

## Recent Books on Women Studies – December 2001

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WOMEN'S POLITICAL VOICE IN ASEAN  
Sharing a Common Vision

Edited by Kao Kim Hourn & Norbert von Hofmann

Women in Southeast Asia play an instrumental role in the various aspects of both political and non-political life. And as the region moves closer towards full integration of all ten Southeast Asian nations, there is a need to pay closer attention to the role and voice of women at various decision-making levels. Asean can only be enhanced and empowered if women in this region can be united to participate more fully in the decision-making process.

Asian women are often negatively portrayed in the media. The media does very little to portray women as agents of change. This book will contribute to the ongoing dialogue on women in politics, especially in the Asean region. Though there do exist considerable activity of networking amongst women, especially amongst non-governmental organisations, in the region, there is still not enough women representatives in high political positions to push forward women's issues. Furthermore, solidarity amongst female politicians of different political parties at the national level and cooperation at and amongst government and non-governmental levels has to be improved before their voice is heard loud and clear.

Kao Kim Hourn is the Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Norbert von Hofmann is the Head of the Office for Regional Activities in Southeast Asia of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Singapore.

Pub : Asean Academic Press, London Year : 1999 Bib : 22cm 152pp HB  
ISBN : 1901919153 Price : US\$ 55.00

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WOMEN & WORK  
Challenges in Industrialising Nations

Edited by Maimunah Ismail & Aminah Ahmad

The last three decades have witnessed an increase in the employment level of women in most developing countries, including those in Southeast Asia.

Particularly

in Malaysia, this change is partly due to improvement in the socio-economic status of the population such as the level of education of women, greater demand for male and female labour in the workforce, and the general value of societies towards

equal opportunities of men and women in modern employment. The general level of

employment by gender shows that men and women are equally engaged in paid productive activities which contribute to the nation outputs of goods and services.

Women in Malaysia and in other Southeast Asian countries participate in various sectors of employment such as manufacturing, business, service and agriculture, in addition to their traditional role in the unpaid domestic sector of the economy. Women therefore contribute to the economy in many ways. The diversity of women's employment, inevitably, poses challenges to women themselves, the household and society. The challenges are in terms of the interface of work and family roles, women as individuals in male-dominated and IT-driven organizations, discovering a means to increase the economic potential of women engaged in business, and gender equality within the context of the changing biophysical and sociocultural environment of rural areas. This book attempts to discuss the participation of women in the areas mentioned above, particularly highlighting challenges they face in their efforts to contribute to development.

Maimunah Ismail is Associate Professor and the Coordinator of Women's Studies Unit at the Department of Extension Education, Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Aminah Ahmad is Associate Professor and Head of Department of Extension Education at the Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Pub : Asean Academic Press, London Year: 1999 Bib : 22cm 248p HB ISBN : 190191920x Price : US\$ 72.00

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Malaysian Women in Rural Development and Entrepreneurship- From Rural Producers to Urban Entrepreneurs

Maimunah Ismail

This book comprises selected empirical accounts on participation and role of Malaysian women in rural development and entrepreneurship. It is based on a number of studies conducted within a span of ten years from 1991 to 2000. Rural development and entrepreneurship are two important economic subsectors of any developing nation, especially one that is in transition from agriculture to industry.

Research related to rural development include gender analyses on women's access to land and progressive farmers; rural women's income-generating projects; and the role of rural women in sustainable development. Topics discussed on women entrepreneurship are gender needs analysis, career motivations and working strategies.

The book strongly concludes that gender disaggregated data and data on women within the perspective of gender relations are important in describing the status and position of women in development. The book also discusses some recommendations for future practical agenda and research implications on women in rural development and entrepreneurship.

Pub : Asean Academic Press, London Year : 2001 Bib : 22cm 204p pB ISBN : 1901919293 Price : US\$ 22.00

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The Zamindar's Bahu : The Saga of a Daughter-in-law in Feudal India  
Author : Krishna Rajvir

Pub : Harman Pub House, New Delhi Year : 2001 Bib : x, 263p ISBN : 8186622365  
Price : US\$ 6.75

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Women and the Politics of Violence  
edited by Taisha Abraham

The remaking of female identity gets its structural support not only from the capitalist market, but also from the discourse of liberal democracy which has peaked "in the accelerated phase of globalization, the last third of the twentieth century." Significantly, the conflict between the two value systems of capitalist economy, with its stress on individualism and instrumental rationality, and liberal democracy, with its emphasis on citizenship, democracy, patriotism and human rights, is played out on the woman as its site. Women and the politics of violence undertakes to introduce readers through an interdisciplinary perspective to the politics of this struggle with its varying emphases on women.

The essays included in the collection deal with women and violence in relation to the media, India's partition, religious fundamentalism and the terrain of law

Pub : Har-Anand Publications, New Delhi Year : 2002 Bib :302 p., ISBN : 8124108471 Price : US\$ 20.00

Contents: 1. Women and the politics of violence: articulations and re-articulations/Taisha Abraham. 2. Dreams unlimited: the make-believe world of advertisements/Uma Chakravarti. 3. The Ameena case Rajeswari Sunder Rajan. 4. Draupadi's moment in Sita's syntax: violations of the past and the construction of community in Kamal Haasan's Hey! Ram Karen Gabriel. 5. Community, state, and gender: some reflections on the partition of India/Urvashi Butalia. 6. Consent and agency Kumkum Sangari. 7. Heroic women, Mother Goddesses: family and organisation in Hindutva politics/Tanika Sarkar. 8. Immigrant status and marital violence/Margaret Abraham. 9. Dowry, violence and the law Kirti Singh. 10. The politics of patriarchy and Sathin Bhanwari's rape/Taisha Abraham. Index.

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Women and The Nation's Narrative  
Gender and Nationalism in Twentieth Century Sri Lanka

Author :Neloufer De Mel

This book explores the development of nationalism in Sri Lanka during the past century, particularly with in the dominant Sinhala Buddhist and militant Tamil movements. Tracing the ways women from diverse backgrounds have engaged with nationalism, Neloufer de Mel argues that gender is crucial to an understanding of nationalism and vice versa.

Traversing both the colonial and postcolonial periods in Sri Lanka's history, the author assesses a range of writers, activists, political figures and movements. With her rigorous, historically located analyses, de Mel makes a persuasive case for the connection between figures like stage actress Annie Boteju and intellectual Anil de Silva; poetry written by Jean Arasanayagam or Tamil revolutionary women; and political movements like the LTTE, the JVP, the Mothers' Front, and contemporary feminist organisations. Evaluating the colonial period in the light of the violence that animates Sri Lanka today, de Mel proposes what Bruce Robbins has termed a "lateral

cosmopolitanism" that will allow coalitions to form and to practice an oppositional politics of peace. In the process, she examines the gendered forms through which the nation and the state both come together and pull apart

Pub :Kali for Women, New Delhi Year : 2001 Bib :293 p. ISBN : 8186706410 Price : US\$ 9.00

Contents: Introduction. 1. Setting the stage, gendering the nation: John de Silva's nationalist theatre and the entrance of Annie Boteju. 2. Framing the nation's respectability: Anil Marcia de Silva's rite of passage. 3. A question of identity: Jean Arasanayagam's landscape of the nation. 4. Agent or victim?: The Sri Lankan woman Militant in the interregnum. 5. Mother politics and women's politics: notes on the contemporary Sri Lankan women's movement. Bibliography.

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#### Women and Politics

Author : Subhasini Mahapatra

Discrimination on gender basis is a world-wide phenomenon. Women were/are treated as weaker sex in all societies. Despite their exemplary performance in the domain of politics women were treated subservient to men. This book deals with the question of women and in the field of politics where we find that we are still struggling and groping and have not as yet formed any clear concepts and methods. We have a sense of acute dissatisfaction with the work that social scientists have done so far in trying to examine this complex relationship between political development and women's participation therein and the theme which connects the two elements, namely the role of women in the political process and the manner in which the political process treats women.

Pub : Rajat Publications, New Delhi Year : 2001 Bib : vi, 367 p. ISBN : 8178800233 Price : US\$ 25.00

Contents: Preface. 1. Introduction. 2. Women in socio-political process. 3. Transformation in ideas and ideals. 4. Women issues in South Indian politics. 5. Transformation of women status in politics. 6. Women's representation and leadership. Bibliography. Index.

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#### Women Workers and the Law

Author :G.Q. Mir

Pub : Anmol Publications, New Delhi Year : 2002 Bib : 404 p. ISBN : 8126110260 Price : US\$ 25.00

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. Historical background: i. Pre-constitution period. ii. Post-constitution period. 3. Constitutional frame-work. 4. Legislative frame-work. 5. Critical evaluation of protective measures. 6. An empirical assessment of protective measures for women workers in Jammu and Kashmir state: i. Organized sector. ii. Un-organised sector. 7. Conclusion and suggestion. Bibliography. Index.

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Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence  
edited by Caroline O.N. Moser and Fiona C. Clark

This book provides a holistic analysis of the gendered nature of armed conflict and political violence, and a broader understanding of the complex, changing roles and power relations between women and men during such circumstances. Currently, armed conflict and political violence are predominantly viewed as 'male domains', perpetrated by men acting as soldiers, guerrillas, paramilitaries or peacemakers.

Pub :Kali for Women, New Delhi Year : 2001 Bib :243 p. ISBN : 8186706445 Price : US\$ 12.00

Contents: I. Contextual issues on gender, armed conflict and political violence: 1. Introduction/Caroline O.N. Moser and Fiona C. Clark. 2. The gendered dynamics of armed conflict and political violence/Cynthia Cockburn. 3. The gendered continuum of violence and conflict: an operational framework/Caroline O.N. Moser. II. The politics of victimization: sexual abuse and violence: 4. The political economy of rape: an analysis of systematic rape and sexual abuse of women during armed conflict in Africa/Meredeth Turshen. 5. The body of the other man: sexual violence and the construction of masculinity, sexuality and ethnicity in the Croatian media/Dubravka Zarkov. III. Gender, power and agency: 6. Rethinking women's struggles in Israel-Palestine and in the north of Ireland/Simona Sharoni. 7. Women and communal conflict: new challenges for the women's movement in India/Urvashi Butalia. IV. Women as actors in armed conflict and political violence: 8. El Salvador: war and untold stories women guerrillas/Ana Cristina Ibanez. V. Doing and being: questions of identity in displacement: 9. The nostalgic future: terror, displacement and gender in Colombia/Donny Meertens. VI. Agency and identity in building sustainable peace: 10. Social organizations: from victims to actors in peace building/Isabel Coral Cordero. 11. The challenge to inequality: women, discrimination and decision-making in northern Ireland/Marie Mulholland. 12. Gender and social capital in contexts of political violence: community perceptions from Colombia and Guatemala/Caroline O.N. Moser and Cathy McIlwaine. VII. Gender and voice in truth and reconciliation: 13. Locked into loss and silence: testimonies of gender and violence at the South Africa truth commission/Antjie Krog. Bibliography. Index.

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Tribal Women in the New Profile : Vis-à-Vis their Non-Tribal Twins Author :Sarita Sahay

The author has analyzed the facts and figures obtained on different aspects of lives of tribal and non-tribal working women of Ranchi (the State Capital of Jharkhand) in the perspective of socio-cultural configurations of the two societies and presented the findings in a format meant for general readership.

Pub : Anmol Publications, New Delhi Year : 2002 Bib :209 p. ISBN : 8126110228 Price : US\$ 20.00

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She Comes to Take Her Rights : Indian Women, Property, and Propriety  
Author :Srimati Basu

Using the contemporary workings of property law in India through the lives and thoughts of middle-class and poor women, this is a study of the ways in which cultural practices, and particularly notions of gender ideology guide the workings of law. It urges a close reading of decisions by women that appear to be contrary to material interests and that reinforce patriarchal ideologies.

The Hindu succession act was passed in India in 1956 theoretically giving Indian women the right to equal inheritance of their parents' self-acquired property, but in the years since, its provisions have scarcely been utilised. Using interview data drawn from middle-class and poor neighbourhoods in Delhi, this book explores the complexity of women's decisions with regard to family property in this context.

This book shows that it is not ignorance of the law, naiveté about wealth or unthinking adherence to gender prescriptions that guides women's decisions, but rather an intricate negotiation of kinship and an optimization of socioeconomic and emotional needs

Pub :Kali for Women, New Delhi Year :2001 Bib :xiv, 305 p., tables, ISBN : 8186706496 Price : US\$ 12.50

Contents: 1. Women, law, and property in India. 2. Women and property inheritance: scant and slippery footholds. 3. Gifts for alliance: marriage and the flow of goods. 4. "Wo Aye Hak Lene" ("there she comes, to take her rights"): the dreadful specter of the property-owning woman. 5. Knowing themselves: women's attitudes toward wealth and well-being. 6. Protecting property: gendered identity in the Indian higher courts. 7. Conclusion: property and propriety. Appendices. Bibliography. Index.

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Purity and Communal Boundaries : Women and Social Change in a Bangladeshi Village Author :Santi Rozario

Purity and Communal Boundaries explores the rich complexities of a central Bangladeshi villages, populated by Muslims, Hindus and Christians.

Through a carefully constructed theoretical framework Santi Rozario demonstrates the ways in which class and communal domination reinforce gender inequality. The position of women is analysed in terms of linkages between religious values, sexuality, economics and politics. Rozario also examines the divergence between the demands of the economy and the system of values in Bengali society.

The author draws on concepts of sexual purity, shame, honour and parda (seclusion) to make new and stimulating observations about the connections between socioeconomic change, intercommunal tensions and specific aspects of women's contemporary experience such as increased physical mobility, and the shift from dowry to bride price.

As a Bangladeshi woman, Santi Rozario is in a unique position to explore this subject. She has overcome the constraints on mobility that would normally bar local women from conducting the kind of extensive anthropological fieldwork represented here. The result is an unusual achievement—the scholarly perspective of a Bangladeshi woman on her own society

Pub : University Press Ltd, Dhaka Year : 2001 Bib : xxvii, 200 p. ISBN: 9840516116 Price : US\$ 15.00

Contents : Introduction. References. 1. Introduction. 2. Regional links, the village and its internal structural. 3. Women and social change. 4. conclusion. Appendix : Kinship network. Glossary of local terms. Notes. References. Index.

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Transcending Boundaries : Labour Migration of Women from Bangladesh  
Author :Tasneem Siddiqui

In recent time a major restructuring of the global economy has taken place. This, among other things, has resulted in an increase in short-term migration of labour. An important feature of such restructuring is higher demand for female labour. More and more women from developing countries are joining the short-term international labour force, to the extent that trend of feminisation is emerging in this labour force.

A large number of Bangladeshi women have also responded positively to such demand and joined the labour markets of Middle East and South East Asian countries.

This book is an attempt to understand the nature, scale and scope of female migration from Bangladesh. It identifies the major determinants and consequences of such migration through an analysis of economic and social costs and benefits derived from it.

The book finds that there exists a major contradiction between state policy and ground realities of female migration. Successive governments in Bangladesh have pursued a policy of either restricting or placing a ban on migration of certain categories of women.

However, such policies of government could hardly stem the flow of different categories of women from taking up employment beyond the national boundary. On the contrary, they have contributed to irregular migration, and to a large extent, made potential women migrants vulnerable to trafficking. The civil society organisations have also failed to appreciate women's motivation to migrate and provide demand driven services to them. The author argues that it is about time that the state, non-government and other civil society organisations respect women's decision to migrate and play a facilitating role

Pub :University Press Limited, Dhaka Year : 2001 Bib :208 p. ISBN : 9840515934  
Price : US\$ 15.00

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The Migration of Thai Women to Germany Causes, Living Conditions and Impacts for Thailand and Germany

Editors :  
Supang Chantavanich, Suteera Nittayananta, Prapairat Ratanaolan-Mix, Pataya Ruenkaew, Anchalee Khemkrut, Supaphan Kanchai, Aaron Stern Sakchai Kiatnakin, Thammasak Sittipongsut Supaporn Threesutthi

Pub : Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand Year : 2001 Bib : 136pp ISBN : 9740301878  
Price : US\$ 20.00

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The Hour of the Goddess  
Memories of Women, Food and Ritual in Bengal

Author : Chitrita Banerji



Food and cuisine are not just incidental to Bengal; they are essential to the Bengali's mental and cultural landscape. Like in agricultural communities the world over, food and ritual, food and social custom, food and culture, are deeply imbricated. Women's lives are closely bound with the production and preparation of food. This unusual book weaves a warm, evocative tapestry out of memories of food, ritual and women's lives in Bengal. In the skilful hands of the author, who writes of growing up from girlhood to womanhood in her native land, food and ritual become intimate experiences which definitively shape day-to-day life for the women of that culture. As memories of food preparation take shape, recalling associations of taste, smell and texture, a parallel thread of social commentary calls forth sharp observations; for example, how certain foods are 'forbidden' and what Bengali widows cannot eat. Eminently readable, this volume combines rigorous research into food and cultural history, social critique, and the immediacy and intimacy of memoir.

Pub : Seagull Books, Calcutta Year : 2002 ISBN : 8170461987 Price : US\$ 16.00

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Women in Post-independence Sri Lanka  
Edited by : Swarna Jayaweera

Sri Lanka achieved political independence in 1948. During the fifty years that have elapsed since then, the country has made considerable strides in various spheres. Adopting a gender perspective, this volume discusses the impact on women of the social, political and economic developments which have occurred during these eventful decades.

On the face of it, the country's record on gender issues has been remarkable: women have occupied and continue to occupy positions in the highest echelons of political power; the country ranks high on the list of developing nations in terms of its social indicators; and both men and women have enjoyed the franchise since much before 1948. However, a closer examination reveals that, despite all this, gender issues continue to be largely ignored in policy making and in important sectors of national development

Bringing together activists and scholars, this important book thoughtfully reviews the different paths Sri Lankan women have taken to achieve greater political and economic empowerment and control over their lives. The book is divided into two parts. In the first, a group of distinguished experts focus on various spheres where women are affected, including law and human rights; the impact of the continuing ethnic conflict and violence; education and employment; health and population; changes in social and intrafamilial structures; and the emergence of women's organizations. Together, these six chapters, preceded by an introduction which contextualises these issues, provide a comprehensive picture of the achievements and failures with regard to women in Sri Lanka over the last five decades.

The second part of the book presents the voices of Sri Lankan women themselves. Comprising interviews with women from different socio-economic strata and those who have experienced first-hand the effects of political upheaval and violence, these life stories add a valuable dimension to this volume by bringing alive the macro issues that are discussed in the first part.



With its thought-provoking and insightful discussion of a wide variety of gender specific issues, this volume is bound to attract activists and scholars in the fields of gender studies, politics, development studies, history and sociology.

Pub: Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi Year : 2002 ISBN: 076199503X (Hb) Bib : 371pp 22cm Price : US\$ 18.50

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Indian Woman: Through the Ages  
Author: V.Janapathy

Over the eras, women in India have been victims of all sorts of exploitation and tortures. Their plight has been well known, but no serious work was done on them for years, till awakening came and some scholars initiated to write on this weaker section of the society.

Since Independence, much has been done for bettering the lot of the fair sex and a lot has been written on the subject.

This study covers women's state and their status over the ages, which makes it a fundamental study in the discipline. It's a comprehensive and exhaustive book on Indian Women.

Pub: Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi Year: 2002 ISBN:8121207584 (Hb) Bib : xiv, 239pp, 22cm, Includes Index  
Price: US\$ 16.50

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Women and Law in India  
Prepared by: Women Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi

Pub: New Century Publications, New Delhi Year: 2002 ISBN: 8177080156 (Hb) Bib : 275pp  
Price: US\$ 16.00

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Women in Ancient India  
Vedic to Vatsyayana

Author : S.N. Sinha; N.K. Basu

Pub : Khama Publishers, New Delhi Year : 2002 Bib : 288pp HB 23cm with Bibliography & Index ISBN : 8185495572  
Price : US\$ 18.50

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Women : A Global Perspective  
Editors : Lucy Forsyth Townsend ; Gaby Weiner

On Feminism

Pub : Anu Books, Meerut Year : 2001 ISBN : 8185126978 Bib : 23cm HB 298p.  
Price : US\$ 14.25

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Searching for a non-violent life : case studies from the emergency homes  
by Suthisa Kongbua ... [et al.].

Pub : Gender and Development Research Institute : Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women, Bangkok  
Year : 1999 Bib : 54p 22cm Price : US\$ 10.00

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Jackson, Peter and Nerida M. Cook (editors)  
GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES IN MODERN THAILAND

Issues discussed in this book include gender and nationalism; extramarital sexual behaviour; views on what makes a good spouse; the changing roles of village women; adolescent sexuality; the myth of Thai gay paradise; first-person reference in Thai; prostitution and sexuality in literature; and gender, sex and prostitution in Buddhism.

Pub : Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, Thailand Year : 1999 Bib : 289p ISBN : 9747551071 Price : US\$ 40.00

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Justice for Women – Concerns and Expressions  
Author: Anand Justice A.S.

Pub: Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Delhi Year: 2002 Price: US\$ 11.75

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Perfect Wife: Stridharmapaddhati  
Author : Tryambakayajvan  
Translated from the Sanskrit by I. Julia Leslie

Tryambakayajvan is almost certainly the famous Tryambakarayamakhin (AD 1665-1750), minister to two of the Maratha kings of Thanjavur (Sahaji and Serfoji). Famous in his own right as a scholar of religious law, he is described in a contemporary text as a learned minister, the performer of Vedic sacrifices, and a patron of scholars. In the Stridharmapaddhati, Tryambaka summarizes for his eighteenth-century audience a tradition that was then already over a thousand years old. The treatise advocates conformity and Tryambaka is interested in women not as individuals but as parts that fit into and strengthen the whole. That whole, for him, is dharma. The work is, in itself, an admission of the power of non-conformist women to wreck the entire edifice of Hindu society. For, when women are 'corrupted', all is lost.

Pub : Penguin India, New Delhi Year : 2000 Bib : 392pp PB ISBN : 0140435980  
Price ; US\$ 5.00

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Identity, Gender and Poverty : New Perspectives on Caste and Tribe

Author : Maya Unnithan Kumar

Most studies of the tribal communities in India stress their social, economic, and political differences from communities that are organised on the basis of caste. It was this apparent contrast between tribal and caste lifestyle and, moreover, the paucity of material on tribal groups, that motivated the author to undertake this study of a poor tribal community—the Girasia—in northwestern India. While doing her fieldwork, she soon became aware that the traditional tribe-caste categories needed to be revised; in fact, she found them more often than not to be constructs

by outsiders, mostly academic. Of greater importance for an understanding of the Girasia is the wider and more complex issue of self-perception and identification by others, which must be seen in the context of their poverty as well as in the strategic and shifting use of kinship, gender and class relations in the region

Pub : Rawat Publications, Jaipur Year : 2001 Bib : 291p. Tables, Fig. Maps ISBN : 8170336961 Price : US\$ 25.00

Contents: Preface. 1. Introduction. 2. Historical background: the Rajput state and related identities. 3. Rajputs and Girasias in independent India: identity politics and administration. 4. Being a Girasia: the lineage and the village. 5. Across villages: marriage ideals, practices and strategies. 6. Resource management and the divisions of kinship and gender. 7. Girasia brideprice and the politics of marriage payments. 8. Religion and the experience of Kinship. 9. Class, resistance and identity. 10. Conclusions. Appendices. Glossary. Bibliography. Index.

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