

### **Gender, Education and Development: Beyond Access to Empowerment**

Edited by Christine Heward and Sheila Bunwaree

The improvement of female education is a top priority for education policy-makers and the development community. This book grounds the education of women and girls in the realities of their lives and experiences in diverse areas of the developing world. It draws on substantial experience in the field, giving voice to groups of girls and women hitherto invisible. New perspectives on previously ignored problems and social groups by policy-makers, aid agencies, and academics are presented. The authors go beyond the previous emphasis on access, problematising the content of education and the way it is experienced. The case studies range from the Arakambut of Peru, an indigenous group whose knowledge of biodiversity is threatened by formal education, to the changing experience of racialised education in South Africa.

The book also presents a critical theoretical analysis of the World Bank's view of women's education. It unpacks the ways in

which the Bank—the largest single funding source for education—conceptualises and actualises its educational priorities. The contributors take issue with the view that education for girls and women is important primarily as a cost-effective mechanism for making women more economically productive. They ask why the gender gap remains as wide as ever, in a decade where access to education has improved dramatically.

The book has an overview chapter on the impact of structural adjustment on education throughout Latin America and Africa, as well as detailed information on Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa, Niger, and Mauritius. It meets the urgent need to understand the education of women and girls in the economic, political and cultural contexts. It is necessary reading for students, academics and practitioners in education, development studies and women's studies.

Published by Zed Books Ltd., 7 Cynthia Street, London N19JF, UK; and Room 400, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010, USA . 1999, 223 p. ISBN 1-85649-631-7

## web resources

### **Rural Women and Communication Technologies**

The Rural Women and Interactive Communication Technologies Project Website is part of an action research project being conducted by a research team from Queensland University of Technology in Australia. The project aims to enhance rural women's access to communication and information technologies. The research team is working on this project in collaboration with seven industries and government partners, and about one hundred women living in various parts of rural and remote Queensland.

Website: <http://www.bus.qut.edu.au/rwp/>

Language: English

Mailing Address: Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

Tel: (61-7) 3864-2111

Fax: (61-7) 3864-1510

### **Girlstart**

Dedicated to narrowing the "digital divide" between boys and girls in the classroom, Girlstart seeks to encourage girls to develop their skills in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering by providing them a fun, all-girl, supportive, and collaborative environment. Programmes include schools, online classes, and summer and Saturday camps for girls.

The site is dedicated to making a difference by changing the way girls think. Girls also gain a greater appreciation of the achievements of women. The site prompts them to begin to realise their potential, thereby narrowing the divide between men and women in technology-related fields.

Website: <http://www.girlstart.org>

Language: English

Mailing Address: 608 West 22nd Street, Austin, Texas 78705, USA

Tel: (1-512) 916-4775

Toll-Free: 1-877-768-4775

Fax: (1-512) 916-4776

**NepalNet**

NepalNet is an electronic network involving over thirty different groups in Nepal including governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, and academic and research institutions. It is a collaborative Website initiative focused on sharing information about socio-economic development in Nepal. The site is a forum for the presentation of sustainable development concerns in agriculture, ecology and bio-diversity, education, economics, forestry, sociology and demography, policy and law, technology and infrastructure. Training materials in zipped format, statistical data and quick information on Nepal can be downloaded. The site also features highlights from vernacular and English daily newspapers.

NepalNet welcomes new partners to its community, and articles are welcome.

Website: <http://www.nepalnet.org.np/>  
 Language: English  
 E-mail: [info@nepalnet.org.np](mailto:info@nepalnet.org.np)

**Women's Educational Media (WEM)**

The mission of Women's Educational Media is to produce and distribute documentary films and videos that offer a perspective of how economic and social justice can be achieved, and to inspire diverse audiences to put their beliefs into action. WEM produces and distributes its own projects, as well as videos to enhance the public education, organising, and fundraising capabilities of non-profit, public-interest clients. It also provides technical assistance and fiscal sponsorship for other social change media projects and filmmakers.

One of its projects, *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*, is a highly acclaimed film shot in first- through eighth-grade classrooms across the United States. The film, intended for an adult audience, is a window into what really happens when educators address gay issues with their students in age-appropriate ways. With surprisingly funny and

moving footage, *It's Elementary* demystifies what it means to talk with kids about gay people. The film makes a compelling argument that anti-gay prejudice and violence can be prevented if children have an opportunity to have these discussions when they are young.

Website: <http://www.womedia.org/>  
 Language: English  
 Mailing Address: 180 Bryant St. Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94110  
 Tel: (1-415) 641-4616  
 Fax: (1-415) 641-4632  
 E-mail: [wemfilms@womedia.org](mailto:wemfilms@womedia.org)

**Women in New Media (WIN)**

Women in New Media aims to serve as venue for the professional growth of women in the new media industry, to serve as a catalyst in the enhancement of women in the digital industry, and to promote philanthropic endeavours. A network for professional women to exchange information and share resources, WIN is a forum where women can gain from each other's experience and expertise, as well as from their company.

The site's philanthropic mission is realised through outreach programmes designed to funnel knowledge and resources back to the community. It sponsors an "Annual Holiday Software Drive," which donates thousands of dollars worth of computer software to schoolchildren in underprivileged communities, as well as to seniors wishing to learn computer skills. WIN also has a programme where members serve as mentors to young girls to fuel their interest in technology. It is initiating a scholarship programme to encourage young girls to pursue careers in the areas of media and technology.

Website: <http://www.winm.org/>  
 Language: English  
 E-mail: [info@winm.org](mailto:info@winm.org)

**ASMITA: Media Organization for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality**

The general objective of Asmita, organised in 1988 by a group of women media practitioners, is to bridge the existing gap in participation, representation and access to media of women. Committed to find new ways and directions for women's progress, the group produces alternative publications on women in media and functions as a pressure group for the advancement of women through advocacy and campaigns.

After 13 years, Asmita has been able to record almost every event of the Nepali women's movement through its active participation. Its publications aim to influence the Nepali social consciousness so that gender equity is reflected in media, parliamentary discussion, government policies, intellectual debates, and common people's conversations. The group's literacy support materials reach numerous rural women.

Website: <http://www.asmita.org.np/>  
 Language: English  
 Mailing Address: Tripureshwor, Tulsi Plaza, P.O. BOX 4795, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Tel: (977-1) 252-445  
 Fax: (977-1) 267-929  
 E-mail: [asmita@healthnet.org.np](mailto:asmita@healthnet.org.np)

**Women On Line**

New technologies are producing new gaps between already disadvantaged groups in society and those in possession of knowledge and resources. For women, gaining basic knowledge and being able to follow the developments of these "tools" is a factor in their active participation in media, communication, and public discourse. Women on Line, a project of the AMARC (Association mondiale des radiodiffuseurs communautaires/World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) Europe Women's Network, was initiated to encourage women to explore these new technologies.

AMARC now has an online training kit composed of seven modules: Introduction to the Internet and Women's Networking Experiences on the Internet; Use of Electronic Mail (E-mail) and Mailing Lists; The World Wide Web (WWW) and How to Find Information on the Internet; Creation of Web Pages; Use of FTP (File Transfer Protocol) and Newsgroups, Use of Netscape as a Web Browser; Digital Editing with the software Cool Edit; and Introduction to Radio on the Internet.

Website: <http://www.amarc.org/wol/> and [www.amarc.org/europe/women](http://www.amarc.org/europe/women)  
 Languages: Spanish, French, English  
 E-mail: [europe@amarc.org](mailto:europe@amarc.org)

**The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) – Columbus Chapter**

A national organisation with nearly 200 professional and campus chapters nationwide, AWC was founded in 1909 by a small group of women journalism students of the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. National AWC membership has since grown to more than 10,000 women and men.

Communicators in broadcast and print journalism, graphic arts, public relations, corporate and association communications, photojournalism, education communications and research, marketing, publishing, technical writing, telecommunications, audio-visual productions, and communications law are affiliated with AWC.

Website: <http://www.binarysky.com/womenincommunications/history.htm>  
 Language: English  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1401 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, USA  
 Voice Mail: (1-614) 523-8222  
 E-mail: (Immediate Past President, Jami Goldstein) [jamig@mail.oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jamig@mail.oac.ohio.gov)

**The African's Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)**

FEMNET is concerned with the sharing of information and ideas between African NGOs to bring about a more effective focus on women's development. FEMNET's objectives are:

- ◆ To strengthen the role and contribution of African non-government organisations (NGOs) concerned with women's development;
- ◆ To create a channel through which these NGOs can reach each other and share ideas, knowledge and experience toward improving the condition of African women;
- ◆ To maintain close working relationships and foster partnerships, direct or indirect, with governments, United Nations agencies, the Organization of African Unity and other groups with similar objectives; and
- ◆ To publicise the network's activities and services through publications, awards, exhibitions and the mass media.

Website: <http://www.africaonline.co.ke/femnet/>

Language: English and French

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 54562, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (254-2) 741-301/20

Fax: (254-2) 742-927

E-mail: [femnet@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:femnet@africaonline.co.ke)

**Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)**

For many women's organisations in Africa, access to information about best practices and appropriate technologies, and the experiences of other groups working on similar concerns is a critical need. The Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), a non-government organisation formed in May 2000 by several women's organisations in Uganda, seeks to develop women's use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as tools for sharing information and addressing their various issues collectively.

WOUGNET's mission is to promote women's understanding of ICTs so they can take advantage of the

opportunities presented by these in solving national and local problems of sustainable development. WOUGNET is also interested in how these technologies can be integrated into traditional means of information exchange and dissemination, including radio, video, television, and print media, for women's empowerment.

Website: <http://www.wougnet.org/>

Language: English

E-mail: [info@wougnet.org](mailto:info@wougnet.org)

**Canadian Women in Communications**

Canadian Women in Communications is Canada's only national, bilingual, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the advancement and involvement of women in the converging communications field. It provides members with professional development and growth through its Mentoring, Networking, Information Sharing, Education, Recognition, Career Line, Motivation, Empowerment, and Support Services programmes.

Website: <http://www.cwc-afc.com/>

Language: English and French

Mailing Address: 67 Yonge Street, Suite 804, Toronto, ON M5E 1J8, Canada

Tel: (1-416) 363-1880 or 1-800-361-2978

Fax: (1-416) 363-1882

E-mail: [cwcafc@cwc-afc.com](mailto:cwcafc@cwc-afc.com)

**The Network of East-West Women (NEWW)**

The Network of East-West Women (NEWW) began as an international communication and resource network supporting dialogue, informational exchange and activism among those concerned about women's swiftly changing situation in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Founded in 1990 by women from across the United States and the former Yugoslavia, NEWW links over 2000 women's advocates in more than 40 countries committed to promoting tolerance, democracy, non-violence, health, and respect

for the institutions of civil society. NEWW supports action and joint projects inspired by feminist principles.

NEWW members represent all strata of society—writers, students, health care workers, journalists, lawyers, parliamentarians, professors, artists, union organisers, and feminist activists.

Website: [http://www.neww.org/about\\_neww.htm](http://www.neww.org/about_neww.htm)  
 Language: English  
 Mailing Address: 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 603, Washington, D.C. 20009, USA  
 Tel: (1-202) 265-3585  
 Fax: (1-202) 265-3508  
 E-mail: [neww@neww.org](mailto:neww@neww.org)

**Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC)**

The Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC) promotes dialogue, discussion, research, and scholarship concerned with women, feminism, gender, oppression, and social change. An affiliate of Western States Communication Association (WSCA), ORWAC publishes the journal Women's Studies in Communication and sponsors different programmes at the WSCA conventions.

Website: <http://www.orwac.org/>  
 Language: English  
 E-mail: [tess@etresoft.com](mailto:tess@etresoft.com)

**APC Women's Networking Support Programme**

The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APCWNSP) was established to promote gender equity in the design, implementation, and use of information and communication technologies, with special focus on the inequities due to women's social or ethnic background. It provides research, training, information, and support activities in the field of ICT

policy, skills sharing in access to and the use of ICT, and women's network-building. Its objectives are:

- ◆ to promote the consideration and incorporation of gender in ICT policy-making bodies and forums;
- ◆ to initiate and implement research activities in the field of gender and ICT;
- ◆ to advance the body of knowledge, understanding, and skills in the field of gender and ICT through training activities; and
- ◆ to facilitate access to information resources in the field of gender and ICTs.

Website: <http://www.apcwomen.org/>  
 Language: English and Spanish  
 Contact: Karen Banks  
 APC Women's Networking Support Programme Coordinator  
 Mailing Address: GreenNet, 74-77 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF, U.K.  
 E-mail: [karenb@gn.apc.org](mailto:karenb@gn.apc.org)

**The Association for Women in Communications - The University of Akron Chapter**

The Association for Women in Communications is a professional organisation that champions the advancement of women across all communications disciplines by recognising excellence, promoting leadership, and positioning its members at the forefront of the evolving communications era.

Website: <http://www3.uakron.edu/awc/>  
 Language: English

**DISCLAIMER**

**The descriptions and annotations above were culled from each Website's online information. While we do our utmost to verify this information, Isis International-Manila cannot guarantee the accuracy of information found on each Website.**