

Book Review

Gender Power Dynamics: Changing Context and Challenges (Part-I),

Editors- Prof. Asha Shukla, Prof. Sabiha Hussain, Dr. Jaya Phookan, Dr. N. Murugeswari,

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Gender Power Dynamics: Changing Context and Challenges (Part-I), edited by Prof. Asha Shukla, Prof. Sabiha Hussain, Dr. Jaya Phookan, and Dr. N. Murugeswari is a timely and thought-provoking edited volume that critically examines the complex relationship between gender and power in contemporary society. The book brings together ten scholarly contributions emerging from the five-day International Conference on “Gender Power Dynamics: Changing Context and Challenges,” held in November, 2024 organised by the *Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation* and the *Ved Foundation (India)*, in academic collaboration with *Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu*. The volume seeks to move beyond conventional understandings of power as domination and control and encourages readers to conceptualize power as a shared resource that can promote inclusion, equality and social transformation.

One of the major strengths of the volume is its diversity of themes and contexts. The chapters address tribal women's migration, women's double burden of employment and caregiving, gender and translation, cyber violence against women students, women's participation in STEM, cultural misogyny, women's empowerment, women's representation in policing, the transition from matriliney to patriliney among the Garos, and rape culture. This thematic breadth demonstrates that gendered power relations operate across family, workplace, education, technology, culture, law and state institutions.

Several chapters make particularly significant contributions to understanding contemporary forms of gender inequality. The chapter on tribal women and migration demonstrates that economic participation does not automatically translate into empowerment, as women's earnings and decision-making may continue to be controlled by male family members. The study also highlights how migration can generate both economic opportunities and social vulnerabilities. Similarly, the discussion of the “double burden” of formal employment and caregiving shows how women's entry into paid work has not necessarily transformed the gendered division of domestic labour. The chapter appropriately connects workplace policies, caregiving responsibilities and women's career progression, emphasizing the need for flexible working arrangements and shared domestic responsibilities.

The volume is particularly relevant in its engagement with emerging forms of gendered power in digital spaces. The chapter on cyber violence among women students reveals how harassment, cyberstalking and other technology-facilitated abuses can restrict women's participation in cyberspace and undermine their autonomy. Its emphasis on gender sensitisation, awareness and legal education makes the discussion relevant to contemporary educational institutions and policy debates.

Overall, the book succeeds in bringing together diverse empirical and theoretical perspectives while retaining a clear feminist concern with inequality, agency and justice. Its principal strength lies in demonstrating that gender cannot be examined independently of other structures of power such as class, caste, culture, occupation and technology. At the same time, the diverse nature of the contributions means that the theoretical and methodological depth varies across chapters; a stronger integrative conclusion connecting the individual studies could have further enhanced the coherence of the volume.

Nevertheless, *Gender Power Dynamics: Changing Context and Challenges (Part-I)* is a valuable contribution to Gender Studies, Women's Studies, Sociology, Social Work and allied disciplines. It will be useful to teachers, researchers, students, policymakers and activists seeking to understand changing manifestations of gendered power. Most importantly, the volume reminds us that achieving gender justice requires not merely addressing individual inequalities but transforming the institutional, cultural and social structures through which power is produced and reproduced.

