Localizing and Locating Gender Issues – Views from the North and East
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- Objective: Contextualize gender issues within the universities in the north and east of Sri Lanka.
- Warrant special attention since these universities directly impacted by the ethnic conflict and the war during the last 30 years.
- Not much information available due to travel restrictions and limited communication among academia.
• Data gathered in the universities and from personal narratives and case studies.

• Discussions with some key officials in the administration and managerial level

• Discussions with academics, members of students, teachers etc

• My own experience and observations
Three Universities

i) University of Jaffna -1974
ii) Eastern University, Sri Lanka - 1986 preceded by the Batticaloa University College in 1981
iii) South Eastern University of Sri Lanka - 1995
- As a common feature - In governance and managerial structure gender imbalance

- **Vice Chancellor** - in the history of 40 years- only one.

- **Deans**- Jaffna- none so far
  Eastern University – Arts-02 out of 06
  Science -04

including the present Dean
• In the faculties of Agriculture and Commerce
  none
In the Faculty of Health Care Sciences – Actg Dean for few months
In Trincomalee Campus- none
• South Eastern University - none

• **Registrars** – none but there is a newly appointed Deputy Registrar at present in Jaffna
• Different level of competition for the higher positions – politics of power

• Gendered attitudes within the universities

• More family responsibilities

• Absence of welfare facilities within the universities such as child care
• With in the faculties women members are less
• Postgraduate study- women engage since it is requirement and conditional for promotions etc.
• At the post graduate student level women candidates are few in the Eastern University compared to men.
- Research and publications - many women academia said about inadequate time due to child care and other family responsibilities.
- Less field research – mostly depended on library, lab.
- Conflict related restrictions on travel – restriction more on women
• Discriminative and gender bias polices made by those who are in power:

• It is also impacted by “culture” nationalism and counter/defensive nationalisms

• Letter on 26.12.2012 by one of the of the universities

• Deleting the courses on women and society, gender and development from the curricula

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• The UTA responded.

• All the non academic staff adhered except one female staff.
• Intervention of personnel rights.
• Control over women’s bodies.
• Discrimination on gender basis.
• Infringing the rights of other cultural and ethnic groups.
• Authoritative decision with out consultation.
• Response by women’s groups outside.
• Both the Registrars of Jaffna and the Eastern Universities – Positive attitude.
• By laws to increase representation in student bodies
• Child care facilities
• Incorporate into curricula- UGC request the universities to incorporate courses
• Women’s organization at the universities.