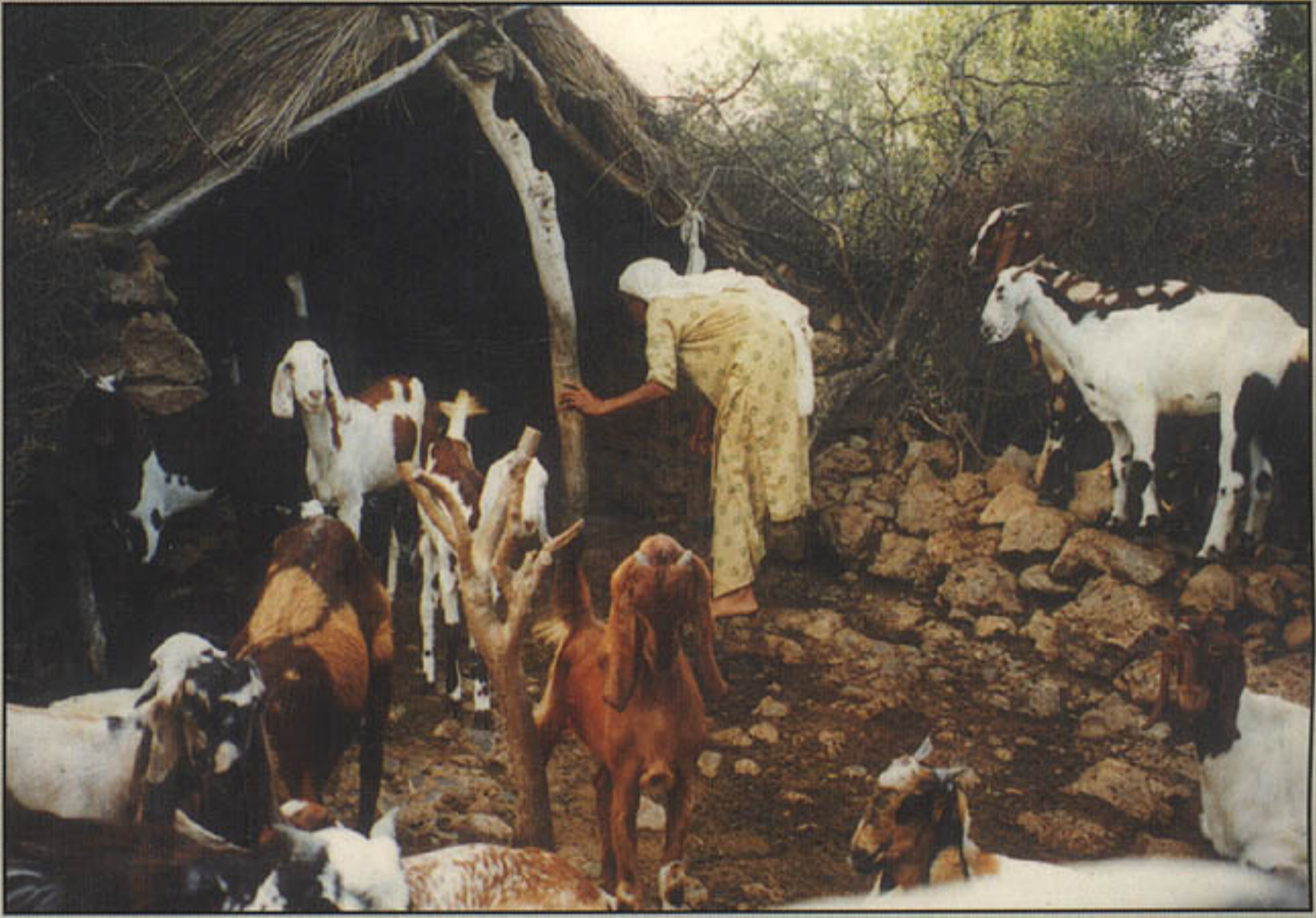

Rubya Mehdi



*Gender and
Property Law
in Pakistan*

Resources and Discourses

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Crucial to the social position of women in Pakistan is their access to and control of material resources. A key factor in this respect is the situation of legal pluralism in the country whereby state laws derived from Pakistan's Islamic and colonial heritages are often contradicted by local customary laws and practices. This study is based on extensive fieldwork in four villages in different provinces of Pakistan, and takes both a socio-legal and an anthropological approach. Its focus is not confined to property alone but includes many other areas of life that have a bearing on women's access to property and enables the reader better to envisage the environment. Arguing that official law is largely ineffective in securing property rights for women, the study offers insights into the interaction of customary and state laws in Pakistan that will be of interest to scholars, lawyers and development specialists. This book also provides background to students and researchers engaged in studies on Pakistani immigrants in Europe.

Rubya Mehdi is educated in history and law. She holds the degrees of BA (Honours) Manchester Polytechnic, M.A. (History) Punjab and Ph.D. Law, University of Copenhagen. She introduced Islamic Law together with cand.jur., ethnographer Jens Jørgen Viuff first time to be taught as an optional subject to law student at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. Her book »Islamization of the law in Pakistan« was published in 1994. Together with Farida Shaheed she edited the book »Women's Law in Legal Education and Practise in Pakistan: North South Cooperation« (1997). She has published widely articles in Islamic law, Islamization, gender and Islam, customary laws and legal pluralism. Currently she is working as associate research professor at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen. Her recent research focusses on present day application of Islamic law in Denmark.



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