

# UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES: CONCEPTUALIZING THE DIVERSITIES

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EDITOR  
DR. A.H.M. ZEHADUL KARIM

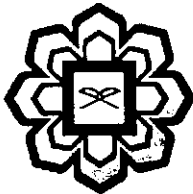
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## **Chapter 4**

### **MEN-WOMEN INTERACTION AND (MIS) COMMUNICATION<sup>1</sup>**

**Rohaiza Rokis**

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper explores communication issue at work by professional women in Malaysia. The study takes a basic premise that the non-women dimension such as men, male organisations and systems contribute to the professional marginalisation of women at work. In observing the women's different workplace experiences, this study applies a classic sociological work of Spencer and Podmore (1987) on the various stereotypes that marginalised women workers. Based on the findings, this study hopes to find ways in reducing events of communication breakdowns at work among professional women. This paper applies ethnomethodology technique which is analysed by the discourse analysis on the talks of experiences of ten (10) professional women who work at various settings such as universities, public listed companies, ministries and hospitals. This study finds that some non-women dimensions in communication at work are not necessarily useful for women. Ineffective communication to some extent negatively affects professional women in the public lives as well as their private lives. The study concludes that communication at the non-women dimensions still contribute to the professional marginalisation of professional female workers at work.

#### **Key words:**

Malaysia, professional women, gender communication, professional marginalisation ethnomethodology, discourse analysis