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Status of Muslim Women in the Workforce: Critical Reflections on Challenges

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Md Israr Alam

Abstract

Muslim marginalization has been perennially distressing which poses a serious question both for the development institutions and intelligentsia. Although Muslims constitute 14.2 per cent of the population, yet their contribution to the GDP is only about 6 per cent. Sachar Report shows that on most socio-economic indicators, general condition of Muslims is comparable to or even worse than the SCs and STs. The situation remained almost same when the NSSO 68th round data on employment and unemployment was released. Muslims are the largest minority and so do Muslim women who constitute largest number of women population among the women from all minorities. But unfortunately, they stand at the last most position of development ladder with reference to various indicators of empowerment specially education and work force participation. The paper examines status of Muslim women's re-presentation in workforce using data from Sachar Committee Report (2006) and NSSO 68th round report (2012). In doing so, the paper attempts to locate major challenges and gaps with regard to Muslim women's access to work and empowerment and proposes a framework of study Muslim Women's challenges in accessing work using Intersectional Lens.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Muslim women, Workforce participation, Intersectionality.

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