

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

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EVENT REPORTS

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE) conducted a virtual panel discussion session on the topic of "The Gendered Impact of War in Gaza" focusing on the plight of women and children in the ongoing war in Gaza along with the added challenges that war in general brings to these groups.

The session had three distinguished speakers, namely Dr. Debangana Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Dr. Aradhana Talwar, Assistant Professor at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences and Ms. Samhita Arni, a renowned Indian author and illustrator.





THE GENDERED IMPACT OF THE WAR ON GAZA

CHAIRPERSON

Prof. Manoharan N

Professor and Director,
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Science & History, Christ University





Ms Neena Gopal
Writer and Commentator,



Dr. Debangana Chatterjee
Assistant Professor,
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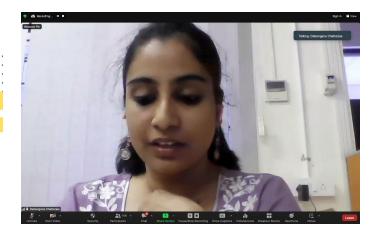
Dr. Aradhana Talwar Assistant Professor, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences



The webinar had a total of 274 registrations and total participants who attended were around 106. The session began with the introductory note by Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Head and Associate Professor, CeRSSE who began the session by highlighting the current sorry state in Gaza with statistical figures before giving it to Dr. Amrita Purkayastha who introduced the esteemed chair of the session, Prof. Manoharan N, Director, Centre for East Asian Studies, Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University) who conducted the session with extreme gracefulness and perfection.



The panel began with the first speaker Dr. Debanagana Chatterjee who focused on the intersectionality of history and colonialism with gender. She connected the historical past starting from the Balfour Declaration of 1917 with the present and the implications that the past has with the current situation. She also highlighted how gender and oppression is connected with the power structure with the powerful subjugating the marginalised sections.



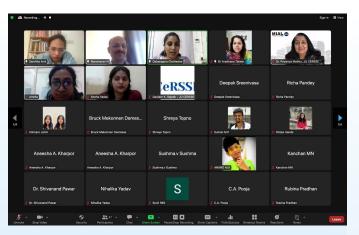
The second speaker, Dr. Aradhana Talwar started with how discourses in international relations has traditionally a masculine perspective and focused on bringing gender on the map. She also highlighted the complicated challenges associated during and after war and how globally we lack a feminine infrastructure and a universal mechanism to counter the challenges. She specifically spoke about West Asia, a region of perpetual conflict where only six countries have provided legislative rights to women. She also emphasised on the existing hierarchical power structure and cited the example of bombing of hospitals an act against gender.



The third speaker, Ms Samhita Arni has focused on the psychological trauma associated with the war. She began by highlighting the resilience of women during the war. To further strengthen her argument, she gave the example of how women traditionally had sent their sons to war because they could not feed them anymore. Ms. Arni throughout her lecture brought personal yet powerful anecdotes from her work in the conflict zones of Afghanistan and connected it to prove how psychological scars take generations to come off in a society and it takes years in building the society to its original form.



The three lectures were followed by engaging sets of questions and discussions from the audience on different ideas that were relevant to the topic of the webinar. The session was later concluded with a virtual photograph.



The session was beautifully covered in the Deccan Herald newspaper by a journalist who was present during the session.



