

LADY DOAK COLLEGE, MADURAI

(An autonomous Institution affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)

“College with Potential for Excellence

Re-accredited by NAAC with Grade A

(3rd Cycle: 3.44 out of 4)



Centre for Women's Studies



PROGRESS REPORT

April 2019 – September 2020

Submitted to

University Grants Commission

New Delhi

Submitted by

Centre for Women's Studies

(UGC Supported)

Lady Doak College

Madurai -2

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I. INTRODUCTION

Centre for Women's Studies in the academic session 2019-20 and April 2020 to September 2021, strengthened its **teaching and learning** programs. A post graduate elective course on Gender and Development was upgraded to include modules on women's health and the public disparities in women's health. Four new courses of the UGC National Skills based Quality Framework were approved by UGC and ratified by the Academic Council:

1. Diploma in Digital Film Production – 1 year – 60 credits
2. Diploma in Nutrition And Dietetics [in collaboration with Department of Zoology] – 1 year – 60 credits
3. Certificate Course in Energy Utilization [in collaboration with Department of Physics] – 6 months – 30 credits
4. Certificate in Food Processing Technology and Quality Control [in collaboration with Department of Botany] – 6 months – 30 credits

Four students from the Sciences and Humanities were chosen as Gender Champions and they have played a critical role in all programs and activities of the Centre and College.

Eight more faculty members from the disciplines of Mathematics, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Botany, History and English were inducted to teach the inter disciplinary Foundation Course on Women's Studies.

Two recent graduates of Lady Doak College were trained in visual media production and editing skills guided by an industry mentor. The young film makers were awarded the second and third prizes in a Madurai based Film Festival hosted by the international NGO, DHAN Foundation for two of the films produced by them. The themes of the films were: 'WATch hER struggle', a film which speaks about women's struggles to get water and 'Ezhukathir', a film on good governance by a woman panchayat president Mrs. Chandra Pitchai of Thirali village.

Field action and advocacy efforts ventured into the campuses of men students to engage them in a dialogue to critically evaluate gender inequality. The management of Lady Doak College has further sponsored an international training program of three men staff members in gender equality.

The on the spot study program of students of the Foundation Course on Women's Studies in the academic session of 2019-20 studied access to clean water for women, the working conditions of women in the informal sector and livelihood challenges faced by women sea weed collectors of the coastal district of Ramnad.

Collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority continues to enable the Centre for Women's Studies to address a number of concerns of the students, teaching and non teaching staff of Lady Doak College.

New collaborations have been established. The Health Secure Foundation of Health Secure EMR, Texas, United States of America has mentored course development in the area of women's health. The College of Lifelong Learning and Experiential Learning of the Singapore University of Social Sciences is joining hands with the Centre for Women's Studies for a women's empowerment project, through media education. With these collaborations, Centre for Women's Studies hopes to move forward in the exchange of and updating of knowledge that will strengthen the academic content of the discipline Women's Studies in Lady Doak College.

The progress report for 2019-20 describes in detail:

- Integration of Women's Studies in several disciplines through Teaching and Learning programs
- Internship of recent graduates in media projects of Centre for Women's Studies.
- Research study undertaken on women seaweed collectors of the coastal district of Ramnad.
- Field Action programs and advocacies undertaken among young men students in higher educational institutions.
- Collaborative efforts with other Departments, organizations and constituencies.

II. TEACHING & LEARNING

The Centre for Women's Studies offers **six courses plus four new skills based courses**. Highlights of the teaching and learning programs of the Centre for Women's Studies are:

- ✓ All the courses are offered to students of all disciplines of humanities and sciences.
- ✓ Each course is designed for teachers and students to be engaged in an interactive and reflective learning process, so that students are able to cultivate a critical outlook on the social constructions of gender.
- ✓ Teaching faculty of both the sciences and humanities disciplines teach the Foundation Course on Women's Studies.
- ✓ Teaching faculty continually develop critical insights/perspectives and knowledge to teach the course through regular class preparatory sessions moderated by the expert senior Faculty members of the college.
- ✓ A summer course on short film making equips students with skills to create and edit micro films on women, gender and its intersections.
- ✓ An elective course offered to post graduate students on laws for women equips students with knowhow on the operations of the legal system and protective laws for women.
- ✓ **An elective offered to post graduate students on Gender and Development is now included with modules on women's health and has been updated as 'Gender, Development and Health'.**

Details of Courses offered

Name of the Course	Batch	Evaluation	Nature of the Course	Credits
Foundation Course on Women Studies VBC 0203FV (Syllabus Revised)	All UG III years from both Sciences and Humanities	One Home Assignment - 10 marks One Field Visit Report - 10 Marks One Test - 30 Marks	Mandatory Requirement for Completion of Degree	2
Foundation course on Women's Studies PGV1101PV (Syllabus revised)	PG I years[Non Lady Doak Students] from both Sciences and Humanities	Two assignments One individual seminar.	Mandatory Requirement for Completion of Degree	2
Perspectives on Gender PGV 1102PV (Advanced Course -Syllabus revised)	PG I year(Even semester) Eligibility- Completion of Foundation Course [open to both Sciences and Humanities]	One seminar, One field visit report One survey report.	Optional	1
Gender, Development and Health - PGW3422E	PG II Year (Odd Semester) [open to both Sciences and Humanities]	Continuous Assessments - 5 Summative: 1test	Elective	2
Women Dignity and Legal Protection PWS2401E	PG I YEAR [Even Semester] [open	Formative: 2 tests, 1 Assignment Summative: 1test	Elective	4

Name of the Course	Batch	Evaluation	Nature of the Course	Credits
	to both Sciences and Humanities]			
Summer Internship -Short Film Making CWS3201SI/CWS5201SI	I and II UG students. [open to both Sciences and Humanities]	1.Performance evaluation by external supervisor – 20 Marks 2.Internal evaluation(Report, presentation, Viva) - 20 Marks	Internship-Extra Credit Course	2
UGC NSQF Courses to be offered from 2021 onwards				
Diploma in Digital Film Production year	Students who have completed plus two	Continuous assessments and external experts of sector skill council	Diploma	60
Diploma in Nutrition And Dietetics [in collaboration with Department of Zoology]	Students who have completed plus two	Continuous assessments and external experts of sector skill council	Diploma	60
Certificate Course in Energy Utilization [in collaboration with Department of Physics]	Students who have completed plus two	Continuous assessments and external experts of sector skill council	Certificate	30
Certificate in Food Processing Technology and Quality Control [in collaboration with Department of Botany]	Students who have completed plus two	Continuous assessments and external experts of sector skill council	Certificate	30

Teaching Women's Studies is substantiated with exposures that serve to build the critical thinking and problem solving skills of students. Students undertake an **On the Spot Study during the IV & V semesters.**

Three On the Spot Studies were organized for 1300 students over two semesters in 2019-20:

a. **Access to Clean Water [15th July 2020]**

- To understand the challenges women faced in the collection and storage of potable water for families, students interacted with women in different areas in the city where women had to collect potable water from common water taps and connections.
- Students identified how the quality of women's life, health and career/professional development prospects are affected due to the time spent on the collection and storage of water.

b. **Women in the Informal Sector – Assessment of Working conditions of women working in shops/establishments[11th February 2020]**

- Young women working in shops/establishments worked long hours standing on their feet.
- There are no prescribed guidelines for working conditions.
- To assess these situations students discreetly visited shops and establishments and collected feedback from young girls and middle aged women on their work experiences.
- It enabled students to comprehend the vulnerabilities of women working in the informal sector.

c. **Women in the Informal Sector – Livelihood of Women Sea weed collectors of Ramanathapuram District**

An on the spot exposure visit by a team of students and staff of the Centre for Women's Studies, with the women sea weed collectors documented their stories of struggles and conflicts in the development of their livelihoods:

- Women sea weed collectors of Ramanathapuram District depend on the sea weeds gathered and collected for their livelihoods needs.
- However, the constant demand for the sea weeds and its extraction from the coast has led to a steady decline in the coastal resources of the region impacting on the fragile eco system.
- Due to this they are in constant conflict with environmental protection and bio diversity measures undertaken by the government of India and have no alternate source of livelihood.
- Furthermore, women are heavily indebted with the money lenders.

Details of on the Spot Studies undertaken

Date	Title	No. of Students Participated	No. of Batches	Name of the Place/ School Visited
15.07.2019	On the Spot Study – Women and Water	585 III UG and 183 I PG Women’s Studies Students (both Aided and SF) and 26 faculty	20 – III UG 6- I PG both Aided and SF	Kaalankkarai (behind Tamil Jaya Theatre), Madurai Keelapanangadi, Madurai Indra Nagar, chokikulam S. Alangulam Puttuthoppu, Madurai Kurinji Nagar, Aathukulam Santhapettai Lourdhunagar, Pudur Opposite Collector Bungalow Bibikulam Seram, Kadanbar Nagar – Aathikulam Viswanathapuram Anna Nagar ,Chokkikulam Ramamoorthy road, Chokkikulam

Date	Title	No. of Students Participated	No. of Batches	Name of the Place/ School Visited
				Meenakshipuram Viswanathapuram, Madurai Bibikulam – Near Karunai Hospital, Madurai Valluvar Colony, Madurai-17 Puttuthoppu, Madurai Melaannathoppu Koodal Nagar ChinnaChokkikulam Opposite to Noyes School, Narimedu Opposite to Noyes School & Singarayar Colony, Madurai PNT Nagar Mattuthavani Market Area, Madurai
11.02.2020	On the Spot Study – Assessment of working conditions of women working in shops/establishments	532 III UG students	15 – III UG both Aided and SF	Vishal de Mall BibiKulam, LDC Complex, Ulavarsanthai Vallayal Kara Vetti VizlakuThoon Mattuthavani K K Nagar Simmakal Aarapalayam Kalavasal Meenakshi Amman Complex Tallakulam Town Hall road Netaji road

Date	Title	No. of Students Participated	No. of Batches	Name of the Place/ School Visited
				Anna Nagar Bye pass road
February 23-24 th 2020	An Interaction with Women Sea Weed Collectors of Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu	9 students, 3 staff and 4 faculty	Nil	Women Seaweed collectors at Kilakarai, Ramanathapuram District

On the Spot Studies



survey on water availability and challenges faced by women.

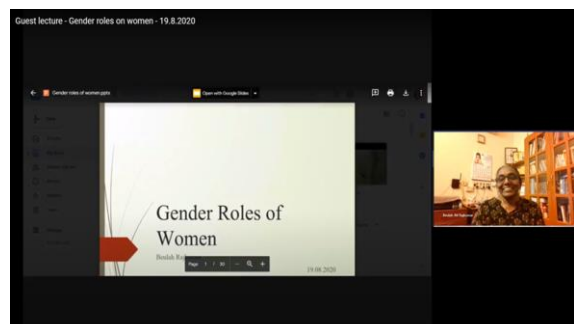


Women Seaweed collectors at Kilakarai – Video documentation

Special Lectures for Students

The Special Lectures are an integral component of the Teaching process and invokes interactions from students with professional experts. Three lectures were conducted for students of the Foundation Course on Women's Studies.

1. In an introduction to the Gender Roles of women and men, the resource person, Dr. Beulah Rajkumar, **Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies**, explained how power is distributed within roles of women and men that emerge from family structures. She traced the life story of a young girl as she loses all her inherent aspirations to fit into the pre determined roles for her life.
2. Advocate Samidurai, **Secretary, Indian Association of Lawyers, and Senior Advocate, Madurai Bench, Madras High Court** elaborated on the laws for women and encouraged students to file online complaints to control cyber stalking. He enumerated the current amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code that made crimes on women serious non cognizable offences, to make the complaint process more accessible to women.
3. Dr. Premalatha, **Centre Administrator One Stop Centre(Nirbhaya Fund), Madurai**, spoke about 'One Stop Centre' a project under Nirbhaya Fund which supports women who are in need of legal support, safe accommodation and protection. She encouraged the students to seek help when facing violence or abuse. She also highlighted the various functions and activities of the Centre to enhance women's safety and protect women from violence.



Guest Lectures on Gender Roles by Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, CWS



Guest Lecture on 'Women and Law' by Advocate Mr. Samidurai,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court



Introduction of One Stop Centre (Nirbhaya Fund) by
Dr. Premalatha, Centre Administrative Officer, One Stop Centre,

Details of Special Lectures for Students

Date	Title	No. of Participants	Resource Person
05.07.2019	Guest Lecture on Gender Roles	290 (aided) and 295 (SF) III UG Women's Studies Students and 20 faculty	Dr. Beulah J M Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies
23.09.2019	Guest Lecture on 'Women and Law'	290 Shift I And 295 Shift II Women's Studies Students	Advocate Mr. Samidurai, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court
23.09.2019	Introduction of One Stop Centre (Nirbhaya Fund) Supporting Women who are affected by harassment and abuse	290 Shift I And 295 Shift II Women's Studies Students	Dr. Premalatha, Centre Administrative Officer, One Stop Centre, Madurai.
19.08.2020	Guest Lecture on Gender Roles on Women	531 out of 720 III UG VBC Foundation Course on Women's Studies and IVBC Biblical Perspective on Women Students attended either Google meet or Google classroom	Dr. Beulah J M Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies

III. TRAINING

Training programs consisted of:

1. Student enrichment programs
2. A one year internship program for two recent graduates on visual media productions
3. Faculty enrichment programs through participation in internal preparatory sessions and participation in national level conferences and workshops
4. Workshops conducted in other institutions by Faculty members associated with Centre for Women's Studies

1. Student enrichment programs in 2019-20:

- Training on Self-defense skills among young women
- A summer workshop for students on short film making.
- Training in choreography of interested students for public campaigns against crimes on women
- Training 10 men students from the Madura College, Madurai and 10 women students of Lady Doak College in a Street Theatre production for public campaigns against crimes on women.

Student enrichment programs in 2019-20

DATE	TITLE	TRAINER	PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
03/05/2019 to 16/05/2019	Summer workshop for Students in Short Film Making	Mr. Peter Christopher, Film Maker and Founder of Revelation Bay Production in film production skills Dr. Kalaiselvi. K.T. Post - Doctoral Fellow Department of History Pondicherry University Pondicherry.	8 Students from English, Mathematics, Economics, Commerce and 1 Faculty from History Department	Design and Creation of Two Documentary/ Short Films on: 1. A Mother's Dilemma – A film on son preference and the saving of a girl child. 2. Ezhukathir - leadership of women in local governance

DATE	TITLE	TRAINER	PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
		In societal analysis to build content building and societal analysis		
18/10/2019	Training on Self defense	Master N. Narayan and his team from Madurai Taekwondo Academy	300 UG students of Shift I and 300 students of Shift II	Students learnt the techniques of defending themselves against possible offenders in crowded public places.
26/11/2019, 28/11/2019, 29/11/2019, 2/12/2019, 3/12/2019, 10/12/2019 and 11/12/2019	Training on Choreo techniques and skills to communicate themes on gender based violence	Nageena Rajpurohit, Dance Choreographer and Fitness Trainer, Youforia Dance school, Madurai. Y. Mohamed Nijar Khan, Director of Nijar Khan Dance Academy, Madurai.	23 students	A dance production titled ‘Nimirndhu Nadai’ - on how to arise from experiences of abuse.
4/12/2019 to 6/12/2019, 10/12/2019 and 11/12/2019	Training in Street Theatre production and script development	Dr. Gandhimary M S, Retired Professor in Tamil, Pondicherry University, and Now Education Consultant ,KattumannarKoli , Care India NGO Mr. Selvam, Drama Artist, TVS School, Madurai	11 men students from Madura College and 11 women students from Lady Doak College	A street theatre production titled ‘Pudhiya Vidiyal’ – A Street Play on perpetration of sexual violence by men, its causes and realizations by the offenders

Details of Films produced from the Summer Workshop on Short Film Making:

A Mother's Dilemma – A film on son preference and the saving of a girl child and
Ezhukathir -Leadership of women in local governance:

The Summer Internship on Short Film Making held on the theme 'Invisible Women Leaders', captured the success story of a woman Panchayat Leader – Srimathi Chandra Pitchai, and threw light on the barriers she overcame to bring about social and economic progress in her community.

The students developed critical insights on leadership of women in Gram Panchayats and learnt to capture their stories in documentary films. The following two films were produced:

1. **Ezhukathir**- Good Governance of a former Woman Panchayat leader, Mrs. Chandra Pichai of Tirali Panchayat
2. **A Mother's Dilemma** - Son preference based on the story of a mother with four daughters.

This internship helped the students to:

- a. Interact with communities and develop perspectives on the lives of rural people and the administration of a Gram Panchayat
- b. The challenges faced by a woman Panchayat leader, Ms. Chandra Pichai, Former President of Thirali Panchayat, to enhance the education of children, health, infrastructures and livelihoods of the people of Thirali Panchayat.

People of Thirali panchayat men and women spoke with enthusiasm on the positive changes brought to the village when Ms. Chandra Pichai was a President. They narrated the unique strategy deployed to collect tax from people to improve the infrastructures in the panchayat such as roads, water facilities and school maintenance. They also spoke about the rescue of a female child from infanticide,

Summer Internship – Short Film Making



Introductory session by Mr. Peter Christopher, Founder, Revelation Bay Productions



Videography session at Thirali panchayat, near Thirumangalam, Madurai



Videography session in Thirali panchayat, near Thirumangalam, Madurai

Learning Editing techniques



Evaluation of Summer Internship – Viva

3. Media Internship for Recent Graduates

As a pilot project in view of the evolving media programs at Centre for Women's Studies, two interns were appointed to create videos on women centered themes. The two interns were trained in various aspects of film making and content development. They captured the programs, campaigns, field studies, on the spot studies and interventions of Centre for Women's Studies on film and became skilled in the production and editing of short films.

Media Internship for Recent Graduates – Summary of Events/Dates

Training Dates	SKILLS ACQUIRED	OUTCOMES Short Films produced and Edited
9th -12th July 2019 15th -16th July 2019 7th -8th August 2019 9th -10th September 2019 29th September-1st October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Content development for Short Film Making ☞ Training on shooting a film ☞ Camera handling, setting up lights, back drop and camera for the film studio set up. ☞ Editing techniques of Short Films. ☞ Script writing, camera work, framing a shot, preparing shooting script, story boarding, ☞ How to fix a shot, editing, and basic colour correction. 	WATCHER STRUGGLE – A film on challenges faced by women to access clean water Editing of Film on Women Good Governance – EZHUKATHIR Editing of Film on Son preference - A MOTHER'S DILEMMA Editing of Dance And Street Theatre Performances in a Public Mall Film shooting and editing of films on narratives of women sea seed collectors of Ramnad District

4. Faculty enrichment programs

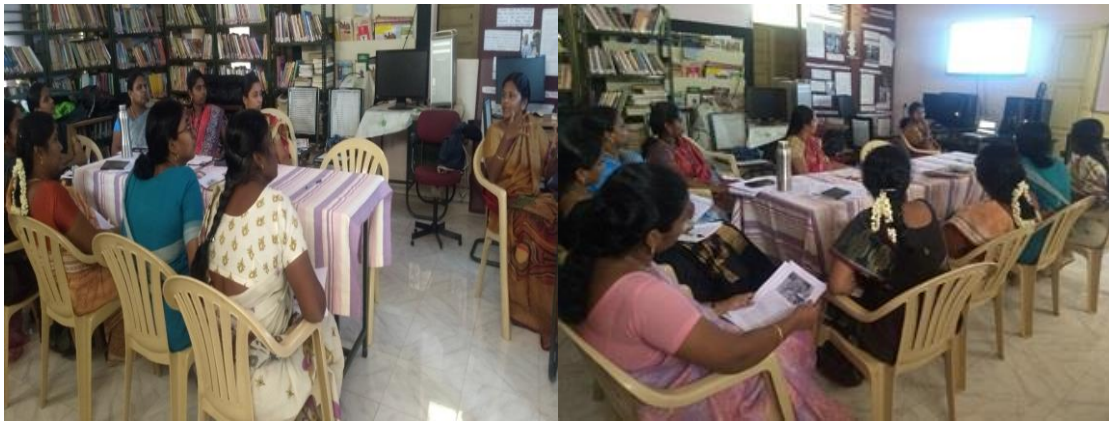
A. Internal Class Preparatory Sessions

Dates	Theme and Content	Resource Person	Participants
14th & 17th June 2019 30th July 2020	Planning and Orientation for WS Faculty – UG and PG Foundation Course on Women’s Studies	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women’s Studies	23 + 29 Faculty members
17th June 2019	Planning and Orientation for WS Faculty – PG course - Perspectives on Gender	Dr. Suganda Ramamoorthy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics	5 Faculty
26th June 2019	Gender Socialization for WS Faculty – UG and PG Foundation Course on Women’s Studies (Shift I and II)	Dr. Suganda Ramamoorthy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics	14 faculty and 1 research assistant
10th July 2019 21st August 2020	Feminism and Theories of Feminism - WS Faculty – UG and PG Foundation Course on Women’s Studies (Shift II)	Dr. J. Chithra, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics	9 + 23 Faculty members
18th & 19th July 2019 4th August 2020	Violence on Women - WS Faculty – UG and PG Foundation Course on Women’s Studies (Shift I and II)	Dr. Rosy Godwin, Associate Professor & Head of the Department of Commerce	13 + 29 Faculty members
9th August 2019 2 nd October 2020	Women and Media - WS Faculty – UG and PG Foundation Course on Women’s Studies (Shift I and II)	Dr. Nimma Elizabeth, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Dean of Academic Affairs (Sciences)	20 + 29 Faculty members

Preparatory Sessions



Sessions on Introduction to Women's Studies by Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar



Session on Media and Women by Dr. Nimma aElizabeth



Session on Feminist Theories by Dr. J Chitra



Session on Violence on Women – Dr. Rosy Godwin



Orientation Session on Introduction to Women's Studies [30.07.2020] by Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies, Lady Doak College



Preparatory Session on Violence on Women [04.08.2020] by Dr. Rosy Godwin, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Lady Doak College



Preparatory Session on Feminism and Theories of Feminism [21.08.2020] by Dr. Chithra, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Lady Doak College



Preparatory Session on Women and Media [02.10.2020] by Dr. Nimma Elizabeth, Head of Department of Physics & Deans of Academic Affairs (Sciences), Lady Doak College

B. National Workshops attended by Faculty teaching Women's Studies Courses:

Dates	Name of Program/Event and Theme	Persons who attended
19 th – 21 st September 2019	Three Day Conference 'Pressing For Progress' held At University Of Hyderabad - IPA National Conference Towards Gender Equity in Physics on both Physics related and Sociology of Physics.	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies and Dr. Nimma Elizabeth, Dean of Academic Affairs (Science), Associate Professor, Department of Physics and course teacher for Foundation Course on Women's Studies.
6 th – 7 th March 2020	EKKLESIA – a Bengaluru based organization conducted a two-days Women's Conclave on the UN theme of Generational Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru Presentation on the Themes: 1. Multigenerational Approaches to an Equal Future – Dr. Christianna Singh 2. Models for Generational Equality: Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar	Dr. Christianna Singh, Principal, Lady Doak College, & Director, Centre for Women's Studies Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies Dr. Suka Joshua, Associate Professor,

Dates	Name of Program/Event and Theme	Persons who attended
	3. Sharing Inspiring and Motivating Stories - Dr. Suka Joshua	Department of English

National Workshops attended by Women's Studies Faculty



Three day conference 'pressing for progress' held at university of Hyderabad



Models for Generational Equality: Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru

C. Workshops conducted in other Institutions:

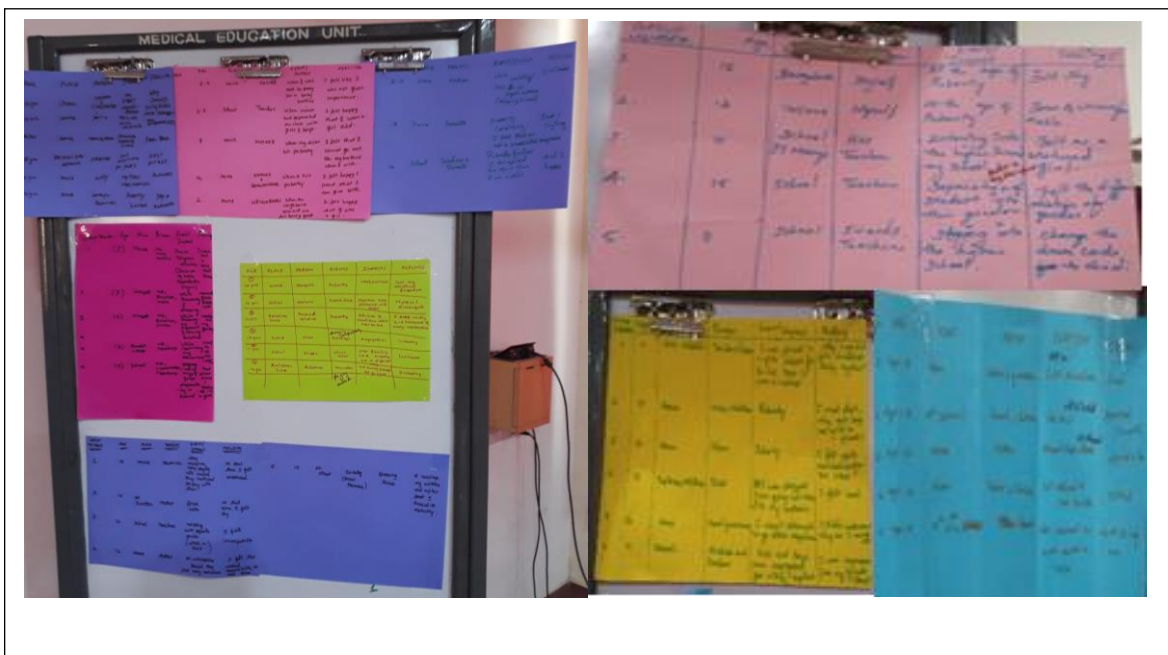
Dates	Name Of Institution	Theme	Trainers From Centre For Women's Studies
March 2020	Vellammal Engineering College	Gender Sensitization Workshop	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor Centre for Women's Studies
15.02.2020	Auxillium College and	Gender Equity	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar,

Dates	Name Of Institution	Theme	Trainers From Centre For Women's Studies
	the department of Hospital Management Studies & Staff Training and Development, Christian Medical College, Vellore	titled "Towards A Better World"	Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies and Dr. Ann Nirmala Carr, Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Lady Doak College.

Two gender sensitization workshops for women and men students were conducted at the Auxillium College, Vellore and at the Vellammal Engineering College, Madurai during the first week of March. The workshop at the Auxillium College, Vellore included a module on the laws for women and how to address harassments through a complaint mechanism with the Police or District Legal Services Authority.

The workshop at Vellammal Engineering College helped women students to realize the patterns of gender inequality in their lives, and men students unraveled how their feelings were impacted due to gender socialization.

Students' reflections during Workshop on Gender Equity conducted at Christian Medical College for students of Hospital management





Session on Gender Equity titled "TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD" by Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies



Group sessions with women Students at Auxillium College and department of Hospital Management Studies & Staff Training and Development, CMC Vellore



Gender Sensitization workshop with women and men Students at the Vellammal Engineering College, Madurai

IV. RESEARCH

A case study on the Women Seaweed collectors at Kilakarai, Ramanathapuram District

The Gulf of Mannar (comprised of 21 chain of islands) is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in the South East Asia. It was declared as protected Marine National Park by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1986 under Indian Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 and later as the first Marine Biosphere Reserve of India in 1989 by the Government of India. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has identified it as Reserve due to its diversity (Melkani *et al.*, 2006). This biosphere reserves cover about 10,500 sq. km with continuous stretches of coral reef. It is comprised of a 560 km core area of coral islands and shallow marine habitat. The Gulf of Mannar marine ecosystem is the richest coastal biodiversity consisting of abundant varieties of coral reefs, rocky shores, sandy beaches, mud flats, estuaries, mangrove forests, seaweed stretches and sea grasses beds which serve as a habitat for more than 4,200 species of plants and animals. The richness of marine biodiversity assessment studies in the Gulf of Mannar region were conducted by several organizations like Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Tuticorin Fisheries and Research College, Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) project of Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, Anna University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Annamalai University, Suganthi Devadasan Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) etc (Chaudhury *et al.*, 2007; ENVIS Centre, 2015).

Their assessment come-up with a list of endangered (seriously at risk of extinction) species like dugong (sea cow), whale shark, sea horses, olive ridley, green and hawksbill sea turtles, pipefish and sea cucumbers. It also serves as a habitat of several endemic (unique to a defined geographical location) species such as balanoglossus (worm-like animal), sea grass, crabs, lobsters, pearl oyster and mangroves (shrub or small tree that grows in coastal region) (IWPA, 1972).

Further, it is home to hard corals (104 species), Pisces (fish) (1147 species), sea turtles (5 species), sea grasses (15 species), marine algae (seaweed) (147 species), mangroves (12 species), sea horses (4 species), sea snakes (13 species), crustaceans (aquatic animal with hard outer shell and many legs. Eg. crabs, lobsters, crayfish, shrimp etc) (79 species), sponges (aquatic invertebrate with a soft porous body. Eg. calcareous sponges and glass sponges) (108 species), molluscs (soft-unsegmented invertebrate with external calcareous shell. Eg. octopus, squid etc) (856 species), echinoderms (hard, spiny skinned marine invertebrate. Eg. sea cucumber, starfish etc) (153 species) and birds (290 species) (Choudhury *et al.*, 2007; ENVIS Centre, 2015).

The main objective of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park (GOMMNP) is to conserve the rich marine biodiversity of the Gulf of Mannar region by providing protection, management and restoration of coral reef system (Melkani *et al.*, 2006). Numerous species of marine plants and algae are commonly called as seaweed and they are one of the main agents which not only helps the corals in healthy propagation but also absorbing the wave action that alleviate coastal erosion. Hence the marine ecosystem demands seaweed colonization. Some of the anthropogenic activities such as industrial effluent discharge, commercial shell collection, coral mining, destructive fishing and seaweed collection results in high sedimentation and turbidity. As a consequent of increased turbidity and sedimentation the coral distribution in the Gulf of Mannar region is controlled. Coral death, bleaching and smoothening have been a major threat to the lives of marine organisms in the marine reserve (Melkani *et al.*, 2006; Junjie *et al.*, 2014).

The Centre for Women's Studies, Lady Doak College made an attempt to focus on the women seaweed collectors and their families who solely depend on the Gulf of Mannar Marine reserve. About 2,000 women and men are involved in seaweed collection along the coast of southern Tamil Nadu from Pamban to Thoothukudi. Few women seaweed collectors from Keelakarai, Ramanathapuram district were interviewed and following are the stories which tells us about strive for their survival. These stories highlight the intersections of poor women's livelihoods and bio conservation.

Mrs. Raakammal, a 54 years old women who engaged herself in sea weed collection since age of 10. She was born and brought up at Bharathinagar, Kilakarai in Ramnathapuram district. Her interest towards this field was inherited from her parents. Further, she find

freedom in doing this work than any other daily wages. Generally, in a month the sea weed collectors go to sea for a maximum of 13-15 days. Subsequently, she earns a minimum of Rs.300 and a maximum of Rs.500 per day as the cost of one kilogram of sea weed has been fixed as Rs.15. The diesel fare to take their boats into the sea to collect seaweeds has also to be met with their earning. Despite her low income and being a single parent she has strived hard to educate her children. The women avoid going into sea if there are any family functions or festivals in any of the houses in their village and this has been a traditional practice followed by all of them. Usually, the sea weed collectors have to travel 3-4 hours to reach the islands such as Mulli, Valai, Appa, Nalla Thanni and Uppu Thanni where the sea weeds are in abundance and being harvested. They wear T-shirt, diving goggles, slippers, gloves and also carry collecting net bag to store sea weeds. Probably, they spend nearly 5 hours to collect the sea weeds. Men are also involved in collection, in addition, they operate the boat. From their conversation it is understood that the ability to harvest seaweed depends on the individual person regardless of whether they are men or women. They are struggling for about 20 years to get identification card to stay in the islands in order to collect larger amounts of seaweed, but the Government of India is unable to do so due to the bio conservation norms. Due to their low economic status, they cannot spend much on nutritious food or have delicious food. On the other hand, free rations supplied by the Government is enough compensation for them. They get loans from the agent who acts as a middleman between the collectors and the Sea Weeds processor industries. Eventually, the livelihood of these people wholly depend on seaweed collection.

Mrs. Maariammal came into this field when she was 15 years old and now she has crossed 50 years. She used to stay in island for harvesting seaweeds. At times, if they are caught by coastal guards while they are at islands, they will be penalized for about Rs.10,000 - 30,000. No receipt will be given at any cost. Even though they realize seaweed collection is illegal they don't know any other work since they were born and brought up in the fisher folk community. They abide to the rules and regulations of their community. For instance, they are not supposed to go to sea on all the first days of the month and it is mandatory to participate in all the family functions in their community otherwise they will be fined for about Rs.500.

At the age of 10 Mrs. Panchavarnam started her profession as a seaweed collector. She is passionate about doing her work even at her late 50's. The reason for choosing this field is that no one can question her and she will be paid as per her collection/harvest. She

added that they are facing restriction for seaweed collections for about 25 years and not earlier. She contends that the sea is their asset. If they are penalized for entering into the islands, it will be paid by the owner of the seaweed industry. She expressed in anxiety that the coastal guards never show mercy on them. They used to destroy the boat, weapons, food, and diesel and take away their saris when the women are in underwater for seaweed collection. Though the field is insecure they have been used to it for more than two generations. However, their children are not interested in this field. She was able to educate her two daughters till 10th std. *Gelidiellaacerosa*, *Gracilaria*, *Turbinaria* and *Sargassum* are the main species of seaweed which has been collected. In times of crisis, through their small savings in the self-help groups they manage their financial needs. They were also advised to do other work like cattle maintenance, agriculture and flower strings by the forest officers and coastal guards but they refused.

Mrs. Jeyanthammal, a 47 years old seaweed collector was inspired by her parents. Her siblings are also engaged in the same profession. She stated that her grandparents lived for many years in islands and used to come back to their village only for family functions and temple festivals. She added that all the fisher folk community possess the sea and its resources. She has a traditional knowledge of identifying the seaweeds based on their uses and applications. Though her husband passed away a few years back, she has brought up her children to an extent and arranged the marriages of her daughter solely from her earnings in sea weed collection.

A man who continuously stands behind for the welfare of the fisher folk community and seaweed collectors is none other than Mr. Anand, Secretary, Fisher folk workers and Seaweed collectors Association, Ramnathapuram District. The association has members from 119 villages. He said that they use their bare hands to harvest seaweeds and this is their unique way of seaweed collection. This association was started in 1999 initially with members from 20 villages. Presently, there are about 19,000 members involved in seaweed collection from Dhanushkodi to Tuticorin. Mostly women are involved in this field than men. Since their income is very little they are not able to have any savings.

The Gulf of Mannar seaweed collectors had conducted a study to identify the locations of live and dead corals in the region of Gulf of Mannar and its associated islands. The report has been given to the Joint Secretary of State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu in 2011 as mentioned by Mr. Anand. They also requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide bank loans to start a seaweed processing industry by the fisherwomen cooperative

society. On behalf of the seaweed collectors, Mr. Anand has requested the State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu to provide identification card for the seaweed collectors and allow them to stay in islands for atleast the period needed to dry the seaweeds after it has been harvested. He added that the fisher folk community restrict themselves to enter into sea from the month of April to June and avoid using scrapers for seaweed harvesting. This is how they are protecting sea and its resources. However, if the coastal guards find them in islands they burn their saris and kick away their food. On one occasion they left 20 women in island and took away their boats. And all the women reached seashore by swimming.

These stories by the women and Mr. Anand, highlight the plight of the women sea weed collectors, their dependence on this income source and the inhuman attitude of the forest guards. The women seem to be unaware of the dangers or negative impacts to the marine ecosystem of plucking/harvesting seaweeds. The consequence of seaweed collections may be

1. Increase the sedimentation rate which obviously threaten coral reefs
2. Walking on the live coral reef causes high sedimentation and reduces the light intensity which are unfavorable for the growth of coral reef
3. Dead corals act as substratum for the coral larvae. Damaging the dead corals cause demand for the survival of coral larvae.
4. Marine water pH will be low which disturb the marine ecosystem (Venkataraman and Raghuram, 2006; Choudhury *et al.*, 2007; ENVIS Centre, 2015, Ramesh *et al.*, 2019)

On the one hand the seaweed collectors struggle for their livelihood on the other hand there has been a rational exploitation of seaweed which further leads to the habitat loss of numerous marine organisms.

The Central Government of India and State Government of Tamil Nadu are taking several initiatives for the conservation of Gulf of Mannar Marine reserve and livelihood security of seaweed collectors. Sustainable livelihood options for the women sea weed collectors needs to be pursued so that both the stakeholders' needs are met.

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V. FIELD ACTION AND ADVOCACY

Field action and advocacy focused on:

- a. Public campaigns with street plays and dance performances
- b. Dialogues on gender equity among men students within a college campus in Madurai city – Madura College, Madurai.
- c. Global 16 days of activism against gender based violence
- d. Capacity building of men staff members of the Lady Doak College, on gender equity and equality for them to catalyze change within the campus.

The following interventions took place:

- 1. Public Campaigns with Street Theatre:** Ten men students from the Madura College, Madurai and ten women students of Lady Doak College, campaigned with a street play produced by them in a public mall and within college campuses. The street play focused on:
 - The street play focused on how young men become perpetrators of sexual abuse on women due to a social transmission of values related to the subordination of women through everyday language, schooling or teaching and institutionalized family values.
 - The street theatre was enacted within two college campuses and inside a busy public mall.
- 2. Public Campaign with a Choreo on ‘Arise and Stride’** – Twenty interested women students from various disciplines of Lady Doak College, accompanied the Street Theatre performances with a choreo on encouraging women to rise above the challenges of sexual abuse. This program was performed in a public mall and within two College campuses.





At The Madura College, Madurai



At vishal de Mal, Madurai

3. Interaction with high school students of Pandian Nedunchezhain School

A team of students, faculty of the College of Experiential Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences and Lady Doak College, visited the Pandian Nedunchezhian Corporation High School in Madurai and interacted with the principal, teachers and students.

- Various questions on roles, responsibilities, and crimes on women were asked to the students.
- The principal shared how most children came from families with separated parents.
- Students aspired for increased infrastructures, facilities and time for sports and seemed to have a strong political consciousness.
- Opinions like, insufficient punishment for offenders of sexual violence, were shared by them with us.



4. Promoting debates on Gender Equity among men students and staff members

A discussion was held with around 75 men students of the Madura College, Madurai, in their campus, moderated by the Centre for Women's Studies team of Advisor, Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar and Coordinator, Dr. Ann Nirmala. The Principal Dr. Suresh, and Faculty team of the Madurai College, facilitated the event in Madura College. The team was accompanied by the faculty members of the College of Lifelong Learning and Experiential Learning of the Singapore University of Social Sciences. The dialogue evoked incisive comments/opinions from the students. Men students differentiated between protecting their sisters or ensuring their safety and respecting their dignity as independent thinking individuals with the freedom of expression and mobility. Women students who participated appreciated the need for strengthening the voices of the feminist movement to bring about gender equality and dignity for women.



The Madura College students interacting with faculty members of the Singapore University of Social Sciences



Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies, talks on gender inequality

5. The Global 16 Days Activism against Gender Based Violence from 25th Nov 2019 to 10th Dec 2019 was observed under the theme ‘Generation Equality Stands against Rape’. It consisted of :

a. Social Media Campaign [25.11.2019]

A logo designed by the CWS Team highlights statistics on crimes against women and invited students, faculty and wider community to participate in a social media campaign with the hash tags, #16DaysCampaign #RatifyILO19 #OrangeTheWorld, #GenerationEqualityAtLDC



Picture of the Logo

b. A Solidarity Campaign to protest against Sexual Abuse with a Photo Booth depicting various forms of abuse perpetrated on women.

Photo booth





6. Interactive session on ‘Gender Equality – How to make it a Lived Reality’

Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Superior of Manila Community and Member of Priory Council, Former President of St. Scholastic a’s College, Philippines and Prof. Arche Ligo, Professor of Women’s Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, St. Scholastic a’s College, Philippines, interacted with more than 40 faculty members of Lady Doak College, engaged in teaching women’s studies in a one day event.

- Prof. Arche Ligo, shared her views on the theme ‘The Woman Question’
- Sr. Mary John, who engaged the audience with her immense experiences on the theme ‘Women and Spirituality’.
- She evoked the thoughts of spiritual well-being and how it helps women to achieve her dreams.
- She encouraged the students and faculty to learn about their culture and religiosity.
- Faculty of Lady Doak College who had completed the Inter Cultural Course on Women and Society shared their experiences in Manila and how they were able to apply the acquired knowledge and experience in their personal lives as well as within the academic environment of Lady Doak College.

Interactive session on 'Gender Equality – How to make it a Lived Reality'



Prayer by Sr. Mary John Mananzan



Welcome Address by Dr. Christianna Singh, Principal & Secretary, Lady Doak College



'Women and Spirituality' by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Superior of Manila Community and Member of Priory Council, Former President of St. Scholastic a's College, Philippines



Interaction and experience sharing with Faculty who completed the Inter Cultural Course on Women and Society

7. Trainers Training on Gender Studies for Men

The struggle for gender equity is a shoulder to shoulder walk with our men. A Trainers' Training on Gender Studies for Men, conducted by the Institution of Women's Studies, St. Scholasticas' College, Manila, Philippines and sponsored by the Lady Doak College management was attended by three men staff members from the Centre for Information Technology, Centre for Communication and Multimedia and the Principal's office. The men returned with unshakeable commitment to turn the HIStory into a HERStory!! This event has opened new pathways to our united struggle for gender equality and our men will take their learnings to men and women of other higher educational institutions and organizations, while also catalyzing changes within our campus.



Men staff attending Trainers Training on Gender Studies for Men



Details of Field Action and Advocacy

S. No.	Date	Name of Event/Persons who conducted	Participants
1.	13th December 2019	Public Campaigns with Street Theatre 11 men students from Madura College and 11 women students from Lady Doak College	Target: Around 500 members of general public in Vishal de mal, Madurai
2.	13th December 2019	Public Campaign with a Choreo on 'Arise and Stride' Participants:23 students of Lady Doak college	Target: Aaround 500 people in Vishal de mal, Madurai shopping mall
3.	7 th January 2020	Interaction with high school students of Pandian Nedunchezchain School	20 students of Std.IX
4.	25th November 2019 7 th December 2019	The Global 16 Days Activism against Gender Based Violence from 25th Nov 2019 to 10th Dec 2019 a. Social Media Campaign b. A Solidarity Campaign to protest against Sexual Abuse with a Photo Booth depicting various forms of abuse perpetrated on women.	600 Women's Studies students General public
5.	11th November	Interactive session on 'Gender Equality –	32 Women's Studies

S. No.	Date	Name of Event/Persons who conducted	Participants
	2019	How to make it a Lived Reality'	faculty members and 4 staff members
6.	7 th January 2020	Promoting debates on Gender Equity among men students and staff members	100 students both men and women students of Madura College along with 30 women students from Lady Doak College

Gender Champions - Uliyin Oli Club Meets

S. No.	Date	EVENT/Theme	Participants
1.	10.07.2019	Discussion on Gender In India with students of the International Service Learning Program”	16 Students from Uliyin Oli Club Gender champions and 6 international participants from International Christian University, Japan, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan and Oberlin College USA.
2.	01.08.2019	Planning Meet	10 Uliyin Oli Club Gender Champions
3.	16.08.2019	Discussion on Gender Perspectives of Indians With Mr. Peter De Decker From Belgian Non-Profit Organization Edukado	6 Uliyin Oli Members
4.	16.09.2019	Discussion on Activities of Women’s Studies Centre, and Uliyin Oli Club on the Inter Cultural Status of Women with Ms. Ebba Adersson from Oxford University	7 Uliyin Oli Students And 1 Media Intern

Uliyin Oli Club Activities

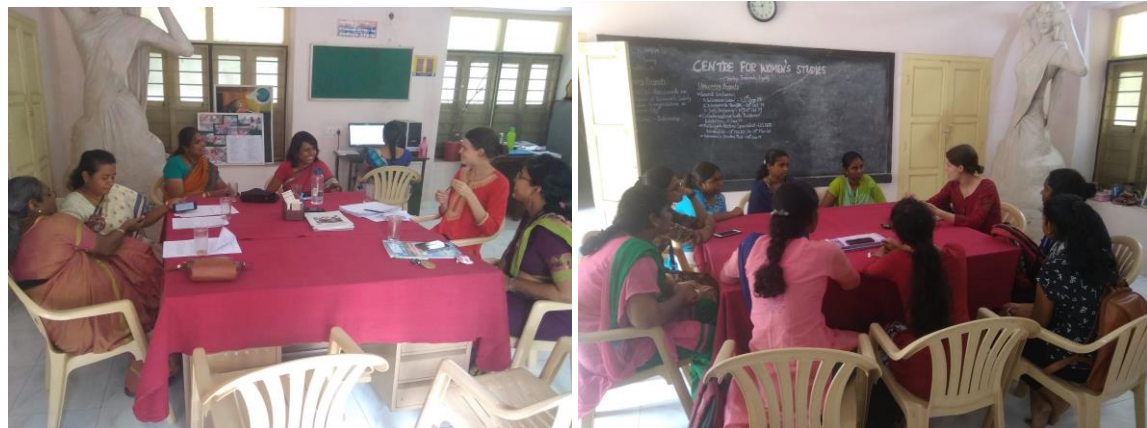


Discussion on Gender Perspectives Of Indians With Mr. Peter De Decker



Gender Champions – Uliyin Oli Club

Discussion with Ms. Eba Anderson, Oxford University



Discussion with Ms. Ebba Aderson

Mentorship to establish Women's Studies Centres in other Colleges of Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Date	Name of College	Participation of Faculty
1.	9th April 2019	Nandha Arts and Science College, KoorapalaamPirivu, Pitchandampalayam Post, Erode – 638 052	1. Dr. P. Ramya 2. Dr. M. Poonkothai 3. Mrs. V. N. Shanthi 4. Dr. S. Prasath
2.	4th July 2019	A.P.C. Mahalakshmi College for Women, Thoothukudi	1. Dr. S. Vanitha 2. Ms. R. Vadivukarasi 3. Mrs. S. Vedhavalli

The visitors appreciated the interactions with Dr. Caroline Nesabai, Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar and Dr. Ann Nirmala Carr and the research associate Mrs. Manjusha. The teams were especially impressed with the veteran Dr. Beulah Rajkumar who shared her informative ideas to write and prepare the proposal to submit applications to initiate Women's Studies Centres.



Nandha Arts and Science College, KoorapalaamPirivu, Pitchandampalayam Post, Erode and A.P.C. Mahalakshmi College for Women, Thoothukudi

VI. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

News coverage of events of Centre for Women's Studies, LDC	Name of the Newspaper with published date of publication
Kin of Honour Killing Victims share their tale of woes	Indian Express – 21 May 2019
College Teachers honoured for creating Safe Space for LGBTIQ+	The Hindu – 18 July 2019
Skit, flash mob performed to create awareness of gender equality - Students of two city colleges perform the events at shopping mall	The Hindu City Newspaper - Saturday, December 14, 2019
சாதனைபெண்களுக்குவிருது	Dinamalar Newspaper – Friday, March 6, 2020
டோக்பெருமாட்டிகல்லூரியில்மகளிர்தினவிழா	The Hindu Tamil – Friday, March 6, 2020
International Women's Day Celebration	Deccan Chronicle – Friday – 6 March 2020

Kin of honour-killing victims share their tale of woes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
© Madurai

A ONE-DAY workshop on 'Honour Crimes in Tamil Nadu: Understanding Experiences and Challenges through the testimonies of victims and survivors' was held at Lady Doak College on Saturday. The programme was organised by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University in collaboration with EVIDENCE, an NGO based in Madurai and Centre for Women's studies in the college.

Former director of Centre for Women's Studies Caroline Nesabai, Bharathidasan University Department of Women's Studies Director N Manimekalai, Madurai Kamaraj University Vice Chancellor M Krishnan and Visiting Fellow,

Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, Professor Indu Agnihotri, were present on the occasion.

Indu Agnihotri spoke on the topic of 'Caste, Gender and the Political Economy of Honour Crimes'.

Kathir, an activist associated with EVIDENCE, said that in the last five years as many as 187 honour killings were reported from Tamil Nadu and majority of the victims belonged to scheduled caste community.

He further said that the Supreme Court had asked the states to file status report on honour killings. "Till now, 22 states, including Haryana and Punjab, accepted that there were honour killings prevailing in their states. Meanwhile,

Tamil Nadu is keeping mum on the issue. Draft law on 'Honour killings' is not implemented and judicial system need to be reformed," he said.

More than 10 family members of the victims of honour crimes shared their plight on the occasion. Speaking to Express, Rojanavathi, one of the family members of a honour killing victim from Thiruvavur said that her physically challenged daughter Amirthavalli had married an upper caste man and both were living in a nearby village.

"While they were happily living, the niece of the man invited the couple to come to the village in 2014. But when they arrived the brother of the man killed the couple and their 40-day-old child and disposed of the bodies in different plac-

es," she said with tears rolling down her cheeks.

She further said that after her daughter eloped with the man, the upper caste people stopped calling the family members for jobs and started treating them like slaves.

"They often come to my home and used to threaten us. With the help of Evidence, I fought for justice. After two years, the accused got double life sentence. Even now, people belonging to our own community are not support her family as upper caste members are their employers," she said.

Another person Chinna Kannan from Dindigul district, who also belong to scheduled caste community, said that his son was killed by people belonging to upper caste on October 2016 as he was in an

affair with an upper caste girl.

He said that his son was a PG holder and was working as a field staff in Gandhigram Rural Institute. "The girl was working as a nurse in a government hospital. In the pretext of discussing their marriage the upper caste people called him and killed him. Till now the chargesheet was not filed," he said. Another member, Sargunam from Palayamkottai said that his wife was killed in front of him by the upper caste men as his brother-in-law, a railway employee, had eloped with an upper caste girl in May 2016. He alleged that even the officials were not bothered about the plight of the lower caste people. "It's after two-year-long battle that the accused got life sentence imprisonment," he added.

2/15/19 Indian Express

The Hindu : 18/9/19

College teachers honoured for creating safe space for LGBTIQ+

There should be a helpline for the community: Transgender Resource Centre

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

Four teachers, who made their campuses LGBTIQ+ friendly, were honoured by the Transgender Resource Centre (TRC) here on Wednesday.

TRC founder Priya Babu said the objective of the event was to recognise college teachers aiding in the education of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual, plus community.

"The government institutes many awards to teachers each year, but they barely address those who have uplifted our community. These teachers have a huge history and have consistently helped our students grow," she said.

Over the years, Mx. Babu said several hundred students from nearby institutions such as Lady Doak College, Sourashtra College, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College and American College visited TRC to conduct research and interact with transgenders.

"We have over 150 books and short films along with over 8,500 printed news articles to document the lives of transgenders in our country. This is being effectively utilised by students thanks



District Education Officer H. Pankajam, extreme right, honouring college lecturers in Madurai on Wednesday. • R. ASHOK

to permission from your institutions," she said addressing students at Lady Doak College.

Teachers honoured at the event, R. Chitra from Sourashtra College, Ann Nirmala from Lady Doak College, T. Julain from The American College and R. Shankar from Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, spoke of the need for greater awareness among students.

They said TRC had caused a wave in the minds of students by helping them understand a community that

had been largely 'othered'. Christianna Singh, Principal and Secretary of Lady Doak College, said students and teachers should be accepting of each other. "Social science and sociology must go beyond the classroom. We should engage in the wholesome business of learning."

District Education Officer Pankajam congratulated the winners.

Mx. Babu said that though support was rising among all communities and there was greater acceptance of trans-

genders, the space for discussion on the topic was sparse.

"We receive many calls from college students who want to redress their grievances, express themselves and have a safe space without judgment. It is essential that colleges have a grievance cell or a support centre for students to air their views," she said.

A helpline for LGBTIQ+ community was essential. Education was the only means to change society, she added.

Skit, flash mob performed to create awareness of gender equality

Students of two city colleges perform the events at shopping mall

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

In a novel attempt, the students of Lady Doak College (LDC) and The Madura College, performed a flash mob and skit to create awareness of gender equality, at Vishaal De Mal here on Friday.

The events were organised by Women's Study Circle of the LDC as part of '16 days of activism against gender-based violence', an annual campaign carried out worldwide from November 25 to December 10.

First, the students enacted a skit to create awareness of the stigma associated with sexual harassment.

"There is a set of stereotypes and judgments associated with sexual harass-



For a cause: Students of Lady Doak College performing a flash mob at Vishaal De Mal in Madurai on Friday. •G. MOORTHY

ment. Capital punishment is not the ultimate solution, and there is a need for change in the mindset of people to address the issue of sexual harassment," said

M.A. Logitha, a student of the LDC.

The group wanted to create awareness of the idea of gender equity, said T. Bharathkumar, a student of The

Madura College. "The nature of work for men and women has been pre-defined and this needs to be changed," he said.

Later, a group of girls performed a flash mob to focus on the importance of women being confident. The enthralled shoppers cheered the students.

Ann Nirmala, coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, said the students had earlier participated in a five-day workshop on gender equality. "The ideas related to the skit and the flash mob were generated by the students during the workshop. We are also planning to perform the skit in colleges across the city to create awareness," she added.



Participants at International women's day celebration at Lady Doak College in Madurai on Thursday. —DC

Paper Presentations:

S. No.	Title of the Paper	Presented By	Presented At
1.	Multigenerational Approaches to an Equal Future	Dr. Christianna Singh	Women's Conclave on the UN theme of Generational Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru
2.	Models for Generational Equality	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar	
3.	Sharing of Inspiring and Motivating Stories	Dr. Suka Joshua	

Prizes and Awards:

Date of Event	Achievers Name	Research Reports/Films published
27.09.2019	Ms. Anu and Ms. Minas Parveen, Media Interns, Centre for Women's studies – Won 2 nd Prize Dr. Durga Devi, Assistant Professor, Department of History – Won 3 rd prize	DHAN Foundation Film competition Development Film Festival Awards – 2 nd & 3 rd Prizes for Two Documentary Films – 'Watch Her Struggle'- A film on Women and Water and 'Arise'. Ezhukathir - A film on the Leadership of a Woman Panchayat President, Chandra Pitchai, in Madurai District in 2019
17.07.2019	Dr. Beulah JM Rajkumar, Advisor and Dr. Ann Nirmala Carr, Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies	Best Teachers' Award to Coordinator and Advisor, Centre for Women's Studies, for Creating an Inclusive Environment, Free of Discrimination for Transgender Communities, instituted by the Transgender Resource Centre in July 2019.

Prizes and awards received by faculty and media interns



Best Teacher Award to Dr. Ann Nirmala Carr, Coordinator, CWS



3rd prizes won by - Dr. Durga Devi, Assistant Professor, History Department



2nd Prizes won by Ms. Anu and Ms. Minas Parveen, Media Interns, CWS

VII. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS

Date	Name of Organization	Nature of Collaboration	Persons Involved
Free Legal Aid every Thursday at Centre for Women's Studies	District Legal Services Authority, Madurai.	Every week a free legal services clinic functions with a Lawyer and legal clerk to give free legal advice to all who are in need of their services	LDC community
18.05.2019	Collaboration event with Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Advanced Centre for Development of Women's Studies, New Delhi and Civil Society Organization, Evidence.	One day workshop on 'Honour Crime in Tamil Nadu: Understanding Experiences and Challenges through the Testimonies of Victims and Survivors'	70 participants, families of victims of honour killing shared and the Vice Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University
28.07.2020	Collaborative effort of the Centre for Women's Studies, Centre for Human resource Development, Centre for Information Technology and Centre for Communication and Multi Media	ADAPTING TO A NEW NORMAL AMIDST COVID-19 – a Live Webinar for Faculty of Lady Doak College on the functional implications of the Corona Virus	48 Faculty members

Workshop on Prevention of Honor killing



Prof. Dr. M. Krishnan, Vice Chancellor, Madurai Kamraj University, Dr. Dr. Caroline Nesabai, Head of Department of Social Sciences, and Mr. Kathir, Director, Evidence at the Workshop Prevention of Honour Killing

Details of International Collaborations

Health Secure Foundation, Dallas Texas, USA a Non Profit endeavor of the Health Secure-EMR: Collaborator – Chief Medical Officer, **Dr. Sue Royappa, MD, MPH** American Board of Internal Medicine and American Board of Obesity Medicine

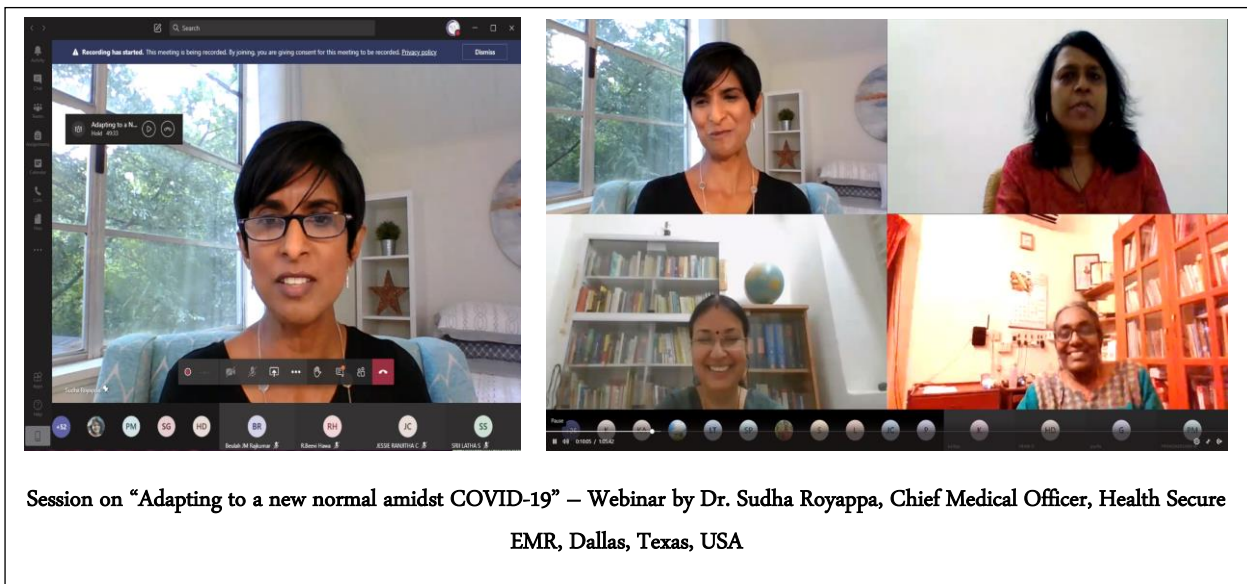
- ✓ **The inclusion of the modules on women’s health is an outcome of collaboration with Dr. Sue Royappa, Chief Medical Officer, Health Secure EMR, Dallas, Texas, USA. Dr. Sue Royappa has designed the health modules and delivered online lectures during the academic session of 2020-21 as a start up program.**

As part of their College Health Program, Dr. Sue Royappa, who works in the aspects of life style diseases that can be prevented by behavioral modifications has developed the content for a health module in a Post graduate elective course offered by Centre for Women’s

Studies. Diseases include diabetes, heart disease, cancers, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

“Adapting to a new normal amidst COVID-19” – Webinar held on 30th June 2021

Dr. Sudha Royappa addressed the faculty members of Lady Doak College on “Adapting to a new normal amidst COVID-19”. The talk highlighted Cognitive behavioural therapy to change our perspectives in response to COVID -19. The biggest challenge in fighting this pandemic has been the lack of knowledge about the virus. She clearly explained the case fatality rate (CFR) of infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis, Measles, Pneumonia and neurological problems in India annually. While the CFR for these diseases were very high in India, the CFR of COVID -19, is yet to match these figures. This implied that the severity/virulence of corona virus is not so high on considering the CFR of other infectious diseases. She emphasized that the Covid deaths are just the tip of the iceberg but the bottom line is broad comprising of anxiety, depression, suicide, fear, loneliness, alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic violence. Hence, she insisted to give-up our fear and focus our mind on nutrition, physical activity and child vaccines. Moreover we must find ways to connect socially and emotionally, in order to change our behaviour. Also, she recommended not to rely on all the inputs of social media rumours related to COVID-19 but authentic resources.



College of Lifelong Learning and Experiential Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Faculty members from the College of Lifelong Learning and Experiential Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences, visited the Centre for Women's Studies over a period of six months to establish a collaborative project on empathy building and development of communications skills using visual media. The project will focus on empathy and solidarity building among school going boys and girls to enhance dignity and respect for one another. The project envisions shaping young minds with a critical outlook on gender inequality to enable them to recognize one another's strengths, potential and humanity and overcome gender divides. A workshop titled 'Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges', will be held for school children, followed by a training workshop on visual media, for the students of the SUSS to script films on Gender Equity and reach a wider audience. 10 students from Singapore University of Social Sciences and 10 students from Lady Doak College will be participating in the workshop.



Discussion on Empathy Building and development of communications skills using visual media with Singapore University of Social Sciences



Discussion on activities of Women's Studies Centre

Association KARANGAL Nyon, Switzerland – Media Education

Association KARANGAL, founded by Mrs. Lily Amirtham is a nonprofit association of Swiss philanthropists who support various development initiatives in India, with aid. The organization is now collaborating with Centre for Women's Studies, to produce educational videos, that will be a media skills education program for students of Lady Doak College in the development of critical thinking and analysis, acquire artistic and communications skills as necessary elements for the future leaders of our society. This project will take place in two phases from October-December 2020 and in May 2021.

VIII. SPECIAL EVENT

International Women's Day 2020

'I am Generation Equality – Realizing Women's Rights'

சக்திகள் 100

International Women's Day was celebrated in Lady Doak College in collaboration with Transgender Resource Centre Madurai on March 5, 2020, under the UN Women theme 'I am Generation Equality – Realizing Women's Rights'. The event affirmed equality between women and men by bringing together 100 women in Madurai who worked for this change. It was inaugurated by the Principal & Secretary, Lady Doak College, Dr. Christianna Singh and Key note address was delivered by Dr. Annie Vijaya IPS, DIG, Madurai Range. Mrs. Josephine, proprietor of VIBIS, Mrs. Chandra Pitchai, Former Panchayat President at Tirali, Mr. Annamalai, Journalist and Mr. Selvam Ramasamy, Managing Trustee, Nature Secure Foundation were the five eminent guests of honor for the day.

The title “சக்திகள் 100” was chosen with the intention of acknowledging the fellow human's sacrifices for our society and specially honoring 100 women who made huge contributions in making our Madurai district a better place to live by overcoming the challenges and pushing the hardships through their way.

Dr. Christianna Singh, in her inaugural address highlighted the significance of equality despite the differences which arise through gender, culture, age or ethnicity among us. The title “Sakthigal 100” was chosen with the intention of acknowledging the fellow human's sacrifices for our society and specially honoring 100 women who made huge contributions in making our Madurai district a better place to live by overcoming the challenges and pushing the hardships through their way.

Dr. Z Annie Vijaya IPS, DIG, Madurai Range, stressed that men and women are not against each other but rather they complement each other, without one the other cannot live. She also reiterated that she will be happy to born again as woman a thousand times over.

The significance of the day was highlighted by Ms. Priya Babu, Founder, Transgender Resource Centre, Madurai. In her speech she emphasized the power and blessing of being a woman. She inspired the gathering to multiply this count from 100 to 1000 and more. She felt

proud that the Lady Doak community has provided them with the dignity and respect that they deserve and has awarded them as one among the 100 women achievers. The event couldn't have been a grand success without the help of the sponsors. The throne like stage decoration was sponsored by Jeyaprabha Jewellers. The appetite inducing food was sponsored by Hotel Temple City and the mouthwatering refreshments were sponsored Theni Anantham Silks and Ready-made wears.

Glimpses of the International Women’s Day celebrations

International Women’s Day 2020 ‘I am Generation Equality – Realizing Women’s Rights’



Release of Profile of 100 Women Change Makers



Dr. Christianna Singh, Principal & Secretary delivers inaugural address



The Glowing Divas – 100 Women Change Makers



Celebrating Achievement

Christianna Singh 09/03/2021

Dr. Christianna Singh
Principal
Lady Doak College

Principal & Secretary
LADY DOAK COLLEGE
MADURAI -2

Ann Nirmala Carr 09/03/2021

Dr. Ann Nirmala Carr
Coordinator,
Centre for Women's Studies & Asst. Professor

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
LADY DOAK COLLEGE
MADURAI