



Negotiating Spaces: Legal Domains, Gender Concerns, and Community Constructs

By Flavia Agnes & Shoba Venkatesh Ghosh (Eds)

Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2012. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. Laws protecting women are based on a belief that gender-sensitive statutory laws can protect women better than the laws based on community practices of patriarchal traditions. However, in India these two sets of laws constantly overlap. Though apparently in conflict, the statutory laws, which are deemed to be uniform and certain but also formal and alien, coexist alongside the pluralistic community practices which are fluid, ridden with internal contradictions but also accessible. This volume analyses the impact of such laws on women's rights, and studies the interventionist role of courts. The essays explore the contradictions that Indian women face when it comes to choosing between the formal state laws and community-based laws. The volume raises an important question that if law is not the sole arbiter which determines women's rights, what are the other locations with which we need to engage for the determination of these rights? Unless we view the composite whole of women's lives, it is difficult for us to comprehend the way women negotiate their rights. The essays in this volume contextualize these negotiations in order to better understand how and why...



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