5	41	Delivery of Devolve Services: Its Contributions to the Socio-Economic Conditions of the People in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat	43
		<i>A.M. Alvarez, J.V. Bedoya, B.V.C. Bag-ao and D.M. Nidoy</i>	
J6	42	Progress for Women- A Pathway to Economic Development in Pakistan	45
		<i>H. Maqsood and H. Rehman</i>	
J7	43	Women as Change Makers	46
		<i>S. Rajiv</i>	

WAR (K)

K1	44	Gender and Peace in Post-Conflict Countries	47
		<i>K. Takamatsu</i>	
K2	45	Pakistani Tribal Women in a War Zone: Displacement and Rehabilitation	48
		<i>F. Hasnat and S.Z. Awan</i>	
K3	46	Gender Mainstreaming in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka	49
		<i>R.P.S.H. Hettiarachchi</i>	

POSTER PRESENTATION (P)

P1	47	Development and Testing of a Gender-Based Violence Intervention to Address Intimate Partner Abuse among Rohingya in Malaysia	53
		<i>C. Welton-Mitchell, L. James, F. Santodi, A.N. Amiruddin, N.A. Bujang, S. Husein, H. Hussin, M.S. Anwar and K. Hamid</i>	

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

48	Representation of Women in Parliament of Bangladesh: Is it Hopeful?	57
	<i>J. Ferdous and F.N. Suitana</i>	
49	The Role of 21 st Century's Democracy and Civil Society to Empower the Women in South Asian Countries	58
	<i>Birendri</i>	
50	Factors Affecting Girls' Participation in Sports at Secondary School	59
	<i>F. Khurshid and N. Shahzad</i>	

51	Oppositional Gender Realities in the Gendered Media: A Study on the Rural Women Protagonists of the Indian Cinema	60	62	Personality Profile of Political, Academic, Entrepreneurial, Organizational and Student Women Leaders: A Study in Pakistan	71
	<i>J. Singh</i>			<i>U.A. Khan and S. Shahed</i>	
52	Social Enterprise, Microfinance and Women's Empowerment: Agency or Beneficiary?	61	63	Desertion of Married Women in India: A Human Rights Concern	72
	<i>S. Kumar</i>			<i>D. Pandit</i>	
53	Investigation on Reasons for Women's Lack of Motivation towards Participation in Empowerment Projects	62	64	War and Peace: An Account of Women's Position and Identity	73
	<i>M. Azimi</i>			<i>S. Mukherjee</i>	
54	Politics of Knowledge: Feminist Pedagogy for Societal Transformation: A Case of PUKAR's Barefoot Researchers	63	65	Bargaining Patriarchy and Entrepreneurship: Narratives of Muslim Malay Women Entrepreneurs in Malaysia	74
	<i>P. Tiwari and S. Gangavane</i>			<i>N. Hafizah and E.S. Noraida</i>	
55	A Study of the Availability and Effects of Social Support of Female College Teachers on Their Job Demands	64	66	Traveling and Empowerment: Unveiling the Voices of Muslim Women Travelers	75
	<i>Z.A. Sial and A. Naseem</i>			<i>P.R. Semutha and S.N. Hafizah</i>	
56	The Role of Men in Women's Empowerment: A Case Study	65	67	Ancestral Landscapes and Women's Career Headway to the Top	76
	<i>J.O.D. Jacaban</i>			<i>B.I. Raja</i>	
57	The Challenge of Strengthening Equity Policies in Contexts of Armed Conflict and Peace Negotiations	66	68	The Impacts of Commodity Conversion on Role and Strategy of Women's Livelihood	77
	<i>R. Oion-Encina</i>			<i>Purbowo and S. Widodo</i>	
58	Low Representation of Women Engineers in Top Management in India	67	69	Impact of Worker's Migration on the Position of Left-Behind Women in Bangladesh	78
	<i>G.D. Krishna</i>			<i>L. Jebin and M.H. Hassan</i>	
59	The Study of Print and Electronic Media Regarding to Traditional Approaches and Lack of Professional Practices towards Working Females in Media Organisation of Pakistan	68	70	Women's Participation in Tourism Development in Sri Lanka and Women's Employment in the Hotel Industry	79
	<i>I. Iqbal</i>			<i>H.L.H. Apsara</i>	
60	Remedy in Alternative Medicine to the Impact of Hysterectomy	69			
	<i>R. Amirtham</i>				
61	Mainstreaming Rights of Women with Disabilities in India: A Study of District Hoshiarpur (Punjab)	70			
	<i>P. Kumari</i>				

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

A1

[01]

ASSESSMENT OF GENDER GAP IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL RELATIONSHIP NETWORKSM. Azani¹, F.K. Amiri² and M. Hosseinzadeh¹

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ABSTRACT

The most exponential barrier to the curtailment of gender bias is lack of reliable information on the scope of the issue. To achieve a better position in hierarchical structure of organizations, optimized social networks, for both men and women, must be stressed. The main concentration of this article, is to provide a realistic view of women's position in intra organizational relationship networks in Iran. With network analysis approach, informal relationship networks (including communication network, information network, know network, problem solving network) of 85 male and female workers in the faculty of management, University of Tehran, are emerged to discover whether women's position is the same as men's position in these networks and to determine existence of gender discrimination. Data are analyzed in UCINET software and depicted by Netdraw software. Major findings, sadly, demonstrate apparent sex discrimination; moreover, other factors, such as tendency of female staff to contribute to the research unveiled a poor trend. Although the incidence of women respondents was higher in comparison to that in men, female employees answered questions more skeptically. This was widely noticeable for those in senior and junior levels, even though, middle staff cooperated most. This is maybe for the fear of unemployment; nevertheless, findings require further investigations.

Keywords: Network Analysis, Centrality Measures, Gender Discrimination

A2

[02]

THE LITERARY PROGENITORS OF AMERICAN FEMINISM: IMPLICATION FOR THE CONTEMPORARY PASHTUN WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

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University of California at Berkeley, USA*

ABSTRACT

The mid-19th century proved a prime time for the question of women's equality in the U.S., that was voiced by many scholarly fields as diverse as history, anthropology, sociology, gender studies, literature, etc. particularly the American novel—The Scarlet Letter; Little Women; The Portrait of a Lady; The Awakening, and Sister Carrie—which through its multi-faceted-lifelike protagonists systematically instituted the base of American feminism at its different evolutionary phases. The study explores how these five mid-19th century American novels dealt with the issue of women's equality through the lenses of New Historicism, Reader Response, and Gender Studies. Through close socio-historical readings of these novels, I will discuss how struggle for women's rights were presented in the select novels and how closely these depictions are aligned with actual social conditions. After that, I will examine the mid 19th century's literary scholarship in order to understand the novels' receptions in their own time that how the novels facilitated a social change regarding woman's equality. Finally the study signifies that how the experience can augment the cause of contemporary Pashtun women's rights in Pakistan, which is the most burning issue of the moment.

A3

[03]

HISTORIES OF DOING: MAPPING TRAJECTORIES OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE 21st- CENTURY CONDITION OF WOMEN IN INDIA

P. Singh

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ABSTRACT

This paper will map the issues relating to women's movement in India from its earliest noticeable beginnings to contemporary times. This is an attempt to trace a movement which is large, plural, and diverse and has shifting concerns and strategies hence can hardly be referred to as organized.

I will begin by charting women's participation and contribution to political situations and Social Reform Movement in Pre Independent India to movements in post-independence India like the Chipko Movement which began in 1973, The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) by Ela Bhatt, The Progressive Organization of Women (POW), developed in Hyderabad in the year 1974, among many others. Further, I will also see how the 'Towards Equality' Report" of 1975 was the first major attempt to review and evaluate data on various aspects of women's status. It was also transformed the directions of change in women's roles, rights, and opportunities due to development. The last section of this paper will focus on the post-liberalization, globalization and privation era of post-1990's and attempt to see how ratification of various laws have also gone a long way in empowering women. Lastly, I will attempt to envision new roles and opportunities for the women of 21st century.

B1

[04]

INTERIOR DESIGN AS AN IDENTITY AND SPATIAL DECOLONIZATION AGENT

J. Burgos-Díaz

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ABSTRACT

The place where the Puerto Rican women's identity is constructed is a colonized space. Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean that, after being a Spanish colony for 400 years, became a colony of the United States since 1898. The identity canon that is identified as the norm is not linked to the geographical context but to an imported lifestyle and architecture. That's why the identity developed in relation to the geographical reality is perceived as a deviated identity. It is considered as the "other", the undesirable. Therefore, as proposed by the interior design professionals interviewed in this research (interior design is a feminized profession in Puerto Rico), it is important to include in the interior design curriculum subjects about the tropical reality, resilient infrastructure considering the high risk of "natural" disasters, inclusive, safe and sustainable design and development, learn from our regional neighbors and their development approach and the local designers and manufacturers to be able to systematically incorporate local products in the designs of spaces. This practice, in addition to having an impact on the local economy and the development of a lifestyle consistent with the geographical reality, could mean a beginning of spatial decolonization and could have a long term repercussions in the development of a new Puerto Rican identity in which the canon of behavior and lifestyle are congruent with geographical reality.

Keywords: Puerto Rico, Women, Resilience, Decolonization, Interior-Design, Education

B2

[05]

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: HOW PAKISTANI WOMEN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH EXIGENT DEMANDS OF WORK AND FAMILY

H. Maqsood, S. Liaquat and H. Rehman

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Escalating number of women entrepreneurs in economic trend of Pakistan has raised the question of how Pakistani women effectively deal with household obligations and business workload as apart from the professional workload, working women also have the responsibility of tending the family and looking after household affairs. The current study is based on how Pakistani women deal effectively with exigent demands of work and family and manage to strike balance in both. The study employs qualitative research design which includes personal interviews, focused group discussions, and open-ended questionnaires to investigate how working women successfully carry both their roles efficiently. The results reveal that women entrepreneurs rather opt for strategies like choosing their place and time of work as well as controlling their roles in family by using role-sharing techniques which allow women to enjoy both work and family roles. Over the years the increasing number of female entrepreneurs in Pakistan has been a challenging instance to those who have to take equal responsibility of household matters and family matters. The current study surfaces findings that would help the upcoming entrepreneurs not only in Pakistan but across the globe to successfully balance their family and work life while enjoying both at the same time.

Keywords: Pakistan, Entrepreneurs, Work-Family Conflict

B3

[06]

POSSIBILITIES OF PEACE JOURNALISM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL JOURNALISM

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to discuss the possibilities of peace journalism that may contribute to the depolarization and peace within the society and on a global level. Peace journalism as a theory/practice, questions the basic principles and codes of conventional journalism by arguing that it's "us" versus "others" kind of news reporting ends up with a war journalism. Following the post-colonial feminist theory on the other hand the feminist news criticism approaches to the conventional news as "a masculine form" within which hegeMANic discourse against all the others is reconstructed.

In the paper, by combining arguments of feminist news criticism and post-colonial feminist theory with peace journalism theory, I argue that we require an alternative journalism grounded on a feminist epistemology/ethics for opening up the ways to "others-based" journalism against "us" ("white", heterosexual, wealthy male)-based" conventional journalism. While elaborating my criticism to ma(i)nstream journalism, I will use examples from several media news outlets and draw the attention to the resemblance between representation of the women and the others and a trafficking that works on other(women)'s body. In the end, by giving the positive examples of alternative journalism, I will emphasize the need for an other(woman)'s-based journalism or a journalism for peace that is built upon a new "epistemic regime" and redefined codes/principles through which archetypical otherization of woman is displaced. I will sum up by underlining the importance of changing the way how we teach journalism at the universities.

B4

[07]

CHILD MARRIAGE PRACTICES IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Child marriages are common throughout Indonesia. This is because the customs and religion that strongly influence the life of the Indonesian nation. This is also reinforced by the marriage age arrangements contained in Indonesian Marriage Law that is for men are 19 years old and women 16 years old. Based on the data of 2012, Child marriage in Indonesia ranked 37th highest in the world, while at the level of ASEAN countries ranks second after Cambodia. The ranking is increasing because based on the data from the UNICEF, state of the children 2016 said that child marriage in Indonesia ranked 7th in the world. This means that the practice of child marriage in Indonesia increased sharply in just over 5 years. Many parties wants marriage age equated between men and women is the age of 18 years to be married so there is no discrimination related to the age of marriage. Against this matter has been done a material test that sues for marriage age for men and women pegged at the age of 18 years, but Judge of Constitutional Court through Decision Number 30-74 / PUU-XII / 2014 states that age of marriage will be maintained according to which has been arranged in law of marriage, so the age of marriage remains valid for the 19-year-old male and 16-year-old female. Community struggle does not stop there because at this time has been formed national movement STOP CHILD MARRIAGE done by society in cooperation with commission of child protection and ministry of woman empowerment and child protection. This movement sees that the practice of child marriage is a national emergency problem that must be addressed seriously, and one of the demands put forward by this movement is the immediate enactment of government regulation in favor of the law which must immediately revise the marriage law especially related to marriage age.

B5

[08]

WOMEN OBJECTIFICATION IN THE MASS MEDIA INDUSTRY IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to know the objectification phenomenon of women in the mass media industry, as well as the protection made by the state regarding the prohibition of activities related to the exploitation of women as part of the objectification in the mass media. The objectification of women means treating women as goods without considering their dignity. This research is a prescriptive legal research. This research uses the statute approach and conceptual approach. The legal materials used in this research are the primary legal material in the form of legislation regulating the women protection; and secondary legal materials in the form of books, journals, research papers, and dictionaries relating to the women protection. Library research is used as a collection of legal material technique while deductive method is used for analyzes the legal material. According to the result of this research, women are still being objectified by the mass media industry. One of the forms is the selection of words for some movie titles that seem horror but almost porn in Indonesia like "perawan (virgin)", "datang bulan (on period)", "janda (widow)", "goyang pinggul (rocking)". It could mean that to boost the number of viewers by creating titles that can arouse the sexual curiosity of the viewers, especially men. Legislation in Indonesia has not been very clear in providing protection to women as objectification by the mass media industry. One example is the regulation about take-scene focus for specific body parts in public spaces without consideration to the broadcasting context.

Keywords: Women Objectification, Women Protection, Mass Media

C1

[09]

VIOLATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS OF WOMEN & IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES IN BANGALURU SLUMS

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ABSTRACT

Statement

Poor reproductive health with reproductive track infections, sexuality transmitted diseases are a major health problem in India. The heavy load of reproductive morbidity among Indian women is an outcome of their poverty and lack of access to health care. For over 30 years Family Welfare programme in India was known for its rigid target based approach in contraceptives. The performance was measured by the reported numbers of the contraceptive methods, which was widely criticized.

A growing body of evidence & the Cairo consensus suggest that numerical method of specific contraceptive target and monetary incentives for providers to be replaced by a broader system of programme performance goals and measures focused on a range of reproductive health services. Therefore, the focus now is on clients needs, & not target based approach.

Rationale

The overall morbidity rate is higher for men than for women as a result of poor reproductive health, but the morbidity caused by infection is generally much more severe in women, as for example, pelvic inflammatory disease. Moreover, the burden of poor reproductive health falls mostly on mothers and children. There is a greater need to look into reproductive health status of especially the underprivileged women population in slums.

Approach: Feminist Research Methodology

Area of Study: Jayanagar Slums

Sampling Technique: Simple random Technique.

Sample Size:1000 Slum Women

Out Come of the Study: To reflect on the improvement strategies at the government PHCs.

C2

[10]

WOMEN'S HEALTH: HOME MAKERS-VOICES AND CONCERNS

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ABSTRACT

The slogan "healthy women healthy world" embodies the fact that as custodians of family health, women play a critical role in maintaining health and wellbeing of their families and communities but very little attention is paid to their health care thus leading to wide disparities in access to medical care. Their economic instability, lack of awareness, sex role, high cost of medical expenses, lack of government initiatives, all these plays a crucial role in women not seeking to health care, especially the **Home Makers**.

Objectives

To aim for a comprehensive health care planning and policies for home maker's health issues

To ensure that women's health is not addressed merely as biological issue but also as a gender issues.

Feminist methodological guidelines

Sampling - urban middle class women in age group 25-60 years varying in their educational qualification, designation and marital status in Bangalore

Methodology - Descriptive, experiential, exploratory methods, data collection, primary and secondary tools through observation and also interview schedules. Statistics analyses and Graphical representation of data is incorporated.

Outcome of the research

Creating awareness among the public, society, civil and specially women on the health issues, highlighting the role of the government, medical practitioners, and multinational companies to become more responsible and stake holders for women's well-being.

C3

[11]

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICIES - AWARENESS AND ADOPTION AMONG WOMEN IN KARNATAKA- A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED VILLAGES IN BANGALORE RURAL TALUKAS

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ABSTRACT

Health is an important factor which contributes to economic growth of the country. Good health is both the means and ends of development. Having this in mind, the Government of India has adopted several health measures for the citizens, especially women. The five year plans have been providing the framework within which the states may develop their health service, infrastructure, medical facilities for women. The policies of the Government regarding reproductive health is one among them.

This paper would examine '**Reproductive health policies- awareness and adoption among women in Karnataka- a case study on selected villages in Bangalore rural,**' from a feminist perspective. Hypothesis being **Health workers are providing information on reproductive health issues to pregnant women and lactating mothers in Bangalore rural areas.**

Sample Size

Pregnant women in will be interviewed for the purpose of data collection.

Area of Study

Bangalore Rural Talukas (Hoskote, Nelamangala, Devanahalli and Doddaballapura).

Research Method

Feminist Research Methodology is adopted for the purpose.

Research Aims -

To check the level of awareness and adoption of reproductive health among pregnant women in rural areas.

Outcome of Research

The Research would provide inputs to check the level of awareness and adoption of reproductive health among rural women in Bangalore district.

C4

[12]

CAPITAL UTILIZATION AND HAPPINESS OF LABOUR MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

This study tried to compare the differences of capital utilization and happiness of labour migrant households in the Northeast, Thailand by some characteristics. The research used the quantitative methodology. Samples of the research were random from the households engaging in international migrants within a year in Chaiyaphum Province – the Provinces in the region with the highest international migrant of 334 households. The research instrument, the interview schedule, was reliable at 0.913 levels. The data were collected during July, 2017 and analyzed based on descriptive statistics and one-way ANOVA for hypothesis testing. The result indicated that the extended family had a significance capital utilization level and happiness level more than single family and skipped family at level 0.05. The household with both male head households and labours had significance capital utilization level and happiness level more than others and also found that the household with both female head households and labours had the lowest of capital utilization level and happiness level. The results also indicated that the households with the remittance more than 940 US\$ had a significance capital utilization level and happiness level more than others at level 0.05.

Keywords: Capital utilization, Capital, Livelihoods, Happiness, Labour Migrant Households

C5

[13]

A CRITICAL STUDY ON HINDU WOMAN'S RIGHT TO PROPERTY AND TO DIVORCE: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Much has been debated on the issue of hindu woman's right to property and right to divorce under the orthodox hindu legal regime in Bangladesh. Hindu being the minor community in Bangladesh has been in deprivation of the utility of the expected changes and hence a flagrant non-compliance with the universal human rights normative framework as to twin principles of equality and non-discrimination and its own constitutional fundamental rights. Instead of being hindu majority based country, India has brought a radical change in their personal law affecting hindu women rights along with other areas. This paper demonstrates the laws that apply in Bangladesh comparing with India and some other countries and has been tried to find out the practical reasons behind unwillingness to reform the hindu personal laws regarding property and divorce right in Bangladesh. At the same time this article aims to focus on constitutional validity of un-unified personal laws in Bangladesh which affect the hindu women and create a safeguard for sustaining of age old patriarchal system of our society. In spite of having many limitations it is our belief that our little attempt will create a robust voice for woman's right which already declared by Vienna Declaration as human rights for all the country, in Bangladesh.

D1

[14]

**WOMAN, BODY AND VIRTUAL SPACE: A CRITICAL STUDY OF MANJULA
PADMANABHAN'S PLAY *HARVEST***

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ABSTRACT

The present paper studies how virtual space reproduces the gendered relations of power. Technology rather confirms the existing gendered meanings assigned to the human body as it is shaped by the particular social and cultural patterns. Manjula Padmanabhan's play *Harvest* locates the female body in different positions in the real/virtual spaces. In the play, Ginni is a virtual figure who controls Om, Jaya and their family through a Contact Module. Gender swapping of Ginni/Virgil suggests not a denial of gender but the assertion of gender. The virtual space does not liberate individuals from gendered bodies rather it emphasizes the gender differences, objectifies the body and confirms the ideas of *man* and *woman* in an essentialist sense by projecting them into animated binary figures. Manjula Padmanabhan, in the play, presents a frightening vision of a futuristic, technologically advanced world with gender imbalance against the popular images of romantic, fancy, beautified and easy going virtual world. In the light of Manjula Padmanabhan's play *Harvest*, the paper analyses the idea that a virtual body is a cultural entity and explains how the image of human body created by virtual space re-inscribes the gender construction in binary terms.

Keywords: Body, Gender Swapping, Virtual Space

D2

[15]

**TOWARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF REDEMPTION KHALED HOSSEINI'S *A
THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS* IN CONTEXT**

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ABSTRACT

Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007) is an intimate glance at a country Afghanistan, that has played a huge role in global politics over the last decade. It is totally concerned with the political upheavals that have transformed Afghanistan over the past half century. The novel throws light on the lives of individuals, especially highlighting the condition of women. The one subject that *A Thousand Splendid Suns* focuses on is the nature of women. Laila and Mariam live through a rough period for women's rights in Afghanistan. They are controlled by the government, treated as property by their husbands and forbidden from taking part in the society. Yet through their strength and resilience the two women overcome these obstacles. They are presented as incredibly tough women trying to take control of their lives.

A central theme of Hosseini's novel is the question of Afghan identity. Hosseini shows how the Taliban's concept of Afghan identity is a gross distortion that limits people's freedom in the name of Islam. Through the stories of its female protagonists, Laila and Mariam, Hosseini exposes the suffering of women in Afghanistan under fundamentalist Islamic governments such as the Mujahideen and the Taliban. Hosseini shows how traditions such as the use of the burqa, while ostensibly intended to protect women, can be used to control and oppress women instead. He also emphasizes, through the words of strong female characters such as Laila's teacher Khala Rangmaal and sympathetic male characters such as Hakim, Mullah Faizullah, and Zaman, the importance of women's education to Afghanistan's future. The cycle of hope and disappointment is repeated many times over the course of the novel. Each time the characters feel hope for the future, that hope is dashed. However, hope continues to rise again. The present paper traversing the trajectory towards I-identity building will be voicing forth a possibility of redemption, not only for the Afghani woman, but for all the future women who are subjugated at some or the other level, thereby ultimately converting all their defeats in tremendous victory.

Keywords: I-identity, Afghanistan, Womanhood, Global politics, Future Woman, Victory

D3

[16]

REFIGURING OF MYTH: A STUDY OF SELECTED NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a textual analysis of the works of fiction written in the late twentieth and the twenty-first century. The purpose of the paper will be to examine the stereotyping of women and to effectively trace the roots of such essentialism back to the mythical construction of women. I will establish through the paper that the mythical construction of women in all cultures is a product of patriarchal and misogynistic approach.

The novels for analysis I have selected are: Charlotte H. Bruner's *Unwinding Threads* (1994) which gives a kaleidoscopic picture of the emerging strength of women while Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence* points clearly towards the emerging strength of women in the Indian setup as they break the silence of centuries to stamp their individuality and strength. Chris Cleaves' *The Other Hand* (2008) reveals the saga of the developing and developed world by telling the story of two women who meet, part and meet again to face a dangerous and difficult path revealing ugly secrets and the hell of asylum seekers. Neelam Saran Gour traces the continuity and personal relationships across the communal divide in the novel hell of asylum seekers. Neelam Saran Gour traces the continuity and personal relationships across the communal divide in the novel *Invisible Ink* (2015).

The methods deployed in such a reading will be close analytical reading of textual representation/misrepresentation and contextual underpinning of formations of female identity.

The paper will emphasize the gradual shift in the position of women as human representatives of a well-defined society. The larger aim of this paper is to establish and dismantle the politics of gender identity and to reveal how gender is a concept and we acquire it differently in different cultures and locations.

D4

[17]

WOMEN WRITERS' AUTOBIOGRAPHIES: ISSUES OF REPRESENTATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Autobiography has been an important site of feminist debate experimenting as it does that there are many ways of writing the subject. Readers read autobiographies for many reasons but the most important reason being to find out about other people's lives and it is necessary to recognize that differences matter. Even as Derrida is criticized for assuming a unified male subjectivity he also espoused a plural concept of Woman "There is no one woman, no one truth in itself about woman in itself". For women writers the act of writing autobiography can be seen as moving from being 'his' subject to her own, albeit it has been a long voyage spanning the entire twentieth till the present. Even though identities are now discovered to be fictitious; the sexual markings that constructed the past continue to be subterraneously, multifariously and institutionally embedded that have real effects. The autobiographical act is imperative for women as have to continue constituting themselves as subjects if they want to stop being seen as objects. The paper proposes that the writing of autobiography by women be seen as ways of expressing a self that arises from situations as well as comments on it. Women writers such as Indira Goswami and Shobha De in their autobiographies offer an interesting study of representations, the focus of the paper being to examine whether the purpose of the autobiographical statement is more important than truth.

Keywords: Writing, Subjects, Lives, Plural, Truth, Comment

E1

[18]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: AN ANALYTIC SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

The violence against women has never really subsided in this world. No matter how technologically advanced a country is and how educated its citizens are, the male dominance equation has not changed. The second sex is still the 'weaker sex' and is expected to tow the lines set by the stronger sex. The violence against women has increased tenfold since she has decided to pronounce her independence and individuality. Male has always used violence as a means to subjugate, oppress and dominate women. The Laws framed to check this has proved as impotent as the male venting their frustration through violence.

This paper would travel on various levels to get to the core of the problem. Why does a male basically need to become abusive or violent? There are social, cultural, religious and personal factors responsible for this. Why does a woman accept this abuse? The same reasons can be cited. Are the so called 'modern women' more liberated and hence more free from violence? Has education, in any way, helped to decrease the ratio of violence against women? Are emotional violence, mental torture, physical violence, and the various modes of crime against women on the rise?

If the answer to the above questions is positive then we need to do some serious thinking. The various surveys conducted in this respect do not present a very promising picture. A research of all the figures and graphs will help to reach to a proper conclusion and provide some desirable results.

Keywords: Violence, Abuse, Crime, Torture

E2

[19]

PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL INCISION AMONG MUSLIM MINORITIES IN SRI LANKA: AN EXPLORATORY SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Female circumcision in any form can be identified as a harmful traditional practice that must be prohibited by law. FGI could be liable to punishment under several laws in Sri Lanka. Section 308 (A) (1) of the Penal Code states that any persons who causes willful assault, ill-treatment, neglect or injury to the health of a person under the age of eighteen "commits the offence of cruelty to children". It refers explicitly to the causing of "injury to... limb or organ of the body or any mental derangement", which are all applicable to FGM. The practice of female circumcision, however, is exclusive to the Muslim community and FGM is strictly tabooed in Sri Lanka whereby cases are virtually non-existent. The fact that this is a very closely guarded social practice, considered a private family matter within the Muslim community. The ritual as it is practiced within the Muslim community today amounts to the violation of the rights of both women and children. The study was carried out by using both primary and secondary sources. This paper is presenting the part of a long term objective towards creating a debate on abolishing female genital incision among Sri Lankan Muslims. The objective of the presentation is to create a debate and a discussion on FGI in Sri Lanka. Several "oiththa maamys" from Eastern Province were interviewed as primary sources for data. Though there are few ideas spread by few religious cults of Muslims that FGI is not a must, this study highlights a high prevalence of FGI among Sri Lankan Muslims.

Keywords: Female Genital Mutilation, Circumcision, Ill-treatment, Muslim Community, Girl Children

E3

[20]

GENDER AND IDENTITY: THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

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ABSTRACT

In 1994 the small, East African state of Rwanda was torn apart by a devastating genocide that led to the mass execution of an estimated 750,000 people. As the killing ensued, the world turned a blind eye and the UN pulled their forces from the country. Researchers have explored the factors that made it possible for this to take place in front of the eyes of an increasingly global mass media. However, in the research of the study of this genocide, gender has been a vastly overlooked factor. The importance of the gender influence in understanding the widespread violence that engulfed Rwanda has frequently been ignored due to a greater focus upon aspects such as nationalism, ethnicity and historical violence related to economics and wealth. This presentation will consider the relationship between gender and power in Rwanda, with particular focus upon the significance of this in the lead up to, and during the devastating genocide of 1994. It will examine the importance of power relations between men and women in Rwandan society both prior to, and during the genocide. The impact of colonial rule upon gender identities in the country will be discussed with a focus upon how the 'politics of beauty' led to tragic consequences for Tutsi women. Consideration will also be placed upon patriarchy in Rwandan society and principally its reassertion during the genocide. Finally, through an analysis of sexual violence during the genocide, this presentation will aim at arriving at a greater understanding of gender based violence in situations of war.

Keywords: Gender Violence, Genocide, Traditional Gender Role, International Conflict, Civil War

E4

[21]

INFLUENTIAL FACTORS AMONG MALE POPULATION, WHICH ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECONOMIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LAOS

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ABSTRACT

This article focused on studying the influential factors among male population in Laos, which have certain relationships for causing economic violence against Lao women. The study was based on the Quantitative Research Methodology with the male population in Laos. The data collection was conducted in August 2015, through a structured interview questionnaire with 350 samples in the rural areas of Vientiane Capital of Laos. The data were analyzed, by using the Multiple Regression Analysis, to identify the key influential factors for economic violence against women. This study showed that the majority of the male population in the rural areas of Vientiane Capital are men of age between 30 to 39 (33.1%). Of this total sample population of 350 men, 46% of them have primary education and 43.7% have secondary education. And majority of them or at 83.1% are rice farmer. 40.6% has perpetrated the economic violence against women in general. On the specific issue on economic violence, as high as 35.4% of the male population acknowledged that they don't like the idea of letting their wives working outside their house. This study found that the factor related to the health condition of men has a significant influence on economic violence against women, at a significant level of 0.05. And, in accordance with the stipulated hypothesis of this study, data analysis showed that both the factor on experiencing of violence and the factor on witnessing of violence have a significant influence on the level of economic violence against women in Lao, at significant level of 0.01.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Economic Violence

E5

[22]

SAGA OF CHILD RAPE VICTIMS IN INDIA - A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The newspapers in India are inundated with the incidents of sexual violence against women on daily basis leaving the people with the mixed feelings of fear, helplessness, and abhorrence towards the perpetrators. Crimes against children have manifested rising trend over the past three years with 34.4 per cent cases reported under Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences, 2012 in 2016. Rape cases among female children are rife irrespective of the age of victim ranging from a few months old to the victim of tender age. The gravity of offence of rape acquires accentuated overtone in case of child rape victims due to their innocence and vulnerability; who would not even comprehend the nature of the act, being unwary of the lifelong mental, physical and social repercussions. Things could get worsened if the rape results in pregnancy, raising pertinent questions like- whether or not to carry the pregnancy to full term in the light of legal position? Whether the State should be responsible for the child victim in all respects or should take the responsibility of the child born of rape? In the light of a recent case of child rape victim of barely ten years delivering a baby boy; that shook the conscience of the entire nation; this paper is an attempt to gain insight into the social, medical and legal aspects involved in such cases. Welfare of the child rape victim being central, an attempt would be made to propose some concrete suggestions based on the case study.

Keywords: Child, Rape, Victim, Sexual Violence, Pregnancy, Crime

E6

[23]

GENDER PERSPECTIVES OF VIOLENCE IN KARACHI: CAN EDUCATION HELP?

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ABSTRACT

Karachi, the hub and largest city of Pakistan has been impacted by internal conflicts over the last twenty years or more. This case study examined perceptions of underprivileged women impacted directly or indirectly by ethnic and sectarian violence in the city. In studying viewpoints of participants, a gender dimension was emphasized upon, because, it is the gender lens that offers an understanding of the different impacts on men and women in the economic and social sphere, in conflict or in any other situation. Additionally, the study examined women educators' standpoint regarding the role of peace education in bringing harmony and peace to a conflict ridden city. Primary research of the study was based on data derived from two focus group interviews, one group comprised the underprivileged women who were impacted by violence, while the second group comprised teachers who gave their views on inclusion of peace strategies in the classrooms. Findings from the underprivileged focus group interview demonstrated how conflict impacts women differently than men and the kinds of assistance they need to cope with the situation. Furthermore, findings from teachers revealed that there was hardly any incorporation of peace education in the classrooms. The study therefore, not only underscored the need to study conflict from the gender lens, but also accentuated the need for inclusion of peace related strategies in teacher education programs and in syllabi.

Keywords: Conflict, Gender Lens, Peace Education, Teacher Education, Under Privileged Women

E7

[24]

PHILOSOPHY OF 'SEXUAL CONSENT': THE PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE OF THE INFERIOR POSITIONS

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ABSTRACT

In law, the parties involved might compete harshly to win the case, and in processing the report of sexual offense, the legal apparatus will seek to prove whether or not there was consent involved. This is a condition to set the ground for a legal decision to be sentenced. However, the concept of sexual consent itself is problematic, since human relations are very complex, with its power relations and the embedded subjective and inter-subjective understanding and dynamics. This article will examine the philosophy and concepts of sexual consent, particularly from the perspectives of those who are in the inferior positions, defined here as 'the positions of individuals or groups having less power, less voice, and less access in the psychological and political discourse of law and gender-based violence'. With the definition, women are often in the inferior positions, as well as children, the disabled and the minority groups. The main methods employed are literature review and focus-group discussions in the format of Delphi Method. The discussion will contribute to the understanding of sexual offense and gender-based violence from the viewpoint of philosophy, legal psychology, and gender relations, in fleshing out legal drafts of Sexual Violence Eradication Law and the section related to sexual offense in the Revision of Criminal Code Book.

Keywords: Sexual Consent, Sexual Offense, Gender-Based Violence

F1

[25]

'THE INVISIBLE GENERATION': QUESTIONING AGEISM, CHALLENGING MYTHS, REFASHIONING SELVES

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ABSTRACT

The old age is perceived as a foreign body, said Simone de Beauvoir in her book *The Coming of Age* (1970). Influenced by Sartre's existentialism she emphasized the idea that the subject sees old age through the perception of others. It is a twin process of objectification: the look of others who sees female body as an object of hostility and also a woman's image of herself who feels that the body is different from her. Significantly Beauvoir is one of first few feminists who raised the issue of *ageism*. Jeannette King calls women who are over fifty "the invisible generation" in her book *Discourses on Ageing in Fiction and Feminism: The Invisible Woman* (2013). She asserts that woman loses their identity after fifty because a woman's value has historically been determined by her reproductive ability, her beauty and sexuality, "the beauty myth" as it is called by Naomi Woolf. Gullette argues that we are aged by culture rather than by our bodies and she also points out the absence of discourse on ageism in academia from feminism perspective. The present paper explores the grounds of marginalization of ageing women in the Indian context from cultural and feminist standpoints and the paper aims to make ageing women visible in the literary and feminist discourses with special reference to four contemporary plays: *Mangalam* by Polie Sengupta, *Harvest* by Manjula Padmanabhan, Tripurari Sharma's *Bahu* and *Aurat* by Rasheed Jahan.

Keywords: Ageism, Body, Beauty Myth

F2

[26]

SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION FOR THE ELDERLY WOMEN IN INDIA: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

Feminization of ageing is a worldwide phenomenon. There are more older women worldwide than older men as women tend to live longer than men. The feminization of ageing has imperative implications for policy. Women and men vary on a number of issues that are relevant for ageing policies. Both older men and older women may face age discrimination. However, older women also face the cumulative effects of gender discrimination throughout their lives, contributing to their vulnerability in older age. This research paper makes a case for the increasing need to ensure social security for older people, especially women in India. It touches upon some problems in implementing social security legislation, locating elderly women - including widows - the deserted and the destitute women as a vulnerable group. The gender implications of the various international and national policies and schemes of assistance for older people are also discussed. The review of state and national initiatives for providing social security to older women points to the serious lack of will to address the concerns of a silent yet vulnerable. In view of lack of core policies for older people and fast increasing elderly population, study was also focused to suggest or recommend some specific points to policy makers, planners and decision makers so that Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing could be followed in future and a standard framework could be developed to ensure older persons friendly environment in the country.

Keywords: Women, Elderly, Policies, Social Security, Ageing, Protection

F3

[27]

AGING ISSUES FACED BY THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Ageing issues that are being faced by economically disadvantaged women in Pakistan must be given proper attention and taken care of so that the affected women could live a happy and healthy life and contribute to Pakistan's economy and development. Poverty, specifically, is not a single factor responsible for premature aging. It is rather an important predictor. Socio-economic status of an individual affects overall human functioning including our physical and mental health. Pakistan is facing unprecedented increase in the older adult population. As the percentage of older Pakistanis rises, so does concern for their economic stability. While their life expectancy is at risk, poverty is considered a risk factor for decline in mental and physical health among the overall population especially the women. People living in rural areas have higher rates of poverty due to which aging is more common in those areas. Medical spending on those between the ages of 55 and 64 is more expensive as compared to those falling in 33 to 45 age group as their medical complications are greater and need to be handled more carefully. The issue demands proper reforms and budget allocation for poverty alleviation so the women, making up half of the total population of Pakistan, also contribute their part in the socio-economic development of Pakistan rather than being a burden on the society. Taking all things into account, the need to minimize poverty is very important. The study concludes that poverty results in premature aging issues in women.

F4

[28]

THE WIVES OF THE QURAN; A TRADITION FOR PROPERTY AND PURITY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The act of marriage with the holy Quran takes place in Pakistan, that deprive women from their social rights and bind them to the holy book till their death. While taking an oath they pledge that they will neither marry nor will be a part of social life. This tradition is vastly followed in the Sindh province rich and feudal families, for keeping the family blood line pure or to sustain the property rights within their family. Once the girl marries the holy book she stays at home with the Quran and no man above fourteen years of age can approach her. This trend is highly criticized all over the national media and the government also declared it illegal and non-religious. This research will take into account the legal and social aspects of this issue and will conduct an analytical study.

Keywords: Marriage, Rights, Family, Women

G1

[29]

EDUCATING WOMEN IN A PERIPHERAL SOCIETY: RELEVANCE OF A RENAISSANCE BENGALI MUSLIM WOMAN

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic indices do not provide ample proofs of Bangladesh making steady strides towards progress and prosperity. It is no wonder that the vast majority of womenfolk of this nation are yet to go a long way even to achieve the fundamental rights of which they are deprived of. Educating women is universally considered as one of the effective means of attaining the basic needs as well as liberating them from the patriarchal subjugation. It is now widely acknowledged that the efforts to be invested for educating and by extension to enlightening them are largely dependent on local / regional socio-cultural matrices. Considering this interconnection, this paper draws on the ideas of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, the early 20th century renaissance Muslim feminist writer of Bengal whose ideas are considered to have lasting impact for Bengali Muslim women. Hussain focused on the view that education of women is the foremost requirement for women's liberation and empowerment. Drawing on her ideologies, this paper focuses on the concept that along with institutional education, self reliance, grit and intelligence, independent thinking, courage and raising voice to protest against repressions will enable women of Bangladesh to be free from subjugation in its various manifestations and to attain their ultimate freedom.

G2

[30]

WOMEN IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP: STRUGGLES, STRATEGIES AND PERSONAL CHOICES

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ABSTRACT

Gender issues has been a global concern but efforts have been put in place in the last three decades by the education community to address this at all levels. Education has been regarded as a critical tool in development and it is the most effective tool to end poverty and empower women to be able to live a more productive life as more women access higher education. However, the academic profession has been viewed as a single sex profession long before now, still the percentage of women academic staff in most countries are still very low compared to their male counterpart though rising gradually as gender mainstreaming is becoming an accepted tool in achieving gender equality and sustainable development. This situation of women in the hierarchy of higher education has been described as a "chilly climate" which is unfavourable to women due to both overt and covert behaviours and systemic barriers in the university systems. Whereas the role of women in nation building and education cannot be underestimated as globally women are more attracted to the teaching profession because of the understanding that it encourages their motherly roles. But despite being in the majority it is still a herculean task for women to rise up to top management positions in African universities because of cultural factors and patriarchal system of leadership. This study therefore highlights the narrative stories of women, their challenges and struggles in my university in Nigeria as told by selected women in leadership using both primary and secondary data.

Keywords: Women, Leadership, Higher Education, Patriarchal, Culture

G3

[31]

PHADCHITRA OF RAJASTHAN: A SIGNIFICANT FEMALE ARTIST'S CONTRIBUTION AMONG UNIQUE ART FORMS

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ABSTRACT

Phadchitra (scroll paintings) is the peculiar art form of Rajasthan, *Bhilwara* is famous place for scroll paintings. *Phad* is the combination of visual and oral narratives. People from the *Joshi* families are the painters, *Bhopa* and *Bhopi* (professional singer) are the narrators *Phadchitra*. It had been a male dominated artwork from ages. It was the culture in the *Joshi* families that *Phadchitra* technique will be taught to male members only because this is peculiar technique and should not go in one another families as daughters will go in other families after marriage, intention was to maintain the uniqueness of *Phadchitra*. Daughters and Daughter-in-laws used to help in preparation of colors and other pre-production jobs but not into core painting work, although the very first stroke of the painting was supposed to be done by a virgin girl. Then in the coming years gradually this art form came into the category of endangered folk art because very limited practitioners were left. Then *Padmshri Shreelal Joshi ji* came up with the idea to teach it to other communities, including girls and women. Now female members are also learning *Phadchitra* painting and teaching it to others to keep this art form alive. From narrative point of view *Bhopi* (female narrator) plays as important a role as *Bhopa* (male narrator). *Bhopa* plays the *Jantar* or *Ravanhattha* (a violin type of musical instrument) and *Bhopi* illuminates the particular plot on *Phad* scroll with the oil lamp. She sings and dances along with *Bhopa* to elaborate the stories of local deities in front of the audiences.

In my research paper I am throwing light on the significant contribution of women artists in *Phadchitra* of Rajasthan which is meaningful in retaining its existence for future generations.

Keywords: *Phadchitra*, Narration, Women artists, *Bhopa*, *Bhopi* and Indian folk art

G4

[32]

BODY, IMAGE AND IDENTITY: A STUDY OF SELECT CONTEMPORARY WOMEN ARTISTS FROM THE SOUTH OF INDIA AND THEIR ARTISTIC PRACTICE

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies the artistic practice of select women artists in the contemporary milieu from India specifically the southern region in terms of their 'self' expression. The critique endeavours to record the existence of women artists in South India (which is comprised of four states, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala) from the twentieth century and their contributions. It attempts to analyse how they perceive themselves as artists as their presence continues to remain secondary to their male counterparts not just in the south of India but nationally. The study examines if and how these women artists have been marginalised and excluded from traditionally practised visual art forms like painting and sculpture making and what lies ahead as they continue to innovate and explore the idea of using their own practice to carve out a niche in artistic circles.

This investigation is predominantly in terms of gender, rooted within established social and cultural parameters. The paper traces the content that these women artists use in their artworks which is often in the form of autobiographical and social narratives that negotiate the spaces between private and public spheres, which creates one of the critical paradigms of mainstream art practice. The paper principally gives an insight into the collaborative roles played by the women artists and their status not only in terms of gender but also culture and identity. It also hopes to pave the way for an understanding of their future in art at both the national and international levels.

H1

[33]

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN HIMACHAL PRADESH IN INDIA: IMPACT ON SOCIAL CHANGE

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ABSTRACTS

As per the Census 2011, the total population of Himachal Pradesh was 68, 64,602. The male and female population was 34, 81,873 and 33, 82,729 respectively and the density of population was 123 per sq.km. This is substantially lower than the national average of 382 per square km. The female literacy rate in Himachal was 75.93% as against 64.63% throughout India. The provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, in respect of the reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions i.e. Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and the Zila Parishad at the Village cluster, Block and District levels respectively were implemented initially in the Panchayat elections held in the year 1995. It can rationally be inferred that the position of women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions is better in Himachal Pradesh as compared with most of the states in India. Though women participation in politics has enhanced in the state, however, the impact is more visible in the voting pattern than in other political activities and decision making. The sorry state of affairs is that women are not getting adequate representation in the Parliament, State Legislature and other higher decision-making bodies.

The present study is based on the primary and secondary data collected from the office records of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, State Election Commission, State Election Department, Panchayati Raj Department, Census reports, Statistical outlines of Himachal Pradesh etc. The relevant books, journals, newspapers, Gazetteers etc. have also been consulted.

The latest amendment (2008) has provided 50 percent reservation in the Panchayati Raj Institutions for women in the rural and urban local bodies. It is observed that because of this political participation of women at the grass root level has significantly increased and is having visible impact on the ensuing social change supplemented with some other factors such as economic participation, literacy, culture, demography etc.

H2

[34]

INDONESIAN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The number of influential women leaders in Indonesia's public arena increased significantly in the last ten years. Indonesian women assume leadership in political parties, legislative assembly, national government departments and the judiciary. This paper discusses challenges and best practices which enable Indonesian women to successfully participate both in the political and government arena. This paper is based on the research entitled "*Indonesian Women's Participation in Politics*" funded by *Universitas Bakrie, Jakarta* in 2015-2016. Barriers for women's participation include lack of resources to finance a campaign or to finance necessities of a successful mandate, public private divide of social space, ideological polarization and patriarchal gender ideology, gender role prescriptions, sexist and hostile political climate in parliaments and government departments and lack of psychological empowerment among Indonesian women. Best practices facilitating women's participation include gender mainstreaming through legislations, quotas for women in political parties, parliaments, civil service, judiciaries and executive government departments, sustained and legally supported budgeting for empowerment and participation, grass root political mentoring at the regency level for political recruitment through regional political party branches and local organizations, political education to young girls at schools and universities, negotiating and brokering a form of participative democracy in the context of present political ideologies from the sub-national to the national level of politics and governance. Women's participation led to more inclusive legislation and policy making.

H3

[35]

GIRLS EDUCATION IN MADRASAS

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ABSTRACT

Considering the importance of gender equality to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, strategies for girls' development in Bangladesh." The session will focus on the speaker's research on the approaches to and challenges in providing girls' education through madrasa in Bangladesh, and strategies for reducing dropout rates, improving quality and leadership capacity building initiatives in ground. In madrasas girls are neglected, underserved and they aren't considered by the development agencies (nationally/internationally). The gap is huge where 3 million girls are attending in 40 thousand madrasas across the country. Considering the SDG5 Empowerment and Human Development Society, Sylhet Bangladesh has taken 5 years goal to develop leaders in 300 madrasas by 2020. Through this goal 90,000 young girls will get quality education, will achieve leadership skills and will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Involvement of government, community leaders and arranging teachers' training are the primary stage of the initiative. Immediately girls are invited to receive training on leadership and to continue the effort by forming girls study clubs where girls can have a place to see each other once in a week and practice soft skills. By this time 450 girls have been graduated by the joint effort of EHDS and U.S Embassy Dhaka under the guidance of Brookings experts. Now we are looking forward to reach to other girls by the estimated time period.

H4

[36]

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF FEMALE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION FOR VOTE CASTING: A DILEMMA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SOUTHERN PUNJAB PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The democracy in the state and government is claiming for full democratic values but women in Southern areas of Punjab are still deprived of their voting right. The focus of the current study is to compare the political rights given to the women of Pakistan with International Human Rights Law and women rights conventions including international covenant on civil and political rights. This study will also focus on the current opportunities available to women in Southern Punjab and bring into light the challenges faced by women. It will also throw light on further responsibilities of the government, civil society and International community specially the committee on CEDAW (convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women) and the committee on ICCPR will also be analyzed. This study will also critically examine the constraints for women who are living in the Southern part of Punjab and determine the present profile of women rights commission in Pakistan. The researcher will also try to examine the past efforts done for the betterment of women political rights. For this purpose, a qualitative study will be conducted on the basis of existing literature. This paper will provide a comprehensive presentation of all the problems relating to the political rights of women existing in Southern Punjab.

Keywords: Democracy, Constraints, Deprivation, Betterment, Challenges, Determination

J1

[37]

EMERGENCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Empowerment is "the result of the process which enables an individual to know about herself/himself, what she/he wants, express it, try to get it and fulfill their needs, enhance confidence, awareness, mobility, choices, control over resources and decision making power. The phenomenon of empowering someone implicitly comments on the powerlessness of the individual before. Empowerment is an active multidimensional process which should enable women to realize their identity and powers in all spheres of life, including greater autonomy in decision making as well as participation in all political activities. Politics is a domain of power, and in Pakistan it is strongly male dominated. Although women constitute 49% of the Pakistan's population yet Patriarchal setup and social stereotypes dismiss their capabilities and create persistent hurdles in their way of empowerment. The constitution of 1956, 1962 and 1973 demonstrates about 5 percent reserve seats quota for women in legislative assembly. However, the demand for higher representation was always there. Keeping in view devolution of Power Plan was adopted in March 2000, reserving 33 per cent seats for women in legislative councils at the local, tehsil, municipality and district level. President Musharraf presided over an act passed in 2002 which allocated 17 per cent seats in the national and provincial assemblies and the senate to women. The 60 (of 342) seats in the national assembly are highest representation in the world and three times more than the previous 20 seats they held. In my research, I will unleash the struggle for women political representation and its impacts upon society.

Keywords: Women, Empowerment, Democracy, Constitution

J2

[38]

NEEVA FOUNDATION: AN EFFORT FOR THE WOMEN, BY THE WOMEN, TO EMPOWER THEM AND CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT DECREASING CHILD SEX RATIO IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Gender discrimination is not a new issue. It has been there in the society since time immemorial. The impact of discrimination is so much that it has severely affected the evolution of thought process of womankind. Women have always been treated as second category citizens and have been deprived of her deserved share of resource and opportunities. It has been a challenge for women to mark her space in male dominated patriarch society. But slowly need of complementarity between man and women is being acknowledged and efforts are being taken to make women independent. Although lot has to be achieved but to begin baby steps are must. To bring real empowerment women has to realize her strength and potential. The extent of multitasking managed by women is non comparable. But most of the time it happens that women will put herself at lower side and will seek for help due to low self-esteem and confidence. We at Neeva Foundation believe that womankind is source of strength and it is just that she herself has not realized her potential. So we mobilize women from the under privileged society and train her to become financially independent. Here at our foundation we do emphasize on training women with non-stereotype jobs. For example taxi driving, which has always been considered as man's job. Scientifically Also it has been described that since women has issues with cognitive skills she cannot be good driver. But our foundation fights to break the stereotype. We train our women with technical driving as well as non-technical skills e.g. communication, self-defense, legal rights, etc. to make her self sufficient in true sense. Our Constant approach is to make women realize her own potential, which in turn helps her become financially independent, makes her take her decisions on her own. One independent woman brings change to the entire generation. Strong mother will always raise a strong daughter. Hence it can bring end to many evil practices related to gender discrimination like female feticide where life is denied based on gender. Gender Discrimination is not going to end in one day or one generation but constant effort can surely bring a change and bring a brightness in the future of women across the world.

Keywords: Gender Discrimination, Women Driver, Self-dependent, Neeva Foundation

J3

[39]

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIO-COGNITIVE EMPOWERMENT AMONG WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This study has constructed a conceptual framework that can be used as background when planning or reflecting on empowerment with women in Iran and other settings where women are limited in their access to resources and decision-making capacity. We used a qualitative secondary analysis of data from two intervention projects among Iranian women ($n=25$). Each intervention spanned 7 months and included individual and group sessions as well as learning an empowerment-oriented problem-solving model. Practical lessons from the Iranian projects highlight a process of change with regard to thinking, feeling and acting among women during and after the intervention. The socio-cognitive empowerment of women, mediated through learning spaces, can open up the potential to develop mindfulness and improve the female populations' lives, bringing into play psychosocial theories on problem solving, cognitive-behavioural therapy, empowerment and hope theory, combined with use of a practice-oriented model, facilitates the long-term implementation and dissemination of such interventions.

Keywords: Women, Iran, Intervention Research, Empowerment, Problem-Solving, Psychosocial Theories

J4

[40]

RE-EVALUATING GENDER REFORMS IN NON-WESTERN NATIONS: A CASE STUDY OF TOP-DOWN APPROACHES TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN JAPAN AND TUNISIA

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the attention-grabbing aspects of two countries; Japan as a highly developed country with an advanced democracy and Tunisia; an emerging economy and recently transitioned democracy following the Arab Spring revolution. Both countries fall under two of the three regions with the lowest percentage of women representation (the Arab States and Asia) in the national parliament and in politics overall (Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU], 2016). Japan has one of the highest literacy rates for women globally; yet it performs poorly in women's representation in politics while Tunisia, an Arab State; remains a front-runner in female political empowerment not only in its region but around the world. This demonstrates the lack of systematic relationships between human development and gender equality.

Recognizing the common culture-based justifications that are often used to explain women's absence in politics, this article seeks to explore beyond "male-dominated societies" and "deeply enrooted nature within society", being the main reason for under-representation of women in the political domain (Dalton, 2014). This study illustrates state feminism as an effective approach for gender equality in culturally conservative societies and examines how a top-down approach of gender reforms can instigate an increase in women's political and economic participation. Considering that both Tunisia and Japan's heads of states recognized the underutilized potential of women, and implemented top-down strategies to women empowerment, this study examined the impacts that heads of states' affirmative actions and gender reforms have on women elected to the national parliament during their term in office.

Keywords: Gender Reforms, State Feminism, Heads of States, National Parliament, Political Participation, Womenomics

J5

[41]

DELIVERY OF DEVOLVE SERVICES: ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN COLUMBIO, SULTAN KUDARAT

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ABSTRACT

In general the study made an assessment on the delivery of devolved programs in health, agriculture and social welfare. The study aimed to identify the major devolved programs/projects implemented by the LGU of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat; the responsiveness of the actual delivery of devolve services in terms of human resources, facilities and fund allocation; the status of devolve services implemented in terms of economical, effectiveness and efficiency; and the inadequacies encountered in the delivery of basic social services as perceived by the beneficiaries. The "expose facto" method of research was used in the assessment and analysis on the relevance, responsiveness and effectiveness of the devolve services delivered in the eight sample barangays of the Municipality of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, namely: Poblacion, Libertad, Polomolok, Mayo, Datalblao, Telafas, Maligaya and Natividad. There were 49 implementers and 132 beneficiaries of the various devolved programs. There were 181 total respondents. A four-part questionnaire was constructed and the gathered data were supplemented by information extracted through interviews with Key Informants, Focus Group Discussions and document analysis.

Findings: There were three departments implementing the devolved social services programs such as the Municipal Health Office with 6 devolved health programs; the Municipal Agriculturist Office with 6 devolved agricultural projects; and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office with 7 devolved social welfare programs. The respondents rated the implementation of devolve services in health, agriculture and social welfare programs between rank 5 to 9 for the aspects of human resources, facilities and fund allocations. The respondents assessed the implementation of devolved programs as Very Efficient and Most Responsive programs to the needs of the people specially the children, youths and women. These findings were supported by the Key Informants and participants in Focus Group Discussions as they stressed that the programs implemented are doable and laudable, have contributed much to the alleviation of socio-cultural and economic conditions of the people and lessened the health problems of the people living in the remote areas. The study also found some inadequacies observed during the implementation of devolved social services programs which were Agreed by the majority of the respondents. These findings implied that the implementation of various devolved social services for several years has made a significant difference in the lives of the people of the Municipality of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, the Local Government of Columbio and program implementers with their commitment and solidarity to serve the people especially the marginalized is a manifestation of their unselfish dedication to uplift the socio-economic condition and well-being of the people. It is then recommended the favorable outcomes of the programs implemented, the continuing projects should further be strengthened and supported to ensure the sustainability of the

projects even if the support of different institutions has been terminated. The LGU should impose transparency in the implementation of programs and projects.

Keywords: Republic Act 7160, Decentralization and Development, Devolved Services/Programs, Socio-Economic Conditions

J6

[42]

PROGRESS FOR WOMEN- A PATHWAY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

PROGRESA—a Spanish acronym—refers to the program implemented by Spanish government in 1997 to reduce poverty through overcoming health and education crises in Mexico. The same program with a slightly different motive to empower women was implemented in small towns of Lahore, Pakistan to observe credibility of such programs in Pakistan. The current study illustrates the experiments made during this multi-faceted program in Gulshan-e-Ravi and old city, Lahore and its impacts upon the economic stability of the samples. In initial phases, it focused on health, nutrition, and education of women; while, in later stages invested on providing skill based education. The current research used qualitative research design to explore the impacts of PROGRESA on women of the target area. Data was randomly collected from women to compare the results to test credibility of the program. Surveys, interviews, and focused group discussions were conducted which indicated substantial significance of the program in women empowerment. The results indicate that women with skilful knowledge became entrepreneurs, started working for the betterment of other women, and also generated jobs for the unemployed, while lacking skills had no share in economic development of the country. This study focuses on impacts of the experiment upon aspects such as gender gap, gender roles, gender equity and comparative advantage as economic indicators. The research reveals if a small number of women can largely contribute to the economic development of a country, a large number of them can potentially lead to an economic revolution in a country.

Keywords: Economic Sustainability, Comparative Advantage, Gender Gap

J7

[43]

WOMEN AS CHANGE MAKERS

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ABSTRACT

In the modern democratic world the power people possess is the power to change themselves and the world around them. Malala, Baby Halder and many like them have achieved greatness through their actions and have become catalysts of change. Their life stories follow the pattern of exploitation and resistance particularly in the lives of women who are relegated to a secondary status. They have the courage to challenge and fight against the system. Instead of being crushed, they emerge stronger and spread the message of resistance to women all over and become catalysts of change. The paradigm of dissent and change and the feminist issues of finding a voice, questioning the patriarchal power structure, resistance and change are reflected in their life stories. They teach other women not only to resist the power of the strong but also convert their experience into something positive. My paper will examine how these women challenge patriarchal oppression and also became a source of inspiration for women in the 21st century.

K1

[44]

GENDER AND PEACE IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Development assistance actively engages in peacebuilding and security fields. Many countries supported by development assistance are so-called "fragile state" and have experienced armed conflict. Security stability is indispensable in realizing the long-term peace, as well as ensuring the effectiveness of development assistance. As confirmed in UNSCR 1325 adopted in 2000 and other policy frameworks, women are major players in the peacebuilding process, and gender equality should be achieved especially in security sectors as such Security Sector Reform (SSR). Consequently, development assistance needs to strengthen security sector for the realization of stable peace while restructuring security sector as gender-responsive one. However, looking at development assistance in support of gender equality by sectors, the provisions are notably "gendered." Development assistance in support of gender equality in the security sector is less than 2% of total aid to fragile states according to the report of OECD-DAC. Why security sectors are paid less attention. What is the problem in policy frameworks of major donor countries to support gender-responsive security sector? This study examines the policy framework of development assistance to security sector. It tries to identify the barriers to development assistance of major donor countries in support of gender equality in the security sector. This study employs gender-based analysis framework to development assistance policy as an analytical methodology.

Keywords: Gender, Peace, Development Assistance, Security Reform

K2

[45]

PAKISTANI TRIBAL WOMEN IN A WAR ZONE: DISPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, a prominent conflict that Pakistan witnessed is the prolonged insurgency in tribal areas, bordering Afghanistan. Since 2002, Pakistani armed forces are engaged in military operation against the militants. The conflict has a strong bearing on the inhabitants especially women and children, due to their vulnerable and marginalized placement in economically and structurally deprived tribal society. This research will be carried out from three angles. **First**, it will attempt to understand the centuries old tribal customs and traditions, which confine women in an isolated and non-participatory role, as compared to the mainstream Pakistani women. **Second** dimension of this research is to compare and contrast the level of tribal woman's displacement in the conflict scenario. **Third** dimension of this research is to investigate the accumulated challenges of tribal women in displacement and rehabilitation process. Consequently, after military operation, when the displaced women returned to their homes, they felt aliens in their ancestral houses. This Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was a serious challenge for women and children as the socio-cultural dynamics of tribal society hardly allow them to engage in various out-door activities, including treatment through counseling from a Psychiatrist. Concluding, we can derive that although women and children are most affected in conflict situations, however the gravity of their miseries can be diluted by proper planning and timely decisions by government authorities.

Keywords: Swat, Conflict, Women, Waziristan, Pakistan

K3

[46]

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN POST-CONFLICT SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

In 2009, the civil war ended in Sri Lanka and then the country entered into the period of post-conflict rebuilding, reconstruction, and development. As a part of this rebuilding and reconstruction process, the role of women, gender equality, and gender mainstreaming (GM) are significant factors and they have been seriously taken into account by the Donors (Harris 2010). Many national and international scholars, policy makers, and practitioners (Greenberg and Zuckerman 2006, 2009) including UN say that Sri Lanka, as a country in the process of post-conflict reconstruction, this is a significant opportunity to include gender mainstreaming (GM) into its development projects, programmes, and policy process (Harris 2010). This research examines GM in Sri Lanka in post-conflict period (2009-2015) and it will address the question of 'has Sri Lanka been mainstreamed gender and have there been changes in GM in the post-conflict process'. The primary objective of this research is to explore whether Sri Lanka has mainstreamed gender and the government has genuine and deliberate purpose to GM in its national policy process and its commitment to improving the lives of women. Whereas this study is a policy analysis, exclusively based on qualitative data analysis. The analytical framework of this study has three dimensions namely; genuine, symbolic and non-gender mainstreaming. Some of the key significant findings of this study are; we are still not in the stage of GM, instead we are in a stage of providing women interests or prioritised concerns of women rather than GM and very often women's interests or prioritized concerns of women are focused. 'Welfare approaches' have often been implemented rather than GM measures and 'practical gender needs' have been implemented rather than 'strategic gender needs' in the process of GM. General national economic policies are mostly 'gender blind' and 'gender neutral' and are not often 'gender sensitive'. Most of the policies are symbolic rather than genuine gender mainstreaming.

Keywords: Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Gender Blind, Gender Neutral, Gender Sensitivity

POSTER PRESENTATION

P1

[47]

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE AMONG ROHINGYA IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence (DV), and more specifically, intimate partner abuse (IPA), is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence worldwide. Risk for IPA can increase during periods of displacement, especially for refugees and other forced migrants. Rohingya in Malaysia are particularly marginalized and vulnerable, being stateless and often unable to legally work or access various services. Related stressors may put Rohingya communities at risk for IPA, while also contributing to under-reporting of incidents and limited help-seeking. Such difficulties may in part explain why, compared to other less common forms of GBV, IPA is rarely addressed by service providers. As part of a larger study, a multi-national team assessed prevalence of and attitudes about IPA among displaced Rohingya in Malaysia through 4 focus groups and 30 household interviews. Results indicated high rates of IPA, acceptability of violence, and limited help-seeking in the community, suggesting the need for an intervention. Subsequently, the team developed and implemented a 3-day curriculum-based workshop focused on addressing IPA, including mental health, human rights and social norms components, and concluding with participant-led development of IPA-focused messaging campaigns for use in their own communities. Seventy-five men, women and community leaders participated in 5 IPA workshops, and in pre- and post-workshop assessment interviews. Change in knowledge about IPA, acceptability of IPA, help-seeking, mental health and wellbeing associated with intervention participation will be shared. This culturally-adapted and locally-developed IPA intervention has the potential for scale-up for broader use in Malaysia and elsewhere.

Keywords: Intimate Partner Abuse, Domestic Violence, Rohingya

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

[48]

**REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT OF BANGLADESH: IS IT
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The poor representation of women in nearly each policy-making facet of life is a universal matter. In the entire world, women are represented in government in poor ratio to their entire populace. Nowadays, women's involvement is considered essential in contemporary democracy since the satisfactory picture is considered as indispensable for good government. A component of representative democracy is that irrespective of gender, all people have equal prospects to partake in the political arena. In elective points, better representation of women of power is a matter of fairness and parity. Yet, representation of women in many parliaments is often limited in the most influential organizations of democratic states. Democracy cannot embellish without a rational representation of women in the parliament, which is the most influential organization of democratic states. The analytical structure of this study undertakes that the presence of women in parliament does not inevitably turn into the functional picture rather it is a result of organizational, sociological and institutional facets. This have failed to make effective impact on the representation of women in Parliament in a particular political situation. Therefore, the issues that impede or enable women's representation in elective points differ with the issue of socio-economic progress, culture and the form of political arrangement. This paper has taken a modest endeavor to disclose about the significant matters linked to women's poor representation in Bangladesh Parliament.

Keywords: Women, Representation, Democracy, Parliament, Bangladesh

[49]

THE ROLE OF 21st CENTURY'S DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO EMPOWER THE WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Democracy and Civil Society are two wheels that make a country as a stable nation. These are two important factors but democracy is the precondition of civil society. It is necessary compliment to make a civil society. Interpretation of civil society in contemporary times is different from that of ancient period. It interlinks to civility and civility interlink to citizens. The citizens of every country want establish a democratic political system in the state. The decline of democracy and civil society to attention on well survive and human rights of every human beings at everywhere. Civil Society is considered a space for the secure and enhancement of social, economic and political justice. The concept of civil society takes the responsibility to offer individuals freedom, irrespective of their creed, colour, culture and equal change to create their own selves. This article seeks to critically consider on the status of women in the civil society and democracy in South Asian Countries. On the basis of explorative method this paper will try to explore the present conditions of women in South Asian Countries. This paper will put attention on the relevance of democracy and civil society for all.

Keywords: Democracy, State, Civil Society, Status of Women in 21st Century in South Asian Countries

[50]

FACTORS AFFECTING GIRLS' PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

This research study investigated girls' participation in sports at secondary school level. Main aim of the study was to identify the factors creating hurdle in the way of girls' sports participation. For this purpose, a quantitative survey was conducted in four public secondary schools. The sample of the study was 140 ninth grade girl students. The adapted questionnaire was used in order to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire had three major themes; Intra-personal constraints, Inter-personal constraints and Structural constraints. Data was analyzed through descriptive statistics, and percentages were calculated. The results of the study concluded that girls' current sports participation is quite less at secondary schools, majority of the girls quit sports at secondary school level specially when they are in age of (13-14). The major factors identified were parental constraints, time based constraints, societal constraints, personal constraints, information based constraints, interpersonal constraints, sports services at school and coaching services at school. All of these factors were affecting girls' participation in sports. This study concluded that sports should be made compulsory part of studies in order to enhance girls' participation in sports. Awareness seminars for parents and students should be organized in order to make them aware about benefits and importance of sports. Government should provide more funds for girls' sports. School's sports departments should manage and organize the events in suitable times and keep check on equipments and coaching services.

Keywords: Sports, Girl's Participation, Constraints, Intra-personal, Inter-personal, Public Schools

[51]

OPPOSITIONAL GENDER REALITIES IN THE GENDERED MEDIA: A STUDY ON THE RURAL WOMEN PROTAGONISTS OF THE INDIAN CINEMA

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ABSTRACT

It is fascinating to discover psychological relationship between a life on the screen and one's own life from the gender perspective viewpoint in public sphere. Apparently Indian visual communications media and cinema represent women who fail to transcend their second-class citizenship as well as unable to break the historical – sociological sphere of gendered polarity. Orientations regarding freedom of association, expression and fashion govern their social independence and economic status assumption; but their representation implies their self-being negotiated, re-negotiated to make them realize the perpetration of hegemony – the relation of the subjugated classes with the dominant classes. Hegemonic ideology acts as oppositional force to women on crusade or to women's socialization and gender construction. This reflects most of the times counter-hegemonic view, oppositional gender realities, whereas various instances generate non-gendered, non-ideological public consent towards advancement in an unconventional manner. In such cases social institutions, stakeholder and feminist researchers interpret this change as real, normal, neutral, commonsensical construction, contestation and re-naturalization of the enchained sensibility of women's self.

It is fascinating to discover psychological relationship between a life on the screen and one's own life from the gender perspective viewpoint in public sphere per se the women in cinematic eye i.e. rural women in India Cinema. As one of the examples of parallel cinemas, Shyam Benegal's movie *Ankur* (The Seedling) in 1974 metaphorically represents a rebellion of dalits against the village's social hierarchy, whereas physically it presents social issues of women's adultery for the sake of their survival, casteism and other social issues. Similarly his movie *Manthan* in 1976 traces the White Revolution in India and caste politics depriving women of their choices and opportunities in the backdrop of a village in Gujarat. Mehboob Khan's movie *Mother India* (an epic drama film) in 1957 dealt with a representation of a poverty-stricken village woman who reflects high moral values and the concept of what it means to be a mother to society through self-sacrifice. *Mother India* movie metaphorically represents India as a nation in the aftermath of independence and refers to a strong sense of nationalism and nation-building in context of society, religion and culture. Kalpana Lajmi's movie *Rudaali* released in 1993, is set in a backdrop of rural village of Rajasthan that brings forth the issues of alcoholism, feminization of poverty, marginalization of women's identity, casteism and male hegemony in the low undeveloped remote areas of India. On the other hand many other movies such as *Lajja*, *Paheli*, *Dor*, *Gulab Gang* etc. have depicted women-centric gendered gaze of the Indian Bollywood which seem to be the performing disseminator of knowledge, politics and economics in gender, media and box-office nexus. This paper aims to explore the women's relationship to the media. In what way does it scrutinize women's issues? How does it visualize masculinity that recast media definitions of femininity? The discourse analysis will be for the contextualized language and believable appearance of women in Indian Cinema. How does it represent gendered art and the gendered eye look at the art?

[52]

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, MICROFINANCE AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: AGENCY OR BENEFICIARY?

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ABSTRACT

Within the South Asian nations development work has several participating stakeholders. Of which the state, civil society organisations, international development agencies all have played a crucial role in shaping development policies and addressing poverty. With the rapid globalization processes in countries in South Asia especially India, poverty as a key issue seems to have lost its relevance. Simultaneously state's responsibility for provisioning social security for its citizens is being pushed back in its policy agenda. The resultant economic changes because of liberalization and ensuing opening of markets, has drastically impacted the hitherto protected traditional social enterprises. India has a rich history of social enterprises, which are intimately connected to the socio-economic and cultural fabric of the diverse communities. These have evolved out of traditional work like embroidery, weaving, brassware and such others, which were intimately entrenched in social relations of the particular region. Women have been intrinsically part of these social enterprises as informal workers. Many of these enterprises have had to change the ways in which they do business and move towards profit oriented processes and designs to match with competition in the market. With the push for more homogenized products and production of scale women are finding themselves being pushed out of such traditional work. Because of their inability to adapt to the new forms of mechanization and required skills they are forced into jobs, which require manual labour with lower wages and dignity. This paper is going to examine these aspects using case studies of old and new social enterprises.

Keywords: Women, Informal Work, Social Enterprises, Globalization and Liberalization

[53]

**INVESTIGATION ON REASONS FOR WOMEN'S LACK OF MOTIVATION
TOWARDS PARTICIPATION IN EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS**

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Empowerment is defined as an important matter in enabling low-income people to gain their rights by accessing and controlling resources. This gives individuals, groups and organizations control over the issues and problems they face. From experts' point of view, particular attention should be paid to empowering women as half of the society's human capital. Because according to researchers' studies, women are at greater risk of poverty than men and are deprived of capabilities and facilities required for empowerment and poverty reduction.

It has been years that compilation and operation of empowerment projects have been addressed by managers and authorities in different countries. But despite these efforts, the outcomes of operating these projects have not been promising in some regions. Among all reasons that can be considered for failure of empowerment projects, one of the most important reasons is "satisfaction of present situation and lack of motivation for pursuing improvement of the current conditions"; In a way that despite the briefing sessions and applying incentive tools, no enthusiasm has been observed regarding the programs and projects in a region and women do not feel the necessity of change.

According to the content stated above, this article tries to investigate on the reasons for lack of motivation for change in women who need empowerment, using qualitative study method, as well as solutions for it.

Keywords: Empowerment, Poverty, Development Motivation, Lack of Development Motivation

[54]

**POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE: FEMINIST PEDAGOGY FOR SOCIETAL
TRANSFORMATION: A CASE OF PUKAR'S BAREFOOT RESEARCHERS**

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In this paper the authors explore politics of 'knowledge' and its production practices by compiling findings of researches conducted by women 'Barefoot Researchers' in urban communities in Mumbai on the thematic of gender over past 12 years. While doing so, there is an attempt to document what is emerging from the ground and deconstruct 'knowledge' in the broader context of gender discourse using participatory, democratic and reflexive methodologies. These findings are critical in understanding and acknowledging diverse epistemological narratives rooted in urban communities to understand our complex socio-political surroundings from the lenses of women using bottom-up approach. The research compilations are an outcome of the theory and praxis of feminist pedagogy as being used by PUKAR (Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research) a Mumbai based non-profit organisation working to democratise research with a focus on subaltern communities. The organisation documents and advocates for understanding diversity in experiences grounded in lived and shared realities and questions the monopoly of 'accepted' knowledge. Additionally, questioning the inherent power in traditional research methodologies and using community based participatory action research with a focus on reflexive learning to understand self and society for societal transformation.

Keywords: Barefoot Researchers, Power, Gender, Feminist pedagogy, Knowledge, PUKAR

[55]

A STUDY OF THE AVAILABILITY AND EFFECTS OF SOCIAL SUPPORT OF FEMALE COLLEGE TEACHERS ON THEIR JOB DEMANDS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to know the Availability and Effects of Social Support of female college teachers on their Job Demands in Pakistan. The study was delimited to the government female college teachers of Multan district (Punjab province). Ten female colleges of Multan district were selected randomly. The total sample of female college teachers was one hundred and ten (110). One questionnaire (having 40 items), was developed using five point Likert scale. The questionnaire was validated through expert opinion and teachers responses. Data were collected through questionnaire. The questionnaire was personally administered by the researcher. The data were analyzed through Arithmetic mean, standard deviation, t-test, percentage and matrix correlation. On the basis of mean scores it was found that married female college teachers have social support from family, society, colleagues than that of single women. Similarly, the comparison was made on the basis of another source of income, it was found that the female teachers who have no other source of income have greater support from family and society.

[56]

THE ROLE OF MEN IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study is an inquiry into the lives and experiences of men and women in Agoo, La Union, Philippines. The research determines the role of men in women's empowerment in the household, academic and political institutions. It attempts to explore how the traditional structure shape men's understanding of women's empowerment. It deals with the vital role of men in empowering women to expand their freedom of choice and action to shape their own lives. The study employed a descriptive case method of research with in depth interviews as the main data gathering method. Subjects rely on the traditional roles in the household on who should do the housework but since opinions on responsibilities of housework vary among cases, some men helped their wives as they share all tasks, responsibilities, decision-making, and task division. Men recognize the capability and contribution of women in the academe. They believed that success is a shared responsibility by men and women as they work together in the advancement of their goals and objectives. Subjects in the political institution have a positive view towards the roles played by women in the setting. Male politicians undoubtedly address gender inequality in their respected areas as a result of the recognition of women in the different positions in the local government and special tasks such as head of campaigns in literacy and health.

Keywords: Men, Women's Empowerment, Household, Political Institution, Academic Institution

[57]

THE CHALLENGE OF STRENGTHENING EQUITY POLICIES IN CONTEXTS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The conference would present a piece of a PhD research project about the evolution of the axis of armed conflict within the equity policies of the national government of Colombia, from 1996 until 2016. The research does a revision of the equity policies and focuses on the active roles that women have played during the armed conflict and the roles considered by those equity policies in the country. Further the victimization of women because of the war, the critical analysis focuses on the absence from those policies of the diversity of women and the variety of roles that women play in the armed conflict context and on the utilization of the role of women as peace builders, without giving to them the resources needed to indeed be main actors in community, social, political and negotiation scenarios. The hypothesis that orientates the research is that equity and equality policies have a low status among other national policies from the government. The low status is reflected in the lack of resources devoted to building up a strong public institution in charge of promoting women's rights, which could develop cross gender equality programmes along with other ministries and public departments. It also focuses on the importance of the international law frame, such as the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, which provides a legal frame for women organizations to vindicate the representation of women and women's interests at the peace negotiation table.

Keywords: Equity Policies, Women, Gender, Peace, War, Colombia

[58]

LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ENGINEERS IN TOP MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Women are joining engineering profession in growing numbers even though the female to male ratio still remains low relative to other science and technology professions. This paper looks at women in engineering institutes, their journey as they moved up the career ladder, reasons for the dismal number of women engineers in top management roles, and initiatives taken by corporations and governments to improve gender diversity in India. The paper tries to define the role of women engineers in nation building – both tangible and intangible contributions. Secondary research like available literature on women engineers, data from top IT companies' annual report, faculty in technical institutes are used to analyze the gender diversity at workplace. This is supplemented by survey, case-studies and interviews of women engineers to understand the problems faced by them. It is seen that more than half of these women quit their job or decide to opt for a slower career path at a crucial junction of their career under pressure from dual responsibilities of home and career which is known as 'leaky pipeline'. This has led to only about 12-13 per cent of the senior management roles to be occupied by women. In order to retain women engineers at work place and improve gender diversity, a few suggestions are highlighted which can help young women engineers overcome the challenges they face while balancing work and home.

Keywords: Women, Engineers, Gender Diversity, Leaky Pipeline, Management

[59]

**THE STUDY OF PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGARDING TO
TRADITIONAL APPROACHES AND LACK OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES
TOWARDS WORKING FEMALES IN MEDIA ORGANISATION OF PAKISTAN**

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ABSTRACT

The social system of gender bias equally affects media agencies and reporters. The media organizations and editors are always building regulations and standards for this, but they are mostly failing in this regard. This aspect is very disappointing and needs comprehensive consideration. The proposed research is based on discrimination of genders for the selection of workers. Motivation of the current study relies in the hard fact that media needs to review all the new and old prejudices. In general, the mixed reporters are always working for the benefit of the people. The quantitative methodology is used for collection of data from working females in Print and electronic media. The surveys are distributed to the print, electronic and radio media houses. In the questionnaires, the opinion and the forms of discrimination is revealed by working females in the media workplace. Media must offer better employment opportunities, and the chances of success in the media departments for both genders. The lack of women in decision-making does not have any negative impact on the content of the information and the media programs, but has the indirect influence over career choices of journalism students. The cultural norms and family responsibilities are making females believe that their career choice as reporter is not perfect. This paper thus provides a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of stereotype attitude towards females in media channels.

Keywords: Bias, Discrimination, Women, Rights, Lacks, Media

[60]

**REMEDY IN ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE TO THE IMPACT OF
HYSTERECTOMY**

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ABSTRACT

The Alternative Medicine is a holistic approach to cure diseases. When anything practiced performed or performed outside mainstream then it can be called as Alternative, whether it is development or medicine. Thus the term "Alternative Medicine" is any form of medicine that is practiced outside the mainstream of western Medicine allopathy. These alternative medicine systems is intrinsically linked the whole person of body, mind and spirit in harmony with the environment and prevailing culture. These medicine try to provide remedies in its own way for example Acupuncture is influence the body functions and stimulate and restore the body own regulatory system. Alternative therapies many a times supplement and sometimes the combination of some of the practice are providing the effective result to the women's reproductive to balance the life end without side effects. The reproductive organ of female is designed to carry out several main function in women's health. Hysterectomy is a organ removal of uterus the other organ cervix, fallopian tube, ovaries also removed to the women's. Hysterectomy is the second most frequently performed surgical procedure. The National Women's Health Network (NWHN) believes that unnecessary hysterectomies have put women at risk needlessly and that health care providers should recognize the value of a woman's reproductive organs beyond their reproductive capacity and search for hysterectomy alternatives before resorting to life-changing operations. After the surgery the side effects are started and associated with undesirable consequences such as emotional, physical and sexual problems, including premature aging and reduced femininity all these symptoms are continued in life end without cure in Allopathic Treatment.

[61]

MAINSTREAMING RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA: A STUDY OF DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR (PUNJAB)

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ABSTRACT

Gender and disability develop as an essential point of convergence around which a great part of the women's activist incapacity hypothesis has continued. Both disability and gender are socially built and are not established in science. Women with disabilities frame a heterogeneous gathering, since inability and gender additionally cross with different classifications like kind of disability, class, rank, ethnicity, and country urban living arrangement. Elimination as individuals and invisibility as a group: that is the fate of women with disabilities. Teased, taunted, looked down upon, and spoken about instead of spoken to, women with disabilities experience the combined disadvantages associated with gender and disability. They live an invisible existence on the fringes of society; exclusion, stigma and prejudice are a routine aspect of their lives. Autonomy, respect, dignity and equality of personhood are denied to them. There is a lack of information and awareness about the rights of women with disabilities and therefore a lack of monitoring process. Hence, the complex issues affecting women with disabilities must be understood in relation to the distinct difference within various disabilities, men with disabilities and persons without disabilities. The present paper seeks to identify multiple discriminations in the domains of culture, society, politics and the economy, experienced by women with disabilities in India with special focus on District Hoshiarpur of Punjab.

Keywords: Differently-abled, Discrimination, Mainstreaming, Stigma, Women

[62]

PERSONALITY PROFILE OF POLITICAL, ACADEMIC, ENTREPRENEURIAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND STUDENT WOMEN LEADERS: A STUDY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The present study "Personality profile of Political, Academic, Entrepreneurial, Organizational and Student Women Leaders of Pakistan" is quantitative study based on indigenous data. In the current research 5 leadership domains were focused which included academic, political, entrepreneurial, organizational and student population. Two participants from each domain were selected through purposive sampling. All the women leaders selected were serving at leading position in their related fields. To explore the personality profile of women leaders' two personality assessment tools Myers-Briggs Trait Inventory (MBTI) and Big Five Inventory (BFI) were administered. The outcome of the study revealed that both the academic leaders had similar MBTI preference type that was INTJ whereas both the organizational leaders had Extraversion, Thinking and Judgment preferences. Thinking and Judgment were the most prevailing preference among the women leaders. Whereas the scores of Big Five Inventory showed that political leaders scored high on Agreeableness = 4.6 and Openness = 4.1, academic leaders scored high on Conscientiousness = 4.8, Agreeableness = 4.5 and Extraversion = 4.5. Organizational leaders scored high on Conscientiousness = 4.7 and Extraversion = 5.0, entrepreneurial leaders scored high on Agreeableness = 4.0 and Conscientiousness = 5.0. Student leaders scored high on Openness = 4.8 and Extraversion = 4.6. The current study is one of its own kind on Pakistani women Leaders with limitation regarding the sample size but it will open new horizon in the area of leadership. The current study will also help professionals to understand the personalities of political, academic, entrepreneurial, organizational and student leaders and to explore different facets of leaders' personalities.

Keywords: Personality, Political, Academic, Entrepreneurial, Organizational, Myers-Briggs Trait Inventory, Big Five Inventory

[63]

DESERTION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN INDIA: A HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN

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ABSTRACT

Many married women in India face violence in its various forms and desertion by their husbands or in laws is another manifestation of this ever-increasing phenomenon.

In India, women are deserted/abandoned due to various reasons such as non fulfillment of demand for dowry, not being able to give birth to a male child, extra marital affair of the husband and so on.

Post desertion, women have to deal with number of challenges that unfold before them. Some of these challenges are non-acceptance of abandoned women in our society deeply rooted in patriarchal structure, identity crisis, financial insecurity, burden of bearing the expenses of education and marriages of children, arrangement of finances for legal recourse, facing social stigma attached to desertion to list a few.

Surrounded by such difficult circumstances, deserted women do not have many safeguards available at their disposal. One possible reason is that deserted or abandoned women are not considered a separate entity unlike widows or divorced women that are recognized by our Indian legal system. Hence, it is imperative to investigate various issues concerning deserted women.

Through this paper an attempt will be made to highlight the problems of deserted women that pose an obstacle to achieve the goal of gender equality and realization of their human rights. An effort will be made to device out the strategies needed to mainstream the rights of deserted women. For the present study, the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh has been chosen as the area of study.

Keywords: Desertion, Abandoned, Married Women, Human Rights, Gender Equality

[64]

WAR AND PEACE: AN ACCOUNT OF WOMEN'S POSITION AND IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

The Oxford English Dictionary defines war as an "occurrence of armed fighting between countries or groups". It also defines peace as "a state when people live and work together happily without disagreements". Yet, both these definitions have been defined in a language which is obviously patriarchal and the described situations have been viewed from a patriarchal lens. Both war and peace have different meanings for women. In contrast to whatever has been written about women being the cause of war by all the major literatures of the war, a woman is rarely the reason behind these large scale destructions. It is true that for women wartime is a time when they are put through enormous hardship and loss without receiving the glory of the heroes. They are exploited, raped and reduced to states of destitution. But what is even more unfortunate is that their situation is any better off even during a time which authorities declare to be a time of peace. Until recently, they were not even considered to be citizens and further more they were not allowed to work outside their house. As far as the disagreement part is considered, they were not really allowed to have an enough strong enough to lead to a disagreement. Ironically, it was during one of the most devastating of all wars in the history of "mankind, the First World War that women finally got some semblance of autonomy and self worth. This paper will attempt to explore the conventional definitions of war and peace in terms of both the genders and how their relative positions vary with these two political scenarios.

[65]

BARGAINING PATRIARCHY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: NARRATIVES OF MUSLIM MALAY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Malaysian government has provided various platforms to increase women's participation in entrepreneurship based on the fact that women are valuable resources for economic development. However, the relatively low research exploring the lived experiences of women entrepreneurs in Malaysia which patriarchy is strongly embedded in the society has created quite a big gap in the literature. The aim of this article is to investigate women entrepreneurs' experiences with patriarchal practices in their entrepreneurship activities. By using gender perspective and Kandiyoti's concept of bargaining patriarchy, this article will explore how women entrepreneurs are constantly negotiating and at the same 'conforming' to patriarchal norms to earn their own 'space and freedom' in running and managing their business activities. The data were collected based on in-depth interviews with 10 women entrepreneurs who are also the recipients of Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) microcredit scheme. The research findings reveal that women entrepreneurs have to constantly juggle their time between performing their domestic duties and their entrepreneurship through the constant negotiation with the patriarchal norms. Thus, this study offers new insights on negotiating patriarchy that is constantly used by the women entrepreneurs as a strategy to maneuver their business activities. It is also argued that the patriarchy practices can also become the women entrepreneurs' major barrier to business expansion. The use of gender lens in this study managed to unravel the fact that Muslim Malay women entrepreneurs are not just passive recipients of patriarchal norms, but consciously and constantly strategized and negotiated their way within the constraints of living in a patriarchal society.

Keywords: Malay Muslim Entrepreneurs, Bargaining Patriarchy, Women Entrepreneurship

[66]

TRAVELING AND EMPOWERMENT: UNVEILING THE VOICES OF MUSLIM WOMEN TRAVELERS

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ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly, an increasing number of women are travelling beyond borders, breaking bigotry and gender bias. In light of the dynamic changes in the travel landscape, this study explores the voices and meanings Muslim women attach to travelling. Islam is a rich and variegated religion with the second-largest population in the world. There has been various interpretation of traveling in relations to their cultural beliefs among Muslim women. Given that there are several Islamic sects, the practice and restrictions of these sects differ from one another. Some of these norms or restrictions have a social or gendered dimension. This anthropological study presents these various interpretations of Islam in relations to travel among Muslim women travelers and its relation to the concept of empowerment. The data were collected based on in-depth interviews with 10 Muslim women travelers from five different countries (Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia) who travelled to Penang island. All the respondents were aged between 18 - 34 years old. Grounded by the theoretical framework on empowerment, the findings of the study explain Muslim women travel from three dimensions of empowerment: resources, agency and achievements. Research findings show that Muslim women have freedom to travel without abandoning their cultural or religious beliefs. The findings also indicate that women's autonomy, choice and role in society varies based on their country of origin, but this autonomy reinforces the notion that now more Muslim women are travelling. Technology is a significant factor in reshaping and guiding Muslim women travel. This study illustrates that the sense of travel and religious belief are complex and very much dependant on individual choices. Therefore, this study challenges the continuous misconceptions about travel among Muslim women by gauging on religious beliefs. As women are gradually becoming the vital proportion of both the inbound and outbound travel segment, stakeholders should be informed of Muslim female travel requirements and start to pay more attention to this potential market.

Keywords: Muslim, Women, Travel, Empowerment

[67]

ANCESTRAL LANDSCAPES AND WOMEN'S CAREER HEADWAY TO THE TOP

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ABSTRACT

This paper is based on an exploratory study that aimed to examine the magnitude of ancestral landscapes that contribute to women's career advancement to the top management positions in the field of higher education and management. It was assumed that nature of these settings might obstruct the functioning of public policies and programs for attaining effective and sustainable development in the quantity and quality of employment for women. This study was expected that woman officers' perceptions of the difficulties and support and the strategies they have proposed for improving this situation, hopefully, will bring their insights to a wider audience. Such knowledge can enhance the management of women's human resources and their careers in the cultural specific context. Aiming that, this study investigated different aspects by conducting in-depth semi-structured interviews, a focus group discussion with the participants and found dynamics factors influencing women's career advancement to the top.

Keywords: Women's Career Advancement, Ancestral/Familial Factors, Senior Management Positions

[68]

THE IMPACTS OF COMMODITY CONVERSION ON ROLE AND STRATEGY OF WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD

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ABSTRACT

Changes in economic structure and employment opportunity are seen in the agricultural sector that was originally Labor Intensive to Capital Intensive. The objective of this study is to know the women's role in the farming of food commodities and sugar cane commodities as well as the impact of commodity conversion on the role and strategy of women's livelihood. This study is qualitative descriptive using Gender Framework Analyze (GFA). The results of the study show that the productive activity of women labor of food crops is involved in all farming activities including land cultivation, nursery, maintenance, and harvesting. Unlike sugar cane farming, women labor is only involved in nursery and maintenance. Reproductive activity is fully borne by the women. It is likewise social activities that always involve the role of women in every activity. The impacts of commodity conversion on the role aspect include the subordination of women's work, the marginalization of women and stereotyping of women's work. In addition, the impacts on the livelihood strategy aspect include the loss of activities of *golek mbes*, *golek entong*, *golek godong jati*, *ngasak*, *mbangkong* and *golek laron* which are currently replaced with the emergence of new livelihoods of the paper industry.

Keywords: Sugarcane, Food, Gender, Role, Social change

[69]

IMPACT OF WORKER'S MIGRATION ON THE POSITION OF LEFT-BEHIND WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

International migration- mostly through temporary job contract by male workers- has become a significant avenue to escape unemployment and poverty especially for the poor and unskilled rural Bangladeshis (Sharma and Zaman, 2009). Migrants of this nature typically remit most of their income, because the lack of permanent settlement in the migrating country makes them reluctant to invest there. Instead, they desire to increase the current livelihood of the 'left behind' family and the productive capabilities upon their future return (Raghuram, 2008). It is commonly assumed that prevailing large male-dominated migration from Bangladesh brings extended freedom and economic participation of the women in the left behind families. This research aimed to ascertain the impact of migration on the status of women. Basic assumption of this study is that having migrated member can be viewed as treatment and Propensity Score Matching (PSM) can be used to form the 'control' group of households without migrant. Then this two groups will be compared with each other on the women empowerment dimensions. This study will use Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) 2011-12 and 2015, thus it allows to estimate the trend of women position besides the impact study. Previously, Hadi (2001) had done an empirical study on this similar research area and found that the overseas migration of adult men can create a context for positive change of the women's position in traditional communities. This research will extend previous study by using more representative sample, larger data base, more confounding variables and time trend.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Propensity Score Matching, Migration

[70]

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

In the Sri Lankan setting, there is a long bounden connection between foreign direct investment (FDI) and financial development rate. The FDI dropped 54% to \$ 450 million of every 2016 year-on-year, contrasted and \$ 970 million in the earlier year. Sri Lanka wants to be the most famous nation for FDI by 2018 with financial development estimated at 7% in the coming years. One of the significant zones for such venture is believed to be tourism. Tourism is an incredible open door for financial improvement and neediness lightening in creating nations. The tourism industry is a standout amongst the most potential territories for outside speculation and development. Ladies' work in tourism industry stays low under 8 percent for the main lodging networks in the nation and there are fears that this capacity for development might be decelerated by a genuine shortage in human resources especially. In a setting when ladies have break even with access to training and in fact are moving in huge numbers and generally utilized in numerous segments, and this exploration investigates why ladies' work in the tourism industry in Sri Lanka is at such low levels? This exploration centers the inescapability of social hindrances to ladies' work in the tourism industry, through a contextual analysis of one of Sri Lanka's most seasoned resort tourism industry and meetings with senior industry experts. This was a cross sectional descriptive study with 50 women respondents who're still working in the two hotels in the Southern Province as the sample. The samples were selected purposively on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria. A semi structured questionnaire was used to collect data and consent was taken a prior interview. The investigation additionally worries to the idea of these hindrances: a) misperceptions b) preferences c) absence of mindfulness d) male centric dispositions and socio-social impacts e) contrasting levels of social estimation of various callings. The investigation features the part business and government can play in tending to these hindrances and to this end makes particular suggestions to extend ladies' entrance and development inside the business.

Keywords: Tourism, Hotel Industry, Women, Employment, Development

