

NIRBHAYA, NEW MEDIA AND DIGITAL GENDER ACTIVISM

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NIRBHAYA, NEW MEDIA AND DIGITAL GENDER ACTIVISM

BY

ADRIJA DEY

SOAS South Asia Institute, University of London, UK



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I dedicate this book to my father. He reminded me every day to never give up the pursuit of knowledge. It is because of his unconditional belief that I have been able to embark on this journey. It is also his activism, his politics, his ideologies and his faith in knowledge that has motivated me to choose this path.

I also want to dedicate this book to my mother. She is the only reason why I am here today. I cannot thank her enough for always having faith in me and being such a magnificent role model. She will forever be my greatest inspiration.

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About the Author

Adrija Dey is a British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the SOAS South Asia Institute, University of London, UK. Her current research is based on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Indian Universities and explores how university campuses relate to the broader context and debates surrounding women in public spaces, sexual- and gender-based violence, and institutional structures and responses. Previously Adrija worked as a Lecturer in New Media at Birmingham City University and a Research Associate for the Chevening South Asia Journalism Programme at the University of Westminster. She completed her PhD in Media, Culture and Society from the University of Hull. While pursuing her Masters in Creative Systems from the University of Sussex, she developed a strong interest in interdisciplinary research particularly related to gender, social media and digital technologies. Originally from Calcutta, India, Adrija has been associated with political and gender activism as a student and that has greatly influenced her research interests.

Abstract

Sociopolitical activism has been crucial in shaping the structure of contemporary Indian society. Over the last few decades, while information and communication technologies (ICTs) and social media have been increasingly popular and a widely used tool for activism around the world, it is only in the recent past that people have started using these technologies as an alternative platform for activism in India. One of the most extensive uses of digital technologies was witnessed in the nationwide protests in India after the Delhi Nirbhaya rape case on 16 December 2012, making it one of the biggest gender movements that the country has witnessed. The focus of this research is to investigate the use of ICTs and social media by civil society actors, activists and organisations specifically for gender activism in India. The cyberconflict framework (Karatzogianni 2006, 2015) forms the foundation of this research. However, this framework was not built with a gender focus and to explore the use of digital technologies specifically for gender activism; it was crucial to advance the theoretical foundation of the cyberconflict framework for it to create a broader understanding of the relation between social movements, gender and ICTs. For the purpose of this study, the protests after the Nirbhaya rape case on 16 December 2012 have been considered as a primary case study. Further data were collected from various online resources such as news reports published online, videos, articles on blogs, posts on social media sources such as Facebook and Twitter and by conducting semi-structured interviews with organisations and individual participants. Further thematic analysis was used to understand the nature and impact of use of ICTs and social media for gender activism in India.