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### Abstract

According to Chandra Talpade-Mohanty, writing about “third world women” often places them in a “monolithic” grouping that denies individual histories and unique needs. Writing in this way, Western feminists often re-colonize the complexities of the women and refer to them based on their object status.

Interpreting the mission of the NGO in India was complicated due to the subject position in which I found myself. As a privileged, white Western woman, I would be looking critically at women “dependent” on Reaching the Unreached for support. I first needed to be critical of my own status before I could attempt an interpretation, while simultaneously avoiding the issues as noted by Talpade-Mohanty.

Finding a way to cross race/class/gender lines was also a concern, since I would be engaging with many unique individuals. A reading of Martin Buber’s “I-Thou” and Jean Vanier’s “From Brokenness to Community” could offer some insight into forging reciprocal relationships and building community amidst difference, respectively.