



Stepping Out: Life and Sexuality in Rural India

By Mrinal Pande

Penguin, New Delhi, India, 2003. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Consider the following: Eleven out of twelve abortions in India are illegal. The 2001 Census showed a decline in the number of females per thousand males in the most literate and prosperous states, especially in the 0-5 age group. The private sector has more doctors and fewer beds than government hospitals, thereby emphasizing outpatient care. And while Indian traditions sanctify fertility and motherhood, government policies and health care services are focused on controlling fertility. These are some of the paradoxes of India's health care system Mrinal Pande encountered when she set out on her journey across several states to put together information on the health of Indian women. She soon realized it could not be a mere documentation of the history of reproductive health in India and the state of India's public health care system. Through listening to women's perspectives on their bodies when they came for treatment and conversations with dedicated health workers, she gained an insight into larger realities. The result is a patchwork quilt of narratives about women's lives showing they are affected by their environment, their perspectives on male and female sexuality,...



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