

Gender Justice in the Frame of Joint Forest Management in Indian Context: A Case – Study from Nayagram Block of West Midnapore, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT Women in India were placed in oblivion right from the ancient times. The long episode of anguish and misery of the women met with optimism only in the 19th century, when the whole of Bengal was bathed in the spirit of Renaissance, which of course helped the women- folk to come to limelight for the first time. After Independence, some space was made for the women folk in a constitutional way. The 73rd Amendment made a revolutionary gateway open for women by reservation of 1/3 seats in the political platform. Though, in the urban areas women are slowly able to make their position firm both socially and economically, in the rural areas women are still living in a world of ignorance, superstition and obscurity. The forest- fringe people, who mainly formed the backbone of the rural community, thus naturally belonged to the backward category. The JFM regulations were formed in 1988 and one of the greatest strengths of the JFM model was the inclusion of women in the administrative set- up. But unfortunately, women were deprived of their rightful status and they still remained in their secluded den for a long time due to numerous hurdles. The present paper unfolds the problems and disdains of the women- folk in a rural set- up. At the same time, the paper uncovers an empirical study which tells the tale of gender upsurge in a JFM scenario through series of technological experiments, trainings and through courses of sensitization.