



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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Reconciling Conflict: The *Zenana* Perspective on Kashmir

SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR AND NAVNEET SHARMA

“In times of conflict, particularly religious conflict, it is women who carry the honour of the community on their backs and bodies and defiling their bodies, usually through rape is a way of hitting back at the other community.”

(Urvashi Butalia, 1998)

Introduction

Conflict as phenomenon is as old as human civilization. Though the conflicts are common since ages, yet thinking upon conflict in theoretical terms became a recognized field of research only after the second world war. In recent decades, many theories have emerged to describe the phenomenon of conflict. The understanding of conflict one has is strongly influenced by the way one considers the