

National Seminar
on
Gender and Violence: A
Challenge for Equitable Society
(15-16 October, 2014)

Organized by

RC 10 ‘Gender Studies’
Indian Sociological Society
and

Department of Sociology,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi



Twenty first century has brought in its trail a new hope for women. Dramatic changes have happened in the role, ambitions and attitude of women in the last few decades. Women have departed from their traditional role of reproducers, mothers and wives and have successfully adopted many roles which were earlier the preserve of

males only. However, women still are a vulnerable and insecure entity. They suffer deprivation, discrimination, humiliation and denial of basic human rights in varying degrees, almost at every stage of life and in nearly all situations.

Gender-based violence may be defined as any form of deliberate physical, psychological or sexual harm, or threat of harm, directed against a person on the basis of their gender. The UN General Assembly, in adopting the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defined gender-based violence as “any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women; including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.” Gender-based violence can also be directed against males who then become victims of violence in the family- by partners and children. However, the majority of persons affected by gender-based violence are women and girls, as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between women and men. Further, women and girl victims of violence

suffer specific consequences as a result of gender discrimination.

Gender-based violence is a world-wide issue that affects every social stratum in all cultures. It is deeply rooted in systems of kinship, religion, warfare nationalism, etc. However, gender violence is not yet considered to be a criminal act in many places in the world, and the status of women as full legal, social, economic, and political entities is by no means a universal standard. In most of the societies, violence against women is culturally sanctioned. Cultural violence, as envisioned by Galtung, is in many ways the root and legitimization of other forms of violence (direct and structural) since it lives in our brains, hard to see and get rid of it.

Forms of violence may vary from prenatal to old age. But it is experienced by women at every/any stage of their life-cycle, starting in infancy and continuing to old age. Examples include the preference for a male child, trafficking for labour and sexual abuse, rape, wife beating, food restriction, early marriage, marriage to a man who already has a wife, abduction, female genital mutilation

and wife inheritance. The 'Western' model of development as the role-model is under question. The increasing marginalization of women in the economy, their increasing landlessness and lack of access to resources had resulted in feminization of poverty. A significant relationship between the feminization of poverty and female-headed households has come into focus. Development programmes that are supposed to help women with their practical and material problems and to address the causes of their subordination often end up perpetuating it. Though women have worked for long hours, be it in subsistence societies or the newly developed industrial societies, their work has not been valued and their status remains low.

The seminar will explore the discursive, historical, political and social limits of modern society in the context of state laws, policies, institutionalized unwritten customs, traditions and their operation about gender-related as well as gender-specific issues. The seminar aims to engage with scholars and activists working in the field of creating a just and equitable society, where no one is

discriminated based on gender. It invites the participants to bring in the cases that enable further discussions in relation to broader contexts including social, political, cultural, economic and legal processes that underlie the construction of the gendered subjectivities. Some of the areas that need attention are listed below-

Sub-themes of the Seminar:

1. Concept of Violence: A Cross-cultural Perspective.
2. Religion, Culture and Gender Violence.
3. Discourse on Gender, Sexuality, and the Body.
4. Gendering Violence: A Debate on Development.
5. Law and Gender Justice in India.

The participants are requested to send their abstracts in not more than 300 words by 15th August 2014. Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated by 20th August 2014 and full length papers must be submitted by 1st October 2014 which shall be considered for publication. The abstracts/papers should be sent to the Organizing Secretary and Convenor/

Co-convenor of the seminar through emails.

Organizing Secretary: Dr. Arvinder A. Ansari, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (M: 0-9899451465).

arvinder2009@gmail.com

Convenor: Prof. Abha Chauhan, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu (M: 0-9419797709).

abhaveer@gmail.com

Co-convenor: Imtiaz Ahmad Ansari, Project Fellow, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (M: 0-9891486123)

imtiaz.ahmad01@gmail.com

Registration:

Early Registration: 25th September 2014

Fees:

Students- Rs 400/-

RC 10 Members- Rs 800/-

Others- Rs 1200/-

Fees After the last date:

Students- Rs.500/-

RC 10 Members- Rs 1000/-

Others- Rs. 1500/-

Registration Fees can be paid in cash or through Postal Order or Bank Draft

to be drawn in favour of *Prof. Abha Chauhan, Convenor RC 10 'Gender Studies', ISS* and sent at: Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, Jammu – 180006 (J & K).

Travel and Accommodation:

Delegates are requested to make their own travel expenses. However, the Organizers will provide free boarding and lodging with a registration kit from 14th afternoon to 17th October morning 2014.