

**International Seminar**  
**on**  
**“Religion & Gender: Beliefs, Practices and Beyond”**

**Report**



**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**

**RELIGION AND GENDER: BELIEFS, PRACTICES, & BEYOND**

مذہب اور صنف: عقائد، طرز عمل اور اس کے آگے.

**ORGANISED BY**

**CENTRE FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH (CSR) NEW DELHI**

**AND**

**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN EDUCATION, MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD**

**SPEAKERS**

 <p><b>PROF. SYED AYNUL HASAN</b> Vice Chancellor, MANNU, Hyderabad</p>	 <p><b>DR. CELENE IBRAHIM</b> Harvard Divinity school Harvard University/Groton School, USA</p>	 <p><b>DR. MOHAMMAD AKRAM NADVI</b> Dean, Cambridge Islamic College, UK</p>	 <p><b>PROF. REKHA PANDE</b> Former Head of the CWS &amp; Prof. in History Department, University of Hyderabad</p>	 <p><b>DR. MANISHA SETHI</b> NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad</p>	 <p><b>PROF. SABIHA HUSSAIN</b> Prof. at SNCWDS JMI, New Delhi</p>	 <p><b>PROF. ARVINDER A. ANSARI</b> Dept. of Sociology JMI, New Delhi</p>
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 **27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  **10:00 AM** **Watch Live**    **SH Library Auditorium MANUU Hyderabad**

The Department of Women Education (DWE), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in collaboration with the Centre for Study & Research (CSR), New Delhi organized an International Seminar on "Religion & Gender: Beliefs, Practices and Beyond" on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Prof. Syed Aynul Hasan, Vice-Chancellor presided over the inaugural. He pointed out the subtle gender prejudices in English, Urdu and Greek literature, movies and arts. The audience appreciated his critical appraisal of the historical narrative. He underlined a sense of protest in most of the contemporary writings of women as a result of age long oppression against women. The session started with the welcome address by Dr. Ameena Tahseen, Head, DWE. She also gave a brief introduction about the seminar. Mr. Shujauddin Fahad gave brief introduction about CSR. Dr. Celene Ibrahim, Harvard University/Groton School, USA in her virtual keynote address broke the age-old perception of religion being an oppressive force against women and provided with women-centrist interpretation of religious text. While raising some key questions to ponder on the theme she also provided a way forward. The chief guest, Prof. Arvinder A Ansari, Department of Sociology, JMI in her address welcomed the theme of the seminar and its discussion on the inter-sectionality of Gender and Religion and also problematised the issue in the Indian context. She provided various illustrations in which the prejudice is reflected in society. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Ajailiu Niumai, Director, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), HCU while sharing her observations and long experiences of research about gender, religion and culture in North East region of India said that all religions basically focuses on equality. Practically it is not so equal, because when we look at leadership, it is mostly men who are the priests. In today's time good numbers

of women priests are there in western countries but India has only a handful of women priest. Dr. Shabana Kesar, Assistant Professor, DWE convened the programme.

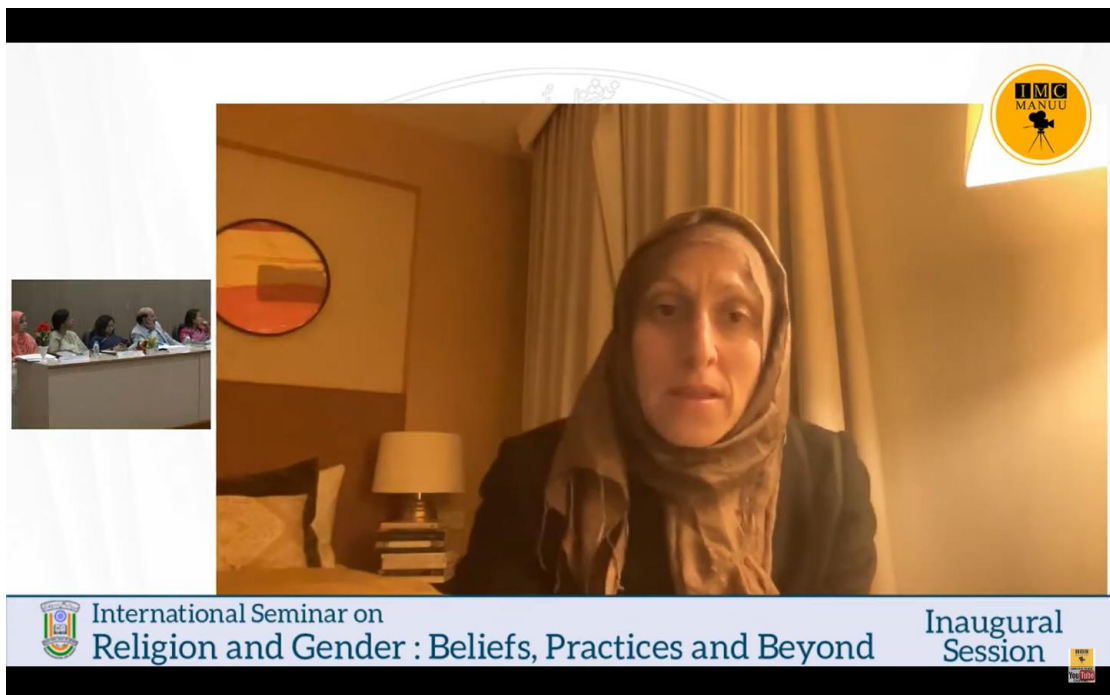
The inaugural session was followed by a plenary session based on the theme “Religion and Gender: A cross cultural practices in India”. Eminent personalities from different fields were invited as panelists. Prof Shahida, Professor, Department of Women Education and Director I/c Centre for Women Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad, Prof. Arvinder Ansari, Dept of Sociology & Honorary Director, CSSEIP. JMI. New Delhi, Dr. Farzana Khan, Program Head, My Choice Foundation, Hyderabad, Dr. Sr. Laila Francis, St. Francis Junior college, Hyderabad, were the panelists. Dr K.M Ziyauddin moderated the session. The panelists came out with the opinion that though all religions speaks of giving women their due rights but in practice women have to face gender discrimination in almost all spheres of life. The session was opened for question hour at the end from the audience.

After the lunch break two parallel technical sessions were conducted. The first technical session had six paper presenters viz, Dr. Adis Duderaja, senior lecturer, Griffith university, Australia, Mr. Shujaatuddin Fahad, Research Associate CSR, New Delhi, Dr. Shabana Kesar, Asst Prof, Dept of Women Education, MANUU, Hyderabad, Ms. Zeeshan Sara, Asst Prof, Dept of Islamic Studies, Mr Syed Wajahat Ali, Student of M.A Gender Studies, JMI, New Delhi, Dr. Mohd. Rizwan, Deputy Director, CSR, New Delhi presented their research papers based on the main theme. Prof. Amina Kishore, Former Dean, School of languages, linguistics & Indology, MANUU, Hyderabad chaired the session and Prof. Mohd Shahid, Dept of Social Work co-chaired the session. The session was followed by question hour.

The second technical session also had six paper presentations from research scholars of different universities viz, Mr. Israr Ali & Tanveer Ahamd Lone from Dept of Women Education, MANUU, Hyderabad, Ms. Nada TK from JNU, New Delhi, Dr. Najiya from AMU, New Delhi, Ms. Dona Biswas from CWDS, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar university, New Delhi and Mr. Abdul Moid from Dept of Pol.Science, MANUU, Hyderabad. This session was chaired by Prof. Sabiha Hussain from Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women Studies, JMI, New Delhi. And it was Co- chaired by Prof. Fahim Akhtar, Head Dept of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad.

The seminar concluded with the conduct of valedictory session in the evening. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. Farida Siddiqui, Dean, School of SA & SS, MANUU, Hyderabad. She stressed on the fact that how religion reinforces the gender stereotype roles for women in different walks of life. The valedictory session started with brief presentation of seminar report by Dr. Mohd. Rizwan, Deputy Director, CSR, New Delhi. The valedictory address was virtually presented by Dr. Mohd. Akram Nadvi, Dean, Cambridge Islamic college, UK. He presented his idea on Gender in Islam. It was then followed by the virtual address of chief guest by Prof. Rekha Pande who illustrated the status of women in Hinduism. Later address of Guest of Honor was delivered by Prof. Sabiha Hussain from Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women Studies, JMI, New Delhi. She underlined how societal norms shape the gender roles of women in different religious societies. Dr. Ameena Tahseen, Head, DWE gave vote of thanks at the end and Dr. Shabana Kesar, Assistant Professor, DWE convened the programme.

**Few Glimpses of the seminar**





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Women in Hinduism  
Rekha Pande  
Professor Emeritus, Henry Martin Institute, International Centre For Research, Interfaith Relations And Reconciliation, Hyderabad



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Valedictory  
Session