



books

Women and Power: Fighting Patriarchies and Poverty

By Janet Gabriel Townsend, Emma Zapata, Joanna Rowlands, Pilar Alberti and Marta Mercado

In 1995, eight Mexican organisations agreed to work with the authors of this book in Tapalehui, Mexico to discuss how poor women tackle issues of power. The result of their five-day encounter is this book on self-empowerment of women, intended for a wide audience in rich as well as in poor countries. Although the book uses the words and experiences of specific women in Mexico, the country is merely a case study for workers and students around the world.

Hong Kong Rose

By Xu Xi (Sussy Chakó)

The latest novel of Xu Xi, a gifted and uncompromising storyteller, does not read like the typical 'Hong Kong writer.' She weaves a story of women and men who shrink, love, compromise and survive in the great cities they live in: Hong Kong and New York.



Poor women in most poor countries face new scales of poverty and ever-reduced services. But at the same time they are offered new opportunities to work in groups. The book examines the new scales and roles of organisations in most societies, from women's groups through social movements to non-governmental/non-profit organisations. It shares stories of women who learned new skills, learned the power to earn and make money. It also has a chapter that discusses different levels of power: e.g., the power in a woman's idea of herself, in her personal relationships, in groups from one women's group to alliances at regional, national or international levels. It closes with a chapter that discusses how to put them back into empowerment.

Rose Kho struggles to establish her own identity within her family, her marriage and the elite Chinese society of Hong Kong. Though far from having bound feet, she finds herself bound by the traditional expectations of family and society. How to find expression in her desires and in her career? Read how

This book shares direct experiences of rural women in building their own organisations, cooperatives and non-governmental organisations. It offers insights and positive results in rural women's endeavours, making this a good read for women organisers in rural and urban areas, for women who manage credit organisations and cooperatives as well as for students and academics who wish to understand the idea of self-empowerment behind the concept of 'development.'

Published by ZED Books Ltd, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. 1999. 200p. ISBN I 85649 803 4 (cased) and I 85649 804 2 (limp).

Rose Kho lives a double life and tries to maintain a balance between her wants and needs and that which is 'proper' and 'appropriate.' Finding herself wounded and hurt in the slow process of defining herself, Rose is by no means the ideal heroine. Though largely defined by her culture, her story is universal to all women.

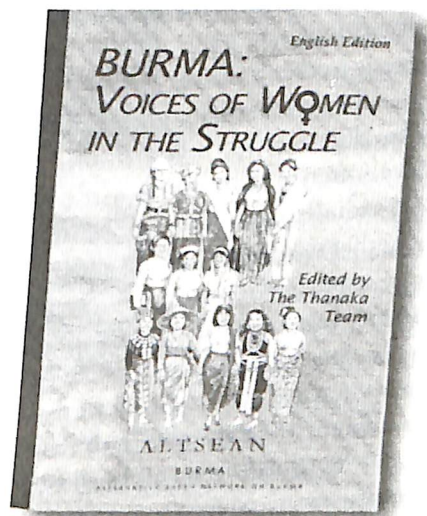
Published by Asia 2000 Ltd, 1101 Seabird House, 22-28 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong. 1997. 2873 p. ISBN 962-7160-55-5.

Burma: Voices of Women in the Struggle

By The Thanakha Team (eds.)

This small book belies its largeness in its scope and strength of its writers—women of Burma fighting for its freedom. Here is a collection of essays, short stories, letters and poems by 24 writers with different religious and political persuasions, all deeply involved in the struggle against the military regime.

Some pieces were written in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, others on the campuses of famous universities outside of Burma and some within the country itself. The writers come from different nationalities—Mon, Karen, Chin,



Burman, Karenni and Shan—some live in Burma, others are refugees and still others live in other parts of Asia, Europe and North America. Though diverse in culture, class and ethnicity all the pieces express a deep commitment for

a society where women, young and old, will actively participate.

It is hoped that this book will make women visible in the struggle for a democratic Burma. At the same time, the publishers wish to encourage more women to voice out their experiences and hopes within the wider struggle against political, social and economic structures that very often render women of all cultures invisible.

Published by Alternative Asean Network on Burma (ALTSEAN-Burma), c/o Forum-Asia 109 Suthisarnwinichai Road, Samsennok, Huaykwang, Bangkok 10320, Thailand. 1998. 116p. Tel: (66-2) 275-1811, Fax: (66-2) 693-4515, E-mail: <altsean@ksc.th.com>. ISBN: 974-86386-1-8.

Women, Work and Islamism

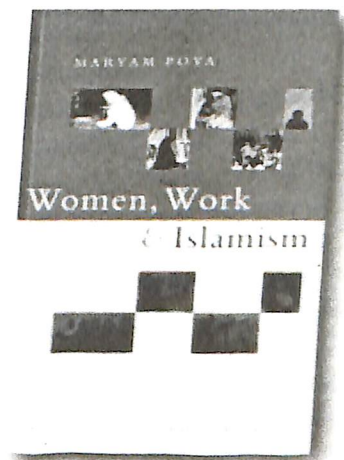
By Maryam Poya

Pioneering research, this book examines and analyses women's employment in Iran within the context of Islam, the role of the state and women's struggle for change. Covering the period after the 1979 revolution to the 1990s, it argues that the continuous struggle of women for change has led to a changing of gender relations. This book gives data and analyses on how women have challenged the roles that the state would want to box them in by tracing their role in the anti-imperialist struggles of the 19th century to their participation in the Iranian revolution up to the rebuilding of war-torn Iran and

their involvement in the formal and informal economy.

Women's struggles have challenged Islamic theology and the Iranian theocratic state forcing the state to adapt its ideological positions and practices. Because they are not a homogenous group, the book analyses the experiences of women who come from different social backgrounds with different levels of adherence to Islam.

An informative book as well on the struggle for independence of Iran, it also provides an introduction to Islamism, an analysis of women and the Islam debate and presents the latest study of women in labour in Iran.



Published by Zed Books Ltd. 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. 1999. 186p. ISBN: 1-85649-681-3 (hb); 1-85649-682-1 (pb)

Doing the Dirty Work? The Global Politics of Domestic Labour

By Bridget Anderson

Domestic work is vital and sustaining, and it is also demeaned and disregarded. Feminists have tended to regard domestic work as the great leveller, a common burden imposed on women by patriarchy and lazy husbands. This original research and study on migrant domestic workers in the North uncovers some uncomfortable facts about the race and class aspects of domestic oppression.

Paid domestic work in private households is disproportionately performed by racialised groups. A chapter on the United States of America specifically explores the connections between slavery and contemporary domestic service. Anderson also examines the extent to which migrant domestic workers sell not their labour but their whole personhood. She presents an

Pakistan NGO Review: Beijing + 5

This is a documentation of the NGO review process held in August 1999 in Pakistan. It assesses the progress made between 1995 and 2000 in Pakistan on the Beijing Platform for Action (PfA). In the absence of any government initiative on the national level, Shirkat Gah took the lead in undertaking the

understanding of the situation where a domestic worker is cast as inferior and explains why domestic work is more often undertaken by racialised groups, whether or not they are citizens of the state where they are working in. Racist stereotypes intersect with issues of citizenship resulting in a racist hierarchy which uses skin colour, religion and nationality that construct some women to be more suitable for domestic work than others.

This book offers a contribution to theory that is based on empirical research into the living and working conditions of migrant domestic workers in five European cities: Athens, Barcelona, Bologna, Berlin and Paris in 1995 and 1996. It maps the employment of migrant women in domestic work focusing on Europe. It describes their recruitment, work, salaries, hours, living arrangements and employment relations.

review process. It was conducted with the support and inputs of more than 300 groups and individuals from all four provinces and the capital city of Pakistan including representatives from the Ministry of Women's Development and its provincial counterparts.

The assessment presents a comprehensive report on the 12 Areas of Concern cited in the Beijing PfA. Each area of concern is treated by giving a



This empirical information is used to test the hypotheses that workers' immigration status and whether or not they 'live in' with their employer are key variables in determining their living and working conditions. The author addresses the inadequacy of conceptual tools designed to describe more 'traditional' forms of employment (those traditionally of concern to White male sociologists) or to describe the experience of 'women' within the domestic sphere (the experience of White middle-class women).

In this book, Anderson challenges the self-image of industrial democracies as equitable societies and feminism.

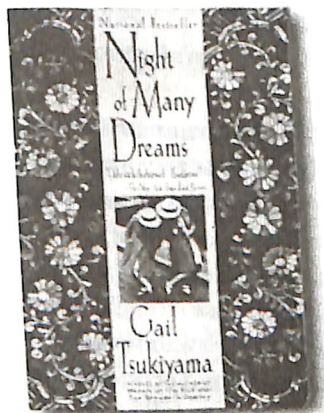
Published by ZED Books Ltd, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. 2000. 213 p. ISBN: 1-85649-760-7 (hb); 1-85649-761-5 (pb)

general overview of the situation in Pakistan, trends and initiatives undertaken by government and NGOs, and ends with suggestions on actions that need to be undertaken to address existing problems.

Published by Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, P.O. Box 5192, Lahore, Pakistan. 2000. 133 p. E-mail: <sgah@lhr.comsats.net.pk>; <sgah@sgah.brian.net.pk>.

Night of Many Dreams

By Gail Tsukiyama



Against the backdrop of World War II in Hong Kong, Joan and Emma, two daughters of the Lew family, grow up from young girls to young women. They learn to cope with loss and fear as they discover their strengths and nurture their love toward one other. After the war, Joan the beautiful elder sister hopes for a traditional family life, but after a series of troubled relationships begins a career as a Chinese film actress. Emma, inspired by the independence of Aunt Go, sets out on an artistic life in the American city of San Francisco. She gets her own dose of setbacks but finds comfort back home. Their sto-

ries show how strong family bonds can provide spiritual sustenance.

In her National Bestseller novel, Gail Tsukiyama writes a quietly powerful and understated story of women finding their way in the world, and the strength they derive from family ties. She writes with great sensory detail, allowing readers to touch, taste, and feel the world she creates.

Published by St. Martin's Griffin. 1998. 275p. 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010. ISBN: 0-312-19940-6

Asia-Pacific Post-Beijing Implementation Monitor, 1999 Health

This report gives a regional overview and analysis of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Pfa) in the Asia-Pacific region. Focusing on women and health, it contains reports from 33 government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the region. Issues addressed in this monitor are: reproductive health rights, trafficking in women, HIV/AIDS, impact of globalisation on women's health, conditions of women's health in situations of armed conflict, and indigenous women and other marginalised women.

Divided into five sections, the first section introduces the Monitor and the Beijing Platform for Action on women

and health. The second section presents government and NGO reports on the status of the post-Beijing implementation in 17 countries divided into sub-regions. Each sub-region report ends with an area of concern.

The third section gives an overview and analysis of the post-Beijing implementation of the Pfa. Information on the implementation of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 is found in this section.

The fourth section presents the Platform for Action, roles and responsibilities of the United Nations, information on the Beijing+5 Review, and developments on CEDAW and the Optional Protocol.

The final section provides a reflection on some key gender and develop-

ment issues in the region. Some articles focus on experiences and issues of women in situations of armed conflict, trafficking in women, health situation of indigenous women, impact of globalisation on women's health, and others.

Published by Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Gender and Development Programme. Undated. 389 p. P.O. Box 12224, Pesiaran Duta, 50770 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Tel/ Fax: (60-3) 651-9209; E-mail: <gad@pc.jaring.my>. ISBN: 967-9928-60-8



Children of Israel, Children of Palestine: Our Own True Stories

By Laurel Holliday

For the first time, Israeli Jews and Palestinians appear side by side in this remarkable book to share powerful feelings and reflections on growing up in one of the world's longest and most dangerous conflicts. Here is an anthology of personal stories written by men and women as young as 14 to as old as 76.

The 35 stories in this anthology were collected from kibbutzim in Israel and the occupied territories, as well as Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They recount personal experiences of a childhood surrounded by fear and hate, sharing with us how it is to be born into a heritage of defending their ethnicity at all costs and also their desire for peace. Take this parable retold by 18 year-old Redrose (a pseudonym): "Two frogs got trapped in a jar of cream. They couldn't jump out of the liquid and they couldn't climb because the sides of the jar were slippery. One frog said, 'By dawn I'll be dead,' and went to sleep. The second frog swam all night long and in the morning found herself floating on a pat of butter."

Published by Washington Square Press Publication of Pocket Books, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. (1998) 358 p. ISBN: 0-671-00804-8



Where Women Are Leaders

By Women's Feature Services, 1993

25 minutes, Colour

Distributed by Women's Feature Services

The film documents a literacy and equality movement for women through *jathas* or performances. The video shows clips from street plays and workshops found effective in teaching women, especially rural women on the basics of reading, writing and most important of all, their rights. It also shows the different circumstances women from urban and rural areas face and their similarities as they are given less opportunities than men e.g., in learning, in work.

This activity called *SAMATA* or the *jatha* for education and equality culminated in Uttar Pradesh, India where *jatha* members and leaders shared experiences and made plans for future activities. In their travel across India, they also drew links between various movements of social change.

Teaching the rudiments of learning though difficult is easier than changing attitudes both among women and men. This video hopes to inspire many others to work for women's rights.

Action Against Arrack: A Training Tape

By Women's Feature Service for UNIFEM, 1997

25 minutes, Colour

Distributed by Women's Feature Service

The tape documents the spirited campaign against the production and selling of *arrack*, a local wine very popular among the poor in urban and rural areas in India. It presents a brief history of the anti-*arrack* struggle, the strategies used to raise awareness of the problem, the social and economic implications of *arrack* and the successes and failures of the movement.

The film shows where action against *arrack* was successful, violence in homes were reduced and confidence of women improved.

The Indonesian Way

By Women's Feature Service

26 minutes, Colour

Indonesia, the world's fourth largest population in the world launches a family planning programme. The film documents how government, non-governmental organisations and religious groups work together in bringing about a community-based approach to family planning. Their strategy focused on raising public awareness on the importance of community health through clinical and non-clinical methods. Sex education was implemented in schools and universities.

Interviews of government officials, leaders of NGOs and religious groups show their general view on the success

of their effort: make the people own the project and show them that development can only come from their concerted work.

My Feminism

By Dominique Cardona and Laurie Colbert, 1997
55 minutes, Colour, VHS
Canada, Women Make Movies

A well-crafted documentary of interviews of women—activists, writers, professors and publishers—this video claims feminism is one of the most significant revolutions of the late 20th century. Gloria Steinem, Urvashi Vaid, bell hooks, Urvashi Butalia, Ailbhe Smyth and others share their incisive views on equality, race, gender, reproductive rights, sexualities, women's health, abortion, parenting, poverty, pornography, rape, love, marriage and sex.

With candor and wit, these women tell us how tough it is to be a feminist, why some women refuse to be called feminists, what moves women to work for their rights and freedoms and why they hold on to a vision of tomorrow that is devoid of inequality. For much as they admit the successes of the women's movement in terms of providing better health care for example, millions of women are poorer than the poorest man, enter the flesh trade, seen as objects of pleasure, and are victims of violence. Surely, enormous change in attitudes, both of men and women on women remains a cause to work for. But change has begun and feminism is irresistible.

Sex Trafficking: We're So Syndicated, Ma'am

31 minute-play written by Maria Socorro A. Paulin-Ballesteros, 2000
International Organization for Migration in coordination with The Theater Without Borders, KALAYAAN, PNATW and the government of Belgium
Colour, VHS
Distributed by International Organization for Migration

This 31-minute play on video condemns trafficking of women and children. Sex trafficking, a large and profitable business that cuts across borders, preys on poverty and the concept of women as sex objects. Thus the play uses the analogy of the thriving business of raising and selling chicken to that of sex trafficking.

The play is based on stories of three Filipino women victims of trafficking. It is available in Filipino, English, Cebuano, Waray, Hiligaynon and Ilocano languages.

The Hidden Story

By Shikha Jhingan and Ranjani Mazumdar, 1998
59 minutes, Colour
Distributed by Women Make Movies

A travelogue, this video allows us to examine the lives of four rural Indian women against the backdrop of rice fields, forests, rivers, grand temples and ancient ruins. The women narrate their personal stories of hard work as they battle against ethnic, class, caste and gender discrimination. They tell the story of the past and show how they

confront life in today's modern problems of industrialisation, deforestation and dams through their activism strengthened with their strong commitment to myths and traditions.

A powerful video that shows the hidden work and hidden lives of women, it also makes us reflect on how much or how little development has improved the lives of rural women.

Asian Women Speak Out

By Drew Detweiler
Colour
Distributed by International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)

Using Theatre of the Oppressed techniques and street theatre, the women and girls role-play examples of gender violence: wife beating, dowry murder and forms of sexual harassment like Eve-teasing in India and acid attacks by teenage boys in Bangladesh. Showcasing four countries: Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Nepal, the situations presented in the plays are nevertheless familiar. Women and girls are not safe in the home, the university, along the streets and highways—private and public places where nobody should be attacked nor feel afraid, at the least.

The video is an effective tool for group discussions: why do men and boys harass women; what are the roots of violence in a community, in a culture? How does gender violence impede the development of women as full individuals thus hampering a community's or a nation's progress?

GABRIELA

By Trix Betlam, 1988
67 minutes, Colour
Distributed by Women Make Movies

This video documentary looks at the work of GABRIELA, an alliance of women organisations and individuals in the Philippines. The alliance was established in 1984, named after Gabriela Silang, a Filipino nationalist fighter against the Spanish colonial regime. It brought together women from different walks of life: religious, workers, peasants, artists, prostituted women, academics and housewives. This formidable alliance took part in ousting the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

It's Up to Us

The video also zooms in on stories of two women leaders: how they found their voice in their home and community, eventually becoming leaders of their respective organisations.

It's Up to Us

By Bea Milwe, 1986
58 minutes, Colour
Distributed by Women Make Movies

A delegation from the National Black Women's Health Project in the U.S. goes to Nairobi, Kenya to attend the 1985 conference of the United Nations to mark the End of the Decade for Women. The result is a historical documentary presenting the highlights of the conference as women share experiences in organising self-help groups and discuss issues about appropriate technologies for developing countries, peace between Arabs and Israelis, racism, polygamy and reproductive health.

Through Chinese Women Eyes

By Mayfair Yang, 1997
52 minutes, Colour
Distributed by Women Make Movies

Anthropologist/director Mayfair Yang documents how Chinese women were constructed during the feudal past, under the leadership of Mao and in the present situation of commercialisation. Teachers, entrepreneurs, housewives, workers are interviewed on how they see themselves as women.

The video incisively discusses the effects of erasing gender differences under Mao and the changing concepts of femininity in the 20th century.

If These Walls Could Talk (2)

Team Todd Production
148 minutes, Colour

A full-length movie, *If These Walls Could Talk (2)*, is a warm, sensual and passionate story of three lesbian couples set in three different time periods. Each couple struggles with the pervasive discrimination against lesbians and taboos of lesbian love in a specific period. The story of Edith and Abby is set in the 1960s, where their love is kept secret and hidden from family and society. Linda and Amy's story, set in the 1970s, develops in the middle of the women's movement. The couple confront unwelcome attitudes towards lesbians who express themselves differently from other women. The third couple, Fran and Kali, strengthen their love as they decide to have a child and believe in a future that holds out the hope of less gender discrimination.

electronic
resources on
anti-racism

South Asia Citizen's Web
<http://www.mnet.fr/aiindex>

The South Asia Citizen's Web is an independent space on the net to promote dialogue and information exchange between and about South Asian citizens initiatives located in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and in their diasporic communities.

The main rubrics on this site are: civil society, peace, democracy, secularism, social movements, and the women's movement. It also offers information and other Websites on environmental campaigns, labour movement activism, human rights groups and campaigns, citizens action against communalism and religious fundamentalism, news, films, journals contents pages, research projects and book catalogues.

Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN)
<http://www.unesco.org/most/apmrnup2.htm>

The Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) was initiated by a number of scholars from Asia and the Pacific to develop institutional links and implement a research project entitled New Migrations and Growing Ethno-Cultural Diversity in the Asia and the Pacific Region. The project, coordinated by the Centre for Multicultural

Studies, University of Wollongong, was approved by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme for seed funding and project support in 1995.

The series of working papers that come out in the Website is part of the mission of the APMRN to research and publish trends and developments in the population movements of the Asia and the Pacific region. Working papers will be published regularly and will aim to provide reports on current research being undertaken by APMRN members. The working papers will be available through the APMRN and will allow researchers the opportunity to publish work-in-progress for the benefit of their network colleagues, as well as other interested scholars, policy makers and students.

The research project addresses some key themes of migration research: labour migration; border controls and border economies; sex workers, domestic workers, and the feminisation of migration; skill depletion as a result of out-migration; ethnic tensions in receiving countries; legal and illegal migration and a host of other issues.

Asia Pacific Centre for Human Rights and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflict

<http://www.law.murdoch.edu.au/apchr/links/Special.htm>

This Website, Human Rights Links—Specialist Areas in Human Rights features a listing of human rights issues that include children, war, internal conflicts, slavery and

others. Each topic offers Websites the browser can go to.

Crosspoint Anti-Racism Women

<http://www.magenta.nl/crosspoint/women.html>

The Crosspoint provides a list of women's organisations, publications and resource centres from Asia and the Pacific, North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Russia, Africa, the Far East and the Middle East. Updated monthly, it provides links in the field of human rights, anti-racism, refugees, women's rights, antifascism, Shoah, and other issues. It also lists links to Jewish organisations, migrant organisations and others.

The Crosspoint was built and maintained by the Magenta foundation in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism

<http://www.imadr.org>

The International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism or IMADR is an international non-profit, non-governmental human rights organisation devoted to eliminating all forms of discrimination around the world, forging international solidarity among discriminated minorities and advancing the international regime of human rights. Founded in 1988 by one of Japan's largest minorities, the Burakumin, IMADR has grown to be a global network of concerned citizens and minority groups with

regional committees in Asia, North America, Latin America and Europe. IMADR is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

IMADR engages in projects along its five programme areas: Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination, International Protection of Minority Rights, Empowerment of the Victims of Multiple Discrimination, Empowerment of the Victims of Multiple Discrimination and Facilitation of Indigenous Peoples' Development.

The elimination of racism and racial discrimination is the centerpiece of IMADR's mission. It has contributed to the successful organisation of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance which will be convened by the UN in 2001. IMADR also considers it important to highlight the forms of discrimination that have been perennial and persistent but are often ignored such as the discrimination against Burakumin in Japan, Dalits in South Asia and Sinti/Roma in Europe. IMADR engages in organising sub-regional, regional and UN seminars focusing on the ways to enhance the sub-regional, regional and international mechanisms to prevent and eliminate trafficking in women and children. It is also active in the International Migrant Rights Watch Committee, an initiative to promote migrants' rights and lobby for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.▶