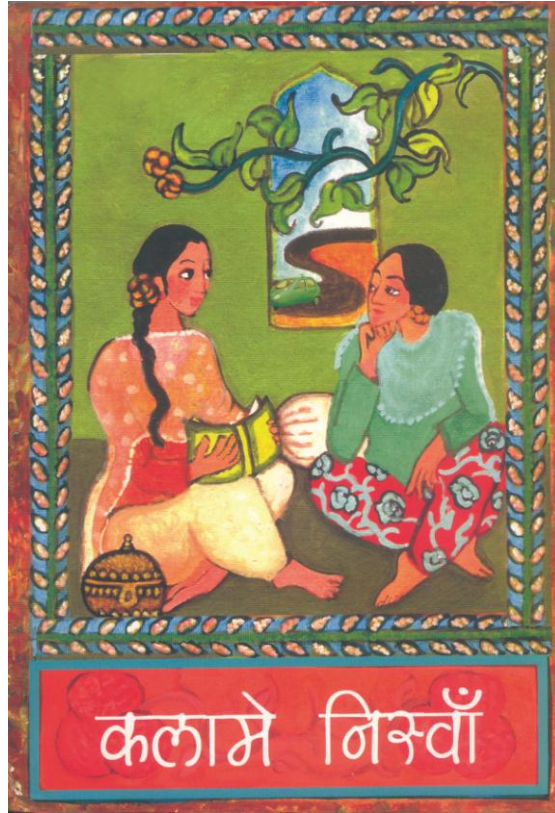


Kalaam-e-Niswan



To develop a deeper understanding of Muslim women's education, we explored its history. The Jamia Milia Library in Delhi and the Khuda Baksh Library in Patna were scoured for women's journals and magazines, and we came across important writing by Muslim women. From politics to education, they have covered a range of issues with their pens. We have compiled some of these writings from various Urdu publications in the form of a book, titled Kalam-e-Niswan. The pieces have not been translated from Urdu to Hindi, but transliterated, keeping the flavour of the writing intact. Meanings of difficult and unfamiliar words have been provided so the text is accessible for readers.

The collection has pieces from the first women-only weekly newspaper, Tahzeeb-e-Niswan, as well as articles from magazines like Khatoon, Ismat, Ustani, Payame Ummeed, Awaz-e-Niswan and Nairange. The oldest piece dates back to 1905 and the most recent is from 1956. Some of the writers are well known and some are anonymous. Many of them have written as 'wife of_', or 'daughter of_', or 'sister of_', using the names of their husbands, fathers or brothers, laying bare both the significance of women's voices entering the public realm as well as the constraints. The material ranges from simple stories to profiles, poetry and editorials. The book can be used by NGOs, universities, schools, whether as training material or simply for the pleasure of reading.

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