

Study of Deserted Women in Pune district

Vidyut Bhagwat

Sharmila Rege

Deserted women, cast- away women or *parityakta* are different terms used for women who are thrown out of their marital homes or who have chosen to step out themselves. The increasing numbers, the extreme forms of violence meted out against them and the pitiable access to resources were the reasons for us to reopen the issue, which a decade ago was on the agenda of the women's movement. Yet we find very little written about them in the literature on poverty or social welfare. An overall understanding is necessary to promote public policy and action in support of the single, deserted and widowed women. Hence this study aims to examine the issue at various levels- estimations of the extent of problem; nature and severity of problem, looking at women's agency, their survival mechanisms and strategies, and possible options to improve their access to services and assets. In the present study Daund taluka and Pune city from Pune district where there is presence of local women's organization have been selected. A two- staged study has been conducted with the study of extent of deserted women and a detailed socio-economic understanding of the deserted women themselves with oral histories of some of these women.

Coordinators:

KSP Women's Studies Centre, University of Pune

Vidyut Bhagwat: vidyutbhagwat@rediffmail.com

Sharmila Rege: sharmilarege@hotmail.com