

## **Theme 5**     *Gender and Development: Overview*

- Objectives
- To learn to view the process of development as a contested ideological, political and cultural terrain;
  - To develop a holistic notion of development;
  - To learn how to ground development theory and practice in the agency and every day lives of women;
- Focus questions
- What insights do Southern scholars and practitioners offer on 'gender and development' theories and practice? Given 'gender' as a diverse category, how does a gender perspective enrich our understanding about development? Does it help us to sort through the contestations about development? Or does it add complications that render the task of identifying development strategies more elusive?
- Relevant cases
- “Reality and Analysis: personal and technical reflections on the working lives of six women” Chen, M.; Jhabvala, R.; Kanbur, R. Mirani, N.; Osner, Karl (Eds), WIEGO; Exposure and Dialogue Program, Cornell University, Self-Employed Women's Association, ([SEWA](#)), 2004. A group of development analysts had a dialogue about labor market, trade and poverty issues in 2004. They preceded the dialogue with exposure to the realities of the lives of six remarkable women from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Gujarat, India. The struggles faced by the authors provided the frame for the technical dialogue that followed. This is a Compendium of personal and technical reflections of the analysts involved in the exercise. [Full Text: English](#)
  - **Anthology prepared for the First Graduate Course on Local Human Development, Gender, Childhood, Population and Health** Marquez, Miguel, Fleitas Ruiz, Reina (eds.), Universitas/Cuba, UNDP/PDHL, Cuba, 2006.  
This anthology collects some texts that reflect the convergence of several actors, who established the First Graduate Course on Local Human Development, Gender, Childhood, Population and Health. The works present different viewpoints of diverse disciplines about an equitable and human development. [Full Text: Spanish](#)
  - **Gender, Economies and Entitlements in Africa**, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, Gender Series, ([CODESRIA](#)), Dakar, Senegal, 2004. This book draws extensively on feminist methodologies to discuss gender, economies and entitlements in Africa. It deals critically with a broad range of themes that highlight the structural insensitivities, stereotypes, injustices and inequalities that women are often victims of, despite their significant contributions to household and national economies throughout Africa. [Full Text: English](#)

- **Study on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Domestic Violence Issues of Women in Guyana**, Red Thread, Guyana, 2000.  
This study is authored by **Red Thread**, a collective of feminist activists and academics based in Guyana. It explores the interconnections between reproductive and sexual health and domestic violence. The research methodology that Red Thread has used here is as central to this study as its conclusions. Feminist research methods were instructive to break down unequal power relations among the researchers and the researched. As such, this study is an excellent example collaborative work among academics and women's groups representing diverse positionalities within the North and South. [Full Text: English](#)
- **Trade, Globalisation and Gender – Evidence From South Asia**  
Edited by Dr. Veena Jha, UNCTAD, India, December 2004  
The publication explores the linkages between liberalised International Trade, Globalisation and Women in the South Asian region. This examines the implications of trade agreements and global economic integration on women's livelihood in South Asia, in both the formal and informal sectors. In addition to important background material, it offers four case studies about India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka ([link](#))

### **Illustrative readings**

Aggarwal, Ravina (2002). "Trails of Turquoise: Feminist Enquiry and Counter-Development in Ladakh, India" in Saunders, Kriemland (ed) **Feminist Post-Development Thought: Rethinking Modernity, Post-Colonialism and Representation** New York: Zed Books.

Beneria, Lourdes and Gita Sen. "Accumulation, Reproduction and Women's Role in Economic Development: Boserup Revisited." **Signs**, 1981, 7(2): 279-298.

Devoken, Marianne (ed) (2001). **Feminist Locations: Global and Local, Theory and Practice** New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.

Eade, Deborah, (ed) (2002). **Development and Culture: A Development in Practice Reader**, Oxfam.

Escobar, A. (1995). **Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World** Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Fernandes, Leela (2001). "Rethinking Globalization: Gender and Nation in India" in Devoken, Marianne (ed) **Feminist Locations: Global and Local, Theory and Practice** New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.

Kabeer, Naila. (2003). **Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: A Handbook for Policy Makers and Other Stakeholders**. London:

Commonwealth Secretariat.

Kabeer, Naila. (1994). **Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought**. London, New York: Verso.

Kelkar, G.; Jahan, R; Nathan, D., "We Were In Fire, Now We Are In Water: Micro-Credit and Gender Relations in Rural Bangladesh", IFAD/UNIFEM, Gender Mainstreaming Asia, 2004.

 [Full text - English](#)

López Montaña, Cecilia (2004). **Globalization, Poverty and Millennium Goals from a Gender Perspective** Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe, [Neticoop](#), Uruguay.

Subramaniam, Banu (2003). "Imagining India: Religious Nationalism in the Age of Science and Development" in Bhavani, Kum Kum, Foran, Johan and Kurian, Priya (eds) **Feminist Futures: Re-Imagining Women, Culture and Development** New York: Zed Books, pp. 160-178.