

Contributors

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Mahrookh Pardiwalla

Mahrookh Pardiwalla, MEd in Educational Leadership, currently works as a freelance consultant and trainer on Education and Gender in Seychelles. Previously she worked for over 25 years with the Ministry of Education, as teacher, teacher trainer, head of teacher training and staff development co-ordinator. Her last position within the Ministry of Education was Director of the School Improvement Programme, a national project that was selected as one of the finalists of the Commonwealth Good Practice Awards in 2006. Mahrookh Pardiwalla has wide experience in teacher training, curriculum development, educational leadership, distance education, project development, human rights and gender.

Jeniffer Mohammed

Jeniffer Mohammed is a lecturer at the School of Education, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a BSc in Geography from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and postgraduate qualifications in the Sociology of Education. For many years she taught at the secondary level in Trinidad and Tobago. Dr Mohammed now lectures in the Sociology of Health and Education, the Teaching of Social Studies and Qualitative Research. Her research interests include gender and education, the analysis of textual materials and teaching and learning in the social studies.

Maria Chin Abdullah

Maria Chin Abdullah is a women's rights activist and researcher, specialising in gender and development, human rights, local governance and democracy. She has

been with the women's movement for more than 20 years. Her involvement with women's issues in Malaysia began with the first workshop on Violence Against Women in 1985, which set the national agenda for women's rights. She is a keen advocate for policy and legal reforms on gender equality and non-discrimination for all. Maria Chin Abdullah is involved in coalition building, such as the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG), a vocal women's coalition; the Coalition against Privatisation of Health Services; All Petaling Jaya Action Coalition, a coalition of 44 local residents associations fighting for local democracy and also chairs the Coalition on Good Governance with 14 taskforces.

Maria Chin Abdullah's work is published in books and articles on women's rights, democracy and local governance. She develops training manuals on feminism, rights and democracy and sits as an adviser to the gender think tank of the Welfare, Women's Affairs, Science, Technology and Innovation under the Selangor State Government. Her other interests include promoting women's political participation and decision-making powers. She has a bachelor's degree in Applied Economics and a Master of Science in Urban Planning at the University College, London.

Gatoloi Tilianamua Afamasaga

Gatoloi Tili Afamasaga has spent the last 31 years in education in Samoa as secondary schoolteacher, teachers' college principal, Dean of the Faculty of Education and since 2006 as the Director of the Oloamanu Centre for Professional Development and Continuing Education at the National University of Samoa. Her education has been in Samoa, Victoria University and Christchurch Teachers College (New Zealand) and Macquarie University (Australia). Gatoloi Tili Afamasaga's research interests have been in the management of change, curriculum implementation, women and gender issues and in education for sustainable development. She is married with five children and three grandchildren.

Shobhita Rajagopal

Shobhita Rajagopal is Associate Professor at the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, specialising in gender and education. She has been researching in the area of gender and development and has been closely involved in studying processes of rural women's empowerment for over two decades. Dr Rajagopal has actively worked on mainstreaming gender in policy, has published extensively both nationally and internationally and has contributed to the *Annotated Bibliography on Gender in Secondary Education* compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2007.

Dilshad Ashraf

Dilshad Ashraf is an Assistant Professor at the Aga Khan University Pakistan's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED). Her specialisations in teaching and research include gender and curriculum studies, teacher development, school

improvement and education and development. She has conducted research projects and has also published on the issues of gender and education across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Dr Ashraf is also engaged in conducting workshops for public and private sector stakeholders to help them build their capacity to integrate gender perspective in teaching/learning and organisational policies and practices. Other important areas of her work include organisational evaluation (and school audit) and education in emergencies. She supervises a reconstruction project focussed on education in the earthquake-hit areas of Northern Pakistan. She technically supports another similar project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Pakistan.

Salihu Girei Bakari

Salihu Bakari holds a doctorate degree in Gender and Education at the University of Sussex and has over ten years teaching and managerial experience in teacher education institution in Nigeria with research interests in gender, education and development. He worked with the Universal Basic Education Commission in Abuja, a Nigerian agency responsible for achieving Education For All (EFA) for all school-age children. He also worked with the Education Trust Fund in Abuja and was also the Co-ordinator for Projects and International Training and Support for Adamawa State. Dr Bakari was the founding Director-general, Special Projects also in Adamawa State, a position he held until his recent appointment as the Executive Chairman, Adamawa State Universal Basic Education Board, a body responsible for management and control of primary and junior secondary schools in the state.

Jyotsna Jha

Jyotsna Jha works as Adviser, Education and Gender, and Education and HIV and AIDS at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. Her work on gender and education in the Secretariat has focused on research and advocacy on various aspects including the issues of promoting schooling practices that promote respect for equality and diversity, empowerment-focused girls' education and boys' underachievement. Prior to joining the Secretariat, Dr Jha was based in India where she undertook several research, evaluation and implementation-support projects for both government and non-government organisations, and for national and international agencies. She has worked with educational policy planners, administrators, teachers and professionals at various levels.

With a PhD in Economics of Education, Dr Jha has several publications to her credit. These include two books, *Elementary Education for the Poorest and other Deprived Groups: The Real Challenge of Universalization* (Manohar, India: 2005) and *Boys' Underachievement in Education: An Exploration in Selected Commonwealth Countries* (Commonwealth Secretariat, London: 2007). Dr Jha is the editor of *An Annotated Bibliography on Gender in Secondary Education: Research from Selected Commonwealth Countries* (Commonwealth Secretariat, London: 2007) and has written chapters in *Gender and Social Policy in a Global Context* (Palgrave, London: 2006) and *Reinventing Public Service*

Delivery in India: Selected Case Studies (Sage, India: 2006). Most of her recent writings have focused on equity issues in education.

Elsbeth Page

Elsbeth Page is an independent consultant with over 20 years experience in Africa, South Asia and Europe and a doctorate in Education, Gender and International Development. Her interests span pre-primary, primary and elementary and youth and adult non-formal levels, focusing on pedagogy, curriculum, gender, marginalised groups, inclusion and empowerment. Her work encompasses capacity building, skill transfer, empowering partner organisations, networking, project cycle management, project conceptualisation and planning, formative and summative monitoring and evaluation approaches, institutional learning and knowledge management. Dr Page has worked with varied stakeholders, managing relationships between international development agencies, governments, NGOs, academics and local communities.

Dr Page's doctoral thesis explores the social construction of gender identities and the factors influencing pupils' gendered enrolment, persistence, achievement and desire for greater equality and public-sphere participation (available at: www.elsbethpage.feeuk.com). Publications include 'Negotiation and compromise: an exploration of gender and government elementary education' in *Educational Regimes in Contemporary India* (eds. R. Chopra and P. Jeffrey, Sage, New Delhi: 2005) and 'Unsettling caste-bound gender orders: the convergence of teacher commitment and pupil aspiration in two schools in Madhya Pradesh' in *Educate*, 3, 35–52 (2003).

Janet Raynor

Janet Raynor has worked as an independent consultant in various countries in South Asia and Africa in areas related to gender and education. She has contributed chapters on this theme to recent books, including *Women teaching in South Asia: an edited collection* (ed. J. Kirk, Sage, New Delhi: 2008), *Gender Education and Equality in a Global Context: Conceptual frameworks and policy perspectives* (ed. S Fennell and M Arnot, Routledge: 2007), *Sen's Capability Approach and social justice in education* (ed. M Walker and E Unterhalter, Palgrave: 2007), and *Beyond Access: Transforming Policy and Practice for Gender Equality in Education* (ed. S Aikman and E Unterhalter, Oxfam: 2005). She has also made a number of contributions to publications from the *Beyond Access: Gender, education and development* project (DfID/Institute of Education/Oxfam).