

Postscript

I, as one of the editors of the present volume, extend my full appreciation of the collaboration and contribution of all the participants of the two international symposia held in November 1997 and in December 1998, respectively, under the sponsorship of the Social Science Research Institute of International Christian University. The two symposia were entitled individually: *Men, Families and Societies in South Asia*, and *Development, Gender, Culture Change in a Multi-ethnic Society; Aspects of Modernization in Sri Lanka*.

The articles in this volume were originally presented and read by the authors at either of the symposia or delivered at an open lecture of the same institute. In editing the contributed papers to the symposia, I made my effort to focus on Sri Lanka in order to achieve a closer investigation and deeper understanding of its current problems in actual contexts.

Four eminent Sri Lankan scholars delivered speeches and contributed their articles, which enabled me to work out the present volume. They are specialized in Economics and Rural Development, Rural and Economic Sociology, Sociology of Literature respectively. Other contributors are anthropologists who have undertaken live-in fieldworks in Sri Lanka focusing their attention specifically upon gender and development issues.

We are now in a quick shift from Internationalization to Globalization. However, still a large gap remains in economy between the developed and the developing states, and in consequence, economic as well as technological cooperation has to be extended by the Northern to the Southern countries. Greater emphasis, then, is placed increasingly on positive participation by the Southern states for accomplishing self-reliance and self-establishment, which exploit not only economic success but more active, spontaneous participation and collaboration by the individual at the grass-roots level.

Women's activities have become prevalent in the developing countries. They everywhere challenge to pursue promoting their statues and roles in families and

local communities, being engaged collectively in works for betterment of local infrastructure. This appears to be connected with the urgent issues of gender, empowerment and rural development for accomplishing women's self-reliance and self-establishment.

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The Director of SSRI

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