



# Interpreting the Experiences of Indian Women Fieldworkers through a Culturally Responsive and Feminist Intersectional Framework

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## Introduction

- Empirical studies of evaluation can inform the field's collective understanding of evaluation's socio-political consequences.
- India's Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is produced via a massive monitoring and evaluation process facilitated by the non-governmental organization ASER Centre. Enlisting 25,000 volunteer fieldworkers, ASER produces national data on Indian children's schooling status and basic skills in reading and arithmetic.
- ASER is comprised of national and state staff members to district-level trainers and volunteers engaged evaluation process that occurs within villages, schools, and homes in over 500 rural districts.
- ASER is not only a technical endeavor but also a far-reaching social process promoting social accountability, shared responsibility, and evaluative thinking.
- For women, ASER involves several activities that may seem atypical or even inappropriate in context of mainstream Indian society and their everyday social environments.

## Theoretical Framework

- Our study develops a culturally responsive-feminist intersectional framework used for analyzing ethnographic data on ASER's large-scale evaluation effort in India. The theoretical framework draws on four literatures (**Figure 1**).
- Understanding intersectionality—the social dynamics rooted in the intersections of caste, gender, tribal/ethnic, linguistic, religious, and regional identities—is essential to interpreting Indian women's experiences as they participate in contemporary society.
- Culturally responsive evaluation a) highlights evaluation's role in fostering a democratic society, b) addresses power issues, c) centers culture in validity arguments, and d) conceptualizes evaluation as a socio-political process.
- For feminist and postcolonial standpoint theories and feminist evaluation principles, understanding their development in and translation to India is key in ascertaining their worth for interpreting fieldworkers' experiences.

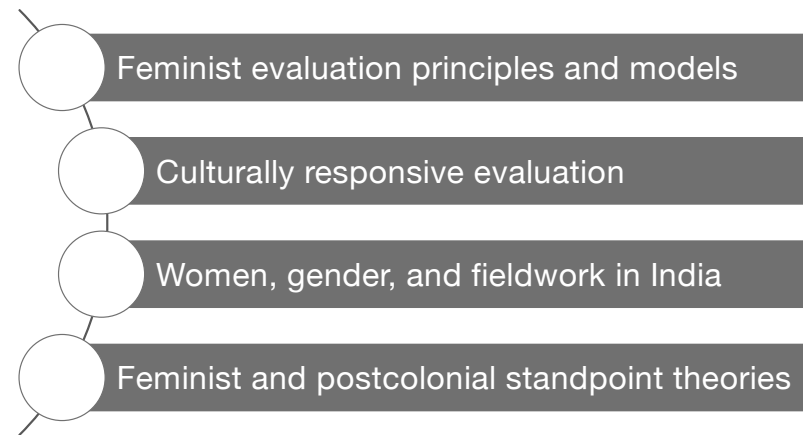


Figure 1: Theoretical Framework used for the study based on four literatures

## Methodology & Data Analysis

- A multi-state ethnographic study of ASER's process was conducted in India.
- Utilizing the described theoretical framework, interview data are being analyzed to explore women's differing roles and experiences in conducting ASER (via their own words) with sensitivity to their varied relationships to social norms and structures.

## Selected References

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