

Violence against Women in West Bengal-Bangladesh Borderland

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Abstract

Borderlands are not just a land or a space created in the particular process of boundary demarcation. It is the land where the security of any state upholds the maximum importance. Previously boundary and borderlands have always been understood in association with national security and the presence of security force but in the present age there are other social factors like identities, values, culture, norms and most importantly gender which come to constitute 'borderlands'. Women are the most vulnerable part of a society, and when it comes to borderland, then the question of women becomes many times more problematic. From gender perspective, women are seen as the 'margin' of the society but if we compare the situation of borderland women with that of the women living in places faraway from border, then we will find that women in borderlands are "margin within a margin". Women in the border are often marginalised not only from the state's security framework but also from academia and most importantly different types of violence. Borderland women are always prone to violence they often becomes the victim of border politics. The main aim of this paper is to analyse the patterns of violence against women in West Bengal-Bangladesh borderland areas. The women from this West Bengal-Bangladesh border areas are often suffers from four major issues-trafficking, women are being used in smuggling, ill opportunities in the field of health and education, domestic violence. While the first two deals with hard-core violence against women, the latter two proclaims softer violence against women.

Keywords: Borderland, Gender, marginalised, trafficking, violence, Smuggling.