



## **BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING: A DILEMMA IN THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA**

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### **Abstract**

South Asia is one of the most violent societies in the world, and also the most patriarchal. Both characteristics have led to continuity of violence, in which women are the silent and non-recognised victims. The situation is such despite the fact that women have occupied the highest office in their respective countries. The post-1991 wave of globalisation has led to the emergence of two parallel societies, based on different values, in almost all South Asian countries. In both societies women are being exploited and violence has been unleashed on them. Revolution in information and communication technology has helped in the dissemination of patriarchal values through 'objectification' of women in the name of 'liberation' from the grip of tradition. These patriarchal trends are clearly reflected in the making of domestic policies as well as formulating foreign policies of South Asian states. In such a situation, an academic argument for feminist foreign policy is relevant, though not encouraged by social actors.

### **Key Words**

Domestic policies, Patriarchy, Violence, UNSCR 1325, Partition.