

Panel: Role of Women's Home Journals and the Development of Female Education in South Asia

Women's home journals published during the late 19th and first half of 20th century played a crucial role in the development and promotion of female education in South Asia, particularly in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Maulvi Syed Mumtaz Ali and Muhammadi Begum started the weekly *Tehzib-un-Niswan* in 1898 from Lahore. Sheikh Abdullah and Begum Abdullah started the monthly *Khatoon* from Aligarh in 1904; and Allama Rashid-ul-Khairi launched the monthly *Ismat* from Delhi in 1908. All three journals were published in Urdu, a common and link language of northern India. Ruqayya Sakhawat Hossain from the Bengal province used Bangla language for the cause of female education there. These initiatives from Punjab, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh caused a social revolution to promote female education in northern India. Female *madrassas* (religious schools) were started in these areas which changed the social conditions of women.

In this panel, speakers from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will:

- highlight the services of Maulvi Syed Mumtaz Ali, Sheikh Abdullah, Ruqayya Sakhawat Hossain and Allama Rashid-ul-Khairi during the 20th century; and,
- explore the historical and social importance of the various journals published by these scholars, especially in terms of how they impacted and reflected the social status of women in north India.

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