

When The Poor Woman 'Leans In'...

Perna Bakshi*

In 2013, Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg published *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*. This poem is written from a critical, Global South Marxist feminist perspective, in response to Sheryl Sandberg's corporate feminism brand of 'Lean In' and its approach to feminism and work. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2016 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

KEYWORDS: Feminism, Third World, Feminist, Marxist, India.

Where does the poor woman 'lean in'
When she is living
In a 12ft x 12ft shack
Built with mud walls
In an over crowded
'Illegal' dwelling colony
Where in order for her to
Step outside her home
She has to leap across the
Stagnant water that has been
Sitting there for months
Contaminated with
Industrial waste

* **Perna Bakshi** is a sociolinguist, research scholar and writer of Indian origin, currently based in Macao. She has contributed essays and articles to a variety of publications including *The Hindu*, *Counter Currents*, *Amar Ujala*, and *Desh Bandhu* to name a few. Her poetry has been published in *Linden Avenue Literary Journal*, *Indiana Voice Journal*, *Red Fez*, peer reviewed journals such as *Muse India*, *Postcolonial Text* and is forthcoming in *Hysteria*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, and several publications. Address correspondence to: Perna Bakshi; e-mail: pker8740@uni.sydney.edu.au.