

Southern Regional Conference on 'Intersectional Approaches to Addressing Gender, Religious, Culture: South India Focus'

Organised Jointly by IAWS, KILA and Department of
Women's studies, University of Calicut, Kerala

Venue: EMS Seminar Complex

Date: 30th -31st Jan 2019, Kozhikode

Summary:



The conference looked at new paths of activism of women, particularly young women (urban), Dalit, Muslim and Adivasi groups, LGBTIQUE groups, disability groups. As was a southern regional conference, had a special session on the recent natural disasters the region faced and examine the gender dimensions of the same in terms of research, program, law, policy.

Intersectional analysis has shown that violence does not take place in isolation and that there are intersecting factors such as identities and institutions that lead to gender-

based violence. Noted to caste, religion varied forms of patriarchies intersect as witnessed in the recent spate of violence against inter-caste marriages in south Indian states in particular or the resisting dominant caste sexual harassment leading to beheading of a Dalit girl.

The sub themes are as followed.

1. Gender, Religion, Culture: Patriarchies and Power
2. Interrogating Violence and Honour in the inter-caste/ inter-community relations
3. Contemporary challenges – Women's Studies & Women's Studies Centres
4. New research in gender studies – Young scholars from varied disciplines
5. New Modes of Activism: Remaking the Gender Order (Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim women, LGBTIQUÉ, Disability rights, urban groups, labour unions)
6. Addressing gender inequalities in local governance & decentralisation
7. Plenary – Gender Dimensions in Natural Disaster: Programme, Policy, Law: South India focus

Introduction:

As part of the convergence work with sexual minorities, women, child and Dalit IAWS invited Ondede to take part in the conferences to discuss on the topic New Modes of Activism: Remaking the Gender Order (Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim women, LGBTIQUÉ)

As per the objective of the conferences from Ondede SanaSuman a program manager took participation for the two program.



Discussion:

Some of the important points: Why women in Governance, Issue of HR, Social Justice, Adult franchise, Sustainable Development goal.

Gender Gap Analysis report 2018, in term of allocation of resources and opportunities between men and women- WEF from 2006, India's overall rank 108/149, political empowerment, health, education, economic participation, Macro to micro gender in equity is visible only ten countries achieve 80% equality local actors have major responsibility.

Some of cultural capital under private and public patriarchy in natural haves and have not fate, gender inequality in the Karma believe along with traditional leader's supreme social power, economic and political power and the intersectionality of caste, class and gender in PRI

Gap between rhetoric and reality of the PRI is non-political entity in policy candidature itself decided by local elites and unopposed roster system, lot system elites inclusion of marginalise in decision making in which women's participation qualitative role of women collectives lack of solidarity, participatory democracy denial of women in public space denial in decision making silences social audit in policy not in practice.

Dalit women perspective in low culture capital due to rigid socialization it is the internal factors more than external factors hinder the progress youth try to challenge, low income, low education poor sanitation on separate hamlets, temples, denial of burial grounds, denial of inter caste marriages. Graded inequality among dalit vicious cycle.

Enabling Environment on the power within one can survive and the knowledge empowerment of good governance practices of response of stakeholders in particular sensitive bureaucrats on the proration of social capital by elected women as the role of civil societies in promoting women leadership irrespective of caste and class.

Decentralization in the context of the local election 2016 not yet conducted 50% reservation is still in paper decision making of MP MLA controls the power of the grama sabha participatory democracy which is the 1+2+ signature of the community based training is very poor to turn over on the follow up women reluctant to attend due to private patriarchy in financial power control through at local level no remuneration to elected representatives of self-esteem – Financial constraints.

Positive Outcome of the reservation and opportunity to achieve higher position in politics, dalit women more assertive than others positions in politics, dalit women more assertive than others of good governance practices women lead, women become visible in public space, zero tolerances towards corruption bargaining power improved AP in 2011 set a model empowered to empower other women is the trend.

Speaker's observations:

Dr Joy elamon from KILA gave some of the Addressing gender inequality in local governances and decentralisation and some of the inclusion of the identities in the policy on the transgender welfare scheme and also inclusive of the all gender in the present governances.

Thulasi Teacher from president of All Kerala Grama panchayat president association she gave the challenges of the transgender inclusive in GP in the local and the important of the participation in GP whereas the women's movement should make a effort to include the transgender in GP and it makes the inclusive and we are trying to communicate to them to take participant and to understand the governances and make the changes in society in the Kerala state also she also strongly recommended the community and other supporters to mobilise the community to take part in GP.

Soya Thomas, state level programme manager, KUDUMBASHREE State mission, Addressing gender inequalities on gender development and the KUDUMBASHREE as the mission of state poverty eradication in the state which highlights the economic empowerment, social empowerment, women empowerment, micro empowerment, gender development. Gender integration demand from the community of economic activities to right based initiatives and also looks on the violence's against on the women and child, assets and earnings of CBO the platform empowerment and convergence and the objective of the KUDUMBASHREE is on Governances, power position, Decision making and participative communities and driven activities on the control on the assets and also access to resources and services availabilities of resources services. As part the KUDUMBASHREE some of the transgender are also engaged with the services of the KUDUMBASHREE and the lead of their livelihood for the transgender communities and the 44 communities' organisation are in collaboration working under the KUDUMBASHREE.

Sana Suman focused of the new mode of the activism in Karnataka on the convergence perspective of the ondede organisation focused on the convergence working on different perspective Vision Ondede envisions a society that provides access is non-discriminatory and gender-just. Mission To create a space for dialogue and support and strengthen action to visibilize issues of Dignity-Voice- Sexuality in relation to children, women and sexual minorities. Along a brief on history of the formation of the Ondede and the activism started on by the new perspectives of the transgender communities and the campaign on domestic violence, sexual violence and transgender violence which leads to the law change which is the need concern of the community. And spoken about the section 377 on decriminalisation of the same sex and the struggle of the success in which the activism played a major role and need to focus on the collaboration with women's movement to build solidarity and strengthen the support system among the different groups. Also focused on the how the activism was got merged with the relationship between HIV prevalence and not focused on the variation in human rights for sexual minorities was not statistically significant correlations between human rights and struggle of advocacy work but the HIV prevention project made the community members to divert the activism from human rights to HIV focused, further supporting the need for increased rights among marginalized populations in order to better inform evidence-based policymaking activism started with new leaders which made different level of developments in present.

Conclusion:

New issues have also emerged from the recent experience of organized attempts to brutally suppress Transgender issues ferment intersecting with organized attempts at communal polarization and promotion of communal hatred. Recurrent practices of 'dishonouring' Transgender and women in the name of community honour, and the virulent attacks on inter-faith marriages, do indeed appear to share features in common with violence against inter-caste marriages, though on a stridently political and communal register. Women's studies has from its inception, been committed to peace and communal amity as a basic condition for progression towards equality and emancipation. The adverse effects of politicization of religion on the advance of equality for Transgender and women, as well as contemporary articulations of women's rights and transgender rights from within minority communities, are all important issues before this IAWS Conference.

There are other minorities' rights movements for democratic rights and equality have come to the fore in recent years. The disability rights and sexual minorities rights movement has expanded in scope and scale in recent years, and this conference will make space for integrating the convergences perspective among their location within the broader themes of the conference, while also providing a platform for articulation of their special issues. The Conference had also include voices of sexual minorities on the integration of the issues in women's movement which have the scope on the dialogue on the domestic violence, sexual violence and transgender rights on the convergence with different groups for the solidarity and to build a support system and work in collaboration and discuss their key concerns, including but not restricted to discrimination, prejudice, stigma, violence, as well the articulation and assertion of their right to dignity and equality of special significance is the improvement of different forms of militarization, and the immediate impact on women's rights, external as well as internal to their existence and location in the societal structures and regions. Issues of conflict and peace thus form an essential component of the Conference, in order not only to debate and discuss, but also to develop theoretical research in tandem with women's strategies and movements for peace and security.