



Books Received

General

Barbara Rogers, *The Domestication Of Women—Discrimination In Developing Societies*. Tavistock Publications, London and New York, 1980.

Examines how development planners deal with issues relating to women. Discusses western male ideology and how it works to discriminate against women in the planning process, often pushing them out of employment.

E. Ann Kaplan, *Women And Film—Both Sides Of The Camera*, Methuen, 1983. £ 6.95.

Examines how the “male gaze” in Hollywood films works to relegate women to marginality, silence or absence. Also analyses the work of contemporary European and women film makers in USA. Illustrated.

On India

Renu Chakravarty, *Communists In Indian Women’s Movement, 1940-1950*, New Age Printing Press, 1980. Rs 12.50.

An account by an active participant of women’s struggles in the decade before independence, and of women’s role in the Telangana, Maharashtra and Punjab workers’ and peasants’ movements.

Patrica Jeffery, *Frogs In A Well*, Zed Press, London, 1979. \$ 15.50.

Case study of women living in strict parda at Nizamuddin, New Delhi. Argues that Islamic ideology is not the primary cause for the continuance of seclusion, but that factors like men’s monopolistic control over economic resources and the gross insecurity of life in the world outside are more important in maintaining women’s acceptance of parda.

Hazel D’Lima, *Women In Local Government—A Study Of Maharashtra*, Concept Publishing Co., 1983. Rs 80.

Survey of women elected or nominated to panchayat bodies. Profiles and interviews. Makes suggestions for promoting participation of women in local government bodies.

Rekha Mehra and K. Saradmoni, *Women and Rural Transformation*, ICSSR and CWDS, Concept Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1983. Rs 70.

Two case studies—one of the Mahila Mandal scheme and its limitations, the other of how legislative and other influences have disrupted Kerala’s matri-lineal system of

inheritance, causing women to lose their land rights.

Jessie Tellis Nayak, *Indian Womanhood—Then And Now*, Satprakash Sanchar Kendra, 1983. Paperback: Rs 25 ; Hardcover : Rs 35.

Reference book. Contains case studies of some women’s employment generating programmes, profiles of women achievers, cartoons, poems, songs.

Manjusri Chaki Sircar, *Feminism In A Traditional Society—Women Of The Manipur Valley*, Shakti Books, Vikas Publications, New Delhi, 1984. Rs 150.

Research study of the Meitei community, now facing extinction. Comes to the conclusion that collective female power is an integral part of patrilineal structures in this community, even though women and men perform “complementary” roles in different spheres of work.

S.N. Ray, *Migrant Women Workers*, Bihar Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi, 1982. Rs 10.

Survey of life and work conditions, family back-ground of women migrants in four districts of Bihar, to discover the factors forcing them to migrate in search of employment.

Other South Asian Countries

Shamima Islam ed., *Exploring The Other Half—Field Research With Rural Women In Bangladesh*, Women for Women, Dacca, 1982. S 15.

Collection of 14 essays by researchers who have studied rural women’s lives in Bangladesh, and who seek to identify issues, approaches, methodologies for such research work, keeping in mind the special constraints involved in working with rural women.

Betsy Hartmann and James Boyce, *Quiet Violence- View From A Bangladeshi Village*, Zed Press, London, 1983. 5.95

Based on the experience of living for nine months in the poverty stricken village in Bangladesh, shows from concrete analysis of forces in the village that the violence of starvation in our world today is not inevitable or deserved, but results from exploitation and an unjust world which benefits the few at the expense of the many.

Else Skjonsberg, *A Special Caste- Tamil Women Of Srilanka*, Zed Press, London, 1982

Based on a research study of a Tamil speaking fishing village in northern Srilanka. Paints a picture of the lives of women there. Covers women’s position in the family; wife beating; work; unequal access to property, education, health, food, leisure and decision making. Describes and analyses the work day of employed husbands and supposedly unemployed wives to show how much more work women do and how much less rest they get.