

# **WOMEN AND SOCIETY**

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**MITTAL PUBLICATIONS  
NEW DELHI (INDIA)**

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**First Published 2020**

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Published and printed by Krishan Mittal for Mittal Publications  
4594/9, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110002, India.  
**Phone:** 23250398, **Telefax:** 91-11-41564398  
**e-mail :** info@mittalbooks.com  
**Website :** www.mittalbooks.com



# CONTENTS

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<i>Preface</i>	vi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	xiii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xv
1. Theory of Over-Determination: Beyond Feminism – <b>INDRANI BASU</b>	1
2. The Status and Struggle of Muslim Women in India – <b>SK KAMRUZZAMAN</b>	23
3. The Role Differentiation in Domestic Work and Growing Social Tension: A Sociological Analysis of Changing Relations in Family – <b>PARAMA RAY &amp; SAMIR KUMAR MUKHERJEE</b>	41
4. Sharing the Responsibility, Care and Empowerment of Elderly Women with the Family: A Sociological Study on Old Age Homes in West Bengal – <b>SOUMITRA SARKAR</b>	55
5. Corporate Social Responsibility and Empowerment of Women – <b>PRIYANKA SAHA</b>	67
6. Women and Financial Literacy: A Theoretical Backdrop – <b>RITABRATA TARAFDER</b>	79
7. Role of Education in Women Empowerment: Study of Women Professions – <b>AMIT KUMAR MANDAL</b>	89
8. Awareness towards Health, Hygiene and Nutrition among Adolescent Girls in District Srinagar – <b>AFREEN NIYAZ &amp; NAHEED VAIDA</b>	101
9. Sensitizing Women's Reproductive Health Needs: Key Insights for Family Welfare Programme – <b>SOURAV MADHUR DEY</b>	123

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## 2

# THE STATUS AND STRUGGLE OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN INDIA

SK KAMRUZZAMAN

### Introduction

Though Muslims are very much fundamentalist in their practices and they believe that their belief and practices are equal, not changeable, but it is fact that on the bases of social aspect, Muslim's belief and practices are variable. According to Louis Dumont's theory, the religious ideology of Islam has direct link with castes (*jati*), endogamy, hereditary professional specialization and hierarchical relationships. According to Islamic scholars, Muslims in India have been classified by three main schools of thought—the Barelvis, Deobondis and Ahl-e-Hadiths, as well as the Twelver and Ismaili Shiite groups. So in social context Islam is not homogeneous. Muslims have so many stratification and differences on their socio-cultural life. Even they have long division and differences on the bases of regional, ethnicity and socio-economic backwardness. On the basis of origin, they are also classified into Asraf, Ajlaf and Arzal. On the practices of sariyati beliefs they even have four sariyati groups—The Hanafi, The Shaafi, The Hambali and The Maliki. Although World Muslims are categorize as Shiyas and Sunnies belief on Khalifa (believing on Khalifa Umar



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e-mail : [info@mittalbooks.com](mailto:info@mittalbooks.com) Website : [www.mittalbooks.com](http://www.mittalbooks.com)

ISBN 81-8324-954-X



₹ 1100