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**KANITA  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON GENDER STUDIES  
(KICGS 2018)**

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**Press for Change:  
Re-imagining & Co-creating Women's  
Empowerment**

**KICGS 2018 PROCEEDINGS:  
SELECTED FULL PAPERS**

**EDITORS  
Zaireeni Azmi  
Nurul Jannah**

**27-28 November 2018**

**PROCEEDINGS**

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**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Women's empowerment includes both personal strengthening and enhancing women's potential at a personal and societal level. Women 's empowerment is basically enhancing women's life chances. As such, my conceptual understanding is that Women and Empowerment is how women's choices and decisions direct their lives into private or public spheres of activity. Also that women's empowerment can be illustrated based upon a life history .

Within that context, I will share my personal journey towards the experience of empowerment. In particular to illustrate about women and empowerment within the context of my activities and professional role in a changing society like Indonesia. Also that womens' empowerment as an activity is about a perception that what women do with their lives is based upon an individual decision, forced or as a free choice. But that in the final analysis what women do with their lives should remain an individual decision. As an individual decision, it becomes a responsibility to realize that choice. I also underline the importance that urging women to assist each other in accomplishing an aspired goal is important in women's empowerment.

Interpreting women's empowerment as related to how women make decisions , how they formulate their aspired goals and overcome the barriers along their way to reach aspired achievements is an individual as well as a socio- cultural journey for the women involved. Because women's empowerment is also about women ability of making choices between existing values, such as the existing patriarchal values or the elimination of discrimination against women.

My personal journey , as a woman , about women and empowerment will focus on three interrelated experiences. 1. How new knowledge based on reading can become an empowering experience (such as motivating young scholars to learn about existing issues in their field of study); 2. how a forced decision (such as accepting the assignment of chairing the first post graduate women's studies program at the University of Indonesia) and working with women (and a few men) scholars and social activists from different ages and professional backgrounds has empowered me personally and professionally. 3. how women's collective action has been able to change a private issue , such as violence against women, into becoming a public issue.

Although women's empowerment presently is a widespread movement, activities related to enhancing women's empowerment cannot wait for legislative decisions. Also that in that context women working together towards achieving women's rights are human rights is still relevant today.



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS II**  
**Prof. Aurora Javate- De Dios**

**Women's Rights, Well Being and Democracy : Women Navigating Constricted Global  
and National Spaces**

This article is focused on the role of women's movements in the struggle to fight for their rights and well being within the twin contexts of globalizing economies where women are often left out on one hand and increasingly populist and authoritarian regimes in ASEAN which have greatly constricted the democratic spaces on the other. It asserts that women's movements in the Philippines and in selected countries in Asia are an integral and indispensable part of the democratizing forces in ASEAN societies .

With the Philippines as a case example, the article recalls the emergence and development of a diverse women's movement that have contributed to the transition to democracy from 1986 to the present. It discusses the broad and extensive links of the women's movement with the global women's activism including those from ASEAN countries , thus giving rise to a strong transnational solidarity movement.

It discusses the phases and process of development of the Philippine women's movement, the factors that influenced their directions , the major milestones, turning points and lessons in the Filipino women's struggle for their economic , political and socio cultural rights.

Finally it explores the implications and possibilities of a women's solidarity movement in ASEAN pushing for and sustaining more meaningful and gender sensitive political and economic participation as part of the democratic project in ASEAN.