



Lokavidya Jan Andolan's Appeal to Women's Organizations

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Lokavidya Jan Andolan wants to say something on the occasion of 'Women's Rights Conference' which is going to be held in Varanasi on this Sunday, 3rd March 2024. Our best wishes for the conference.

We appeal to all women's organizations, whether political, academic, voluntary or government, to come forward in making the knowledge of **ordinary women**, their spontaneous strength and initiative the basis of creatively advancing the women's movement.

Challenge

Inequality in human society and large-scale destruction of nature, together, are continuously presenting the biggest and most painful scenes one after the other in today's world. Calling the policies, means, techniques and systems involved in doing so as 'development' is itself evidence of gross insensitivity. There is urgent need to be sensitive. But capitalist ideas and systems have been refusing from the beginning to consider sensitivity as part of knowledge.

In the latter half of the 20th century, a strong stream of women's discourse that emerged in Western countries raised the point that since the knowledge base of capitalist systems (economic-political-cultural etc.) has been in modern science, these systems are aggressive, inhuman, anti-social and anti-equality. They give birth to hierarchical and exploitative systems because even in principle the inclusion of emotions in Science is invalid. This has also been seen as a major reason for the worsening conditions of women in poor countries.

In this situation, for the betterment of women's lives (to achieve justice, respect, wellbeing), a way has to be made to challenge modern science and its strong alliance with capital and politics. And for this it is necessary to recognize the strengths of ordinary women. 'Ordinary women' are women working in farming, artisanship and small capital services and business enterprises. Women engaged in all these enterprises have a clear identity as producers, organizers and managers. Today all these women can be seen as standing not only in their own interest but generally also against the exploitative system.

The knowledge base inherent to philosophical, productive, organizational and leadership activities of ordinary women can challenge the anti-nature and anti-human alliance of modern science, capital and politics.

Claim

On behalf of Lokvidya Jan Andolan, at the recent World Social Forum held in Kathmandu, Nepal (15-19 February 2024), a claim was presented for a knowledge movement of ordinary women. The basic idea of which is given below.

- **Common or ordinary women of every society are rich with basic human sensitivities. Equipped with such sensitivities they constantly invent new methods of upbringing and organizational aspects of life, which shape the moral, physical and artistic aspects of knowledge. There is concrete proof in women's knowledge that emotions make an inherent part of any kind of knowledge.**
- **Knowledge, to which values are inherent, is the foundation of creating a better, just and respectful world for all. This is what human being are. The knowledge of ordinary women promotes these values in farming, craftsmanship, service and small enterprises. It may do well to remember that the philosophy of saints (*sant-darshan*) has considered emotions as an integral part of knowledge.**

Call

- **Ordinary women have extensive knowledge of clothing and food. The first phase of the knowledge movement of ordinary women against the imperialist powers begins here. The areas of clothing and food should remain the responsibility of women. Such an understanding gives them a solid basis to stand on equal footing with the farmer and artisan communities.**
- **In making the country's agricultural policy and industrial policy, ordinary women should stake claims of their knowledge and stand with the country's farmers and artisans.**
- **The main demand should be that all men and women engaged in the sector of clothes and food at the local level should have the same income as government employees.**
- **Primary education and health-care should be based on women's knowledge, so that the seeds of moral values can be sown in the society. These areas of service should be with women at the local level.**
- **We appeal to women's organizations around the world to recognize the vital knowledge-based role of women in their communities and the larger society and shape a women's movement that moves towards creating a different, new and better world.**