GLOSSARY

Apa*haj Ashrama : A home for the destitute and the handicapped.
Ardhangini : Woman as representing half the part of man.
Ayah : A baby-minder.
Balsevika : A child welfare worker.
Balwadi : A pre-primary school.
Brahmavadin : A learned woman who teaches or expounds the Vedas.
Brahmin : A person belonging to the first of the four original castes of the Hindus.
Chulha : A primitive type of furnace used in villages for cooking.
Dai : A mid-wife.
Dakshinagni : A sacred fire placed southwards in Vedic rituals.
Dalia : A sweet dish made of wheat, milk and sugar.
Devadasi : A female attendant in the service of gods or a temple; sometime described as a temple prostitute.
Dharma : That which holds together the different aspects and qualities of an object into a whole. It has also been taken to mean as duty, or religious code.
Dharna : Squatting in protest.
Gramsevika : A village level woman worker.
Gurudwara : A sikh shrine.
Gurupurabs : The festivals celebrated by the Sikhs to commemorate the birth or death anniversaries of their ten gurus (spiritual preceptors).
Janj ghar : A temporary abode for marriage parties hired by the brides' side.
Janamashtami : A Hindu festival commemorating the birth of Lord Krishna.
Jauhar : A medieval Rajput custom according to which the women burnt themselves together on a funeral pyre to save their honour from Muslim invaders.
Jhuggi : A small dwelling.
Khichri: An easily digestible, saltish meal made of rice and cereals.

Mamila Mandal: A women's club.

Meher: Dover; a custom among the Muslims in which the groom promises to pay some amount to the bride.

Mohalla: Locality; avenue.

Mushta: Breakfast.

Nikah: A Muslim form of marriage.

Nyoga: An ancient practice which permitted a childless widow to mate with the brother or the near kinsman of her husband for progeny.

Panchayat: A council of villagers.

Panchayat Ghar: The headquarter of a village council.

Panjiri: A form of sweet meat.

Parda: It refers to the seclusion of women in Muslim families.

Patiyara: A woman who is faithful and loyal to her husband.

Pongla Ghar: A home for the handicapped.

Prabhat Bheri: Religious processions taken out in the mornings.

Prakriti: Primordial nature; the substratum of the material world consisting of three qualities, satya, rajas and tamas.

Pror Shiksha: Adult education.

Purusha: The Supreme Spirit regarded as conscious but inactive.

Rishi: A Sage or seer.

Sahdhamini: A lawful wife; one who associates with her husband in performing assigned social duties.

Sarpanch: The head of a village council (Panchayat).

Sati: The medieval practice among Hindus according to which a widow would burn herself on the funeral pyre of her husband.

Shishu Griha: Children's Home.

Shivaratri: A Hindu festival to propitiate Lord Shiva.

Smritikaras: Authors of Smritis or Hindu law books.
Stridhan: A Hindu woman's private property over which she exercises independent control.

Svayamvara: An ancient form of Hindu marriage in which the bride herself chose her husband from a number of assembled suitors.

Swaraj: Self government.

Swastyayana: A Vedic sacrifice to ensure good luck.

Yuvati Mandal: A female youth club.