Matrilineal Communities, Patriarchal Realities

By Kanchana N. Ruwanpura

Zubaan, New Delhi, India. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. In rejecting falsely homogenizing accounts of women's lives, feminist economists have, in recent years, unlocked the multiple ways in which gendered relations of dominance and subordination are maintained. One of the key differences they have turned their attention to is ethnicity. This study of Muslim, Sinhala and Tamil households, in Sri Lanka examines both the commonality of patriarchal structures and economic problems in such households, as well as the differences created by the ethnicities that divide them. The author looks at the nature and reliability of kinship support for female heads and the reciprocal obligations in terms of female propriety and conventional conduct extracted from female heads. She questions development policies premised on the patriarchal household and argues for a recognition of diversity and complexity. Contents Acknowledgement 1. Introduction: Unpacking A Feminist Nirvana 2. Diverse Households: Literature on Female-headship 3. The "Grand" and "Meta" Narratives: Situating Sri Lankan Female-heads 4. Matrilineal Muslims: Female-heads in Muslim Community 5. Variation on a Theme: Sinhala Female-heads in Hybrid Lineage Systems 6. Matriclan Ideologies and Patriarchal Structures: Female-headships among Tamils 7. Dutiful Daughters, Sacrificing Sons 8. Jugging Acts: Political, Economic...

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