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**Conversion and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

Korean Women's Contribution to Educational Mission

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Since the mid-1980s women had been playing a crucial role in the Korean missionary movement. Among the various missionary activities, the most notable professional contribution by women so far is in its educational mission. While many male missionaries worked on various church related ministries in the mission field, female missionaries were pushed to the education sector which was considered more feminine. Yet it still opened a new channel for women's unique contribution and leadership in the Korean missionary movement.

This study formulates the important narratives of key female missionaries, including four main figures; Kim Young-Ja in India, Kim Ok-Shil in Kenya, Gu Jang-Hee in Peru, and Lee Mi-Kyung, in Paraguay. All of them had 20 to 30 years of successful educational mission experience and assumed top leadership roles in the institutions they had founded. Their conversion experience served as crucial impetus for their accomplishments, achieved in spite of gender discrimination. The formative experience also relate to each woman's unique patterns of leadership traits.

Even with their remarkable contributions to the missionary movement, their crowning achievements are not fully recognized due to the patriarchal culture that still dominates South Korea even today. Therefore this study's primary objective is to rediscover the stories of remarkable Korean missionaries and provide role models for other missionaries by introducing these women's cases to the global audience.

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