



different places,
different voices
*gender and development in Africa,
Asia and Latin America*

EDITED BY
JANET H. MOMSEN & VIVIAN KINNAIRD

DIFFERENT PLACES, DIFFERENT VOICES

Gender and development in Africa, Asia and
Latin America

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Janet Henshall Momsen and
Vivian Kinnaird



London and New York

First published 1993
by Routledge
11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE
Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada
by Routledge
29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001
Reprinted 1995

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Typeset in Baskerville by
J&L Composition Ltd, Filey, North Yorkshire
Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Mackays of Chatham PLC, Chatham, Kent

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available
from the Library of Congress

ISBN 0-415-07538-6 (hbk)
ISBN 0-415-07563-7 (pbk)

DIFFERENT PLACES, DIFFERENT VOICES

In the developing world today the subordinated position of women is exacerbated not only by patriarchal attitudes but also by economic crisis and the legacy of colonialism. The traditional model for women has been housework and childcare. However, new socio-economic demands and individual motivation have created new opportunities.

Different Places, Different Voices analyses the changing lives of the women of the South through the voices of female geographers from the developing world. An emphasis on location and positionality highlights the differences created by place and challenges much of the feminist and post-colonial scholarship of the West.

The focus on place, with context-specific studies of individual regions, results in a natural grouping by continent of the chapters within the book and emphasises the diversity of identities. The twenty case studies present regional perspectives by Third World geographers on aspects of urban and rural development, household reproduction and production and community organisation. There is a balanced coverage of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania with contextual and theoretical introductions to each continent by local leading feminist geographers.

Many topics covered within the case studies fall within established geographical fields of enquiry – human/environment relations, demographic analyses and migration; others exemplify the broad range of issues as part of a ‘new geography’ that is bold in embracing new areas of enquiry and methodology. It will appeal to students of development, women’s studies, geography and sociology.

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PREFACE

This book consists of selected papers given at the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau Workshop held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in April, 1989. This was the first conference on gender and development for geographers. It brought together nearly one hundred academic geographers and other social scientists, faculty, postgraduate and undergraduate students, from over 40 countries. In addition to Commonwealth citizens, participants came from Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Iceland, Spain, Taiwan, Japan and the United States. The Workshop was co-sponsored by the International Geographical Union Study Group on Gender and Geography. We are grateful for financial assistance from the Commonwealth Foundation, the International Geographical Union Study Group on Gender and Geography, the British Council, the Ford Foundation, the Institute of British Geographers, the Canadian High Commission, the Province of Alberta and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Most people who came to the meeting had been working on gender and development in isolation. For all of us coming together at Newcastle was a very exciting learning experience and the beginning of many new friendships and research collaborations. One of the most striking aspects was the distinctive approaches of people from the different countries. Clearly the most urgent research problems were location specific. Research methodologies also varied. It was felt that these spatial differences, displayed by the voices of geographers from developing countries, was one of the most interesting discoveries of the Newcastle Workshop. This volume focuses on this new regionalism.

Several papers on Caribbean topics were presented at the workshop. These have been included in another book entitled *Women and Change: a Pan-Caribbean Perspective* edited by Janet Momsen. Thus, the Caribbean is not represented in this volume. Non-Commonwealth areas are also under-represented because of the original organisation of the meeting.

The editors wish to thank all those who helped in the organisation of

PREFACE

the workshop, especially Philip Courtenay, Secretary of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau and Michael Eden and Dennis Dwyer, CGB Treasurers. We are grateful to our contributors from around the world for their patience in coping with the editing of the book, to our publisher, Tristan Palmer for his enthusiasm and encouragement, to Neil Purvis, Pat Juliusson and Anne Rooke for the artwork and to Dave Passmore for his editorial advice and overall support.



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