

# **A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF FEMINISM IN RESHAPING RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

S.S.M. Karunathilaka

Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
*shiranthamadushan2019@gmail.com*

The present study investigates the function of feminists and the ways in which religious beliefs impact the pursuit of gender equality. Social and cultural life has been greatly affected by feminism, and the relationship between feminism and religious doctrines offers important opportunities for research. Accordingly, this study's research problem investigates how feminist ideologies contrast with religious beliefs and practices to reframe religious attitudes toward gender equality. It explores the extent to which feminist movements challenge or influence traditional religious doctrines that often reinforce gender roles. The aim of this research is to analyze the impact of feminist ideologies on religious discourse and examine how these ideologies contribute to the pursuit of gender equality in religious contexts. The research objectives are to investigate how feminist movements affect religious practices and gender-related attitudes and to examine how religious texts and principles contribute to the construction and interpretation of gender equality in religious institutions. The methodology of this research consisted of semi-structured interviews with 20 participants, including religious leaders, feminist scholars, activists, and religious communities. Moreover, the collected data will be analyzed using a thematic approach. The responses were categorized into several sub-themes. These sub-themes shall be reinterpreted from a religious and gender role point of view. In this research study, the influence of feminist movements on religious practices and feminists' resistance to religious institutions will be taken into account. The study concludes that feminism has made progress in promoting gender equality within religious movements. It also expects to examine how religious texts construct the concept of gender equality. Accordingly, this research contributes to understanding the dynamic relationship between feminism and religion.

**Keywords:** Feminism, gender equality, religion, institution, gender role