

# **Best Practice 1**

## **Gender Awareness and Empowerment of Women**

**Reports of Centre for Women's Studies  
and Gender Centre**

**Centre for Women's Studies (Sponsored by UGC)  
Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai 600086**

**Report of the activities June 2015 - April 2016**

The Centre for Women's Studies organized a workshop for the academic year 2015-16 titled "**Gender Identity and Sexuality**" on 10 October, 2015 . The Inauguration started with the welcome address being delivered by Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, who also introduced the theme of the workshop. The chief guest for the inauguration was Dr. Kadambari, Director, Women's Studies Centre, Ethiraj College, Chennai, who then delivered the key note address. The first session for the day started after the commencement of the inauguration.

Session I was taken over by Mr. Shiva and Mr. Vikram from NIRANGAL an NGO working on Gender issues. This session was very interactive and had few slide shows. The participants had great reciprocation with the speakers. The session had both Tamil and English conversations. Mr. Selvam, transman was presented in front of the participants to share his opinion. This session was chaired by Dr.A.Mangai , Associate Professor, Department of English and also a theatre personality, gave valuable inputs and feedbacks to the audiences'.

Session II was a film screening. The short Film titled "AGRINAIKAL?" was screened to the participants. The Director of the movie, Mr. Ilangovan IRAS officer was present for the session. After the screening of the movie, an interactive session was commenced between the participants and speaker. Ms. Ramya, Head Public Relations Department, chaired the session. This session was also found to be highly interesting amongst the participants.

Session III was taken over by Mr. Ramakrishnan, Country Director of SAATHI an NGO. This session had more of data and facts being delivered to the participants in the form of a power point presentation. The session was chaired by Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, Centre for Women's Studies.

The chief guest for the valedictory session was Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Former Principal of Stella Maris College. Sister addressed the gathering and issued certificates to the participants. The Vote of thanks for the event was given by Ms. Geraldine Smith, International Studies Department.

A number of 53 students across departments participated in the workshop. All the members of the Centre were present for the workshop. Members of DAMINI, a group formed as apart of women's studies Centre helped with the various activities of the workshop.

This workshop was an eye opener for most of the students, this they, felt would help them to be sensitive to the needs of the transmen and transwomen and not to be frightened of them. The participants gave a feedback that the workshop was informative and an eye opener for many. The participants also felt that more of such workshops should be organized periodically. Overall the workshop was a success and was appreciated and liked by all the participants.



Resource persons of the workshop “**Gender Identity and Sexuality**”



**Distribution of certificates for participants by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent**

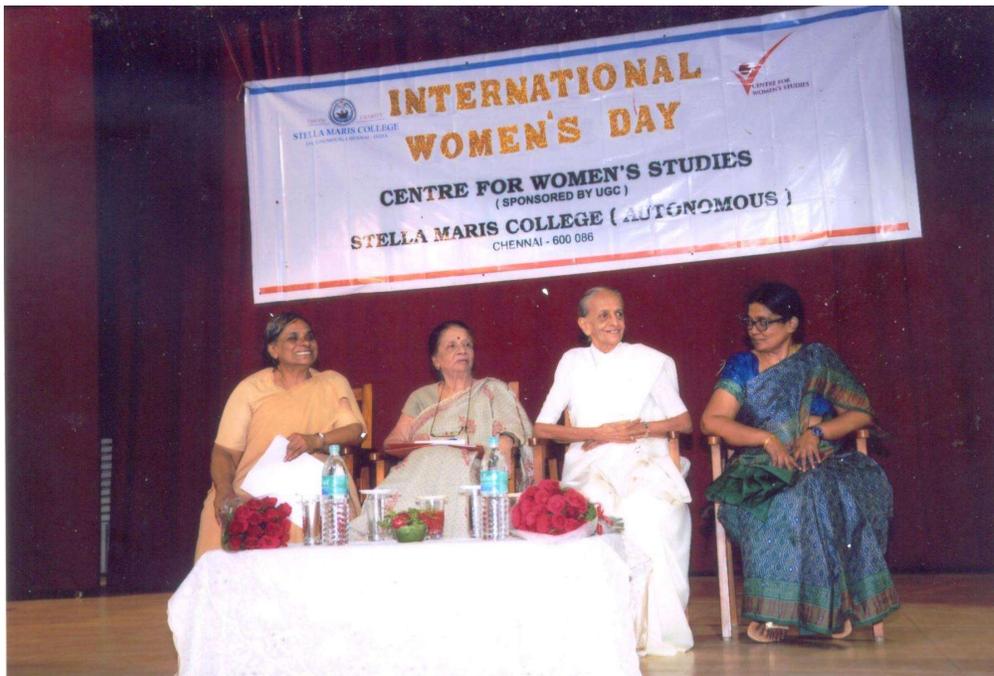


Organizing committee of the workshop, with Director, CWS and Resource persons.

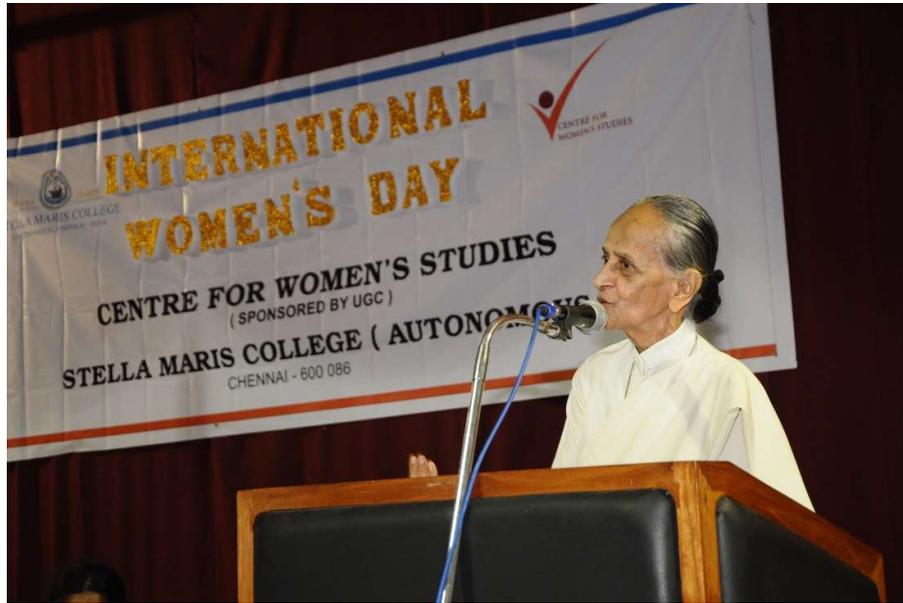
**International Women's Day Celebration:** The Centre for Women's Students commemorated International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Guest for the event was Padmasri Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, eminent women activist and social worker. Students and Faculties from all departments were part of the celebration. On behalf of Women's Day

celebration, various competitions were conducted amongst students and prizes were distributed.

Padmasri Dr. Jaya Arunachalam spoke on her experiences working with the women. Especially about her delegations demands of effective implementation of economic programmes for poor women workers in the unorganized sectors through collective and social actions.



**Sr. Susan**, Secretary, Stella Maris College, Padmasri Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Former principal, Stella Maris College and Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, CWS



**Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent**, former principal and Director, English Language and Life Skills, Stella Maris college



Cross section of audience for the celebration of International Women's Day



Cross section of audience for the celebration of International Women's Day

A diploma certificate was awarded to students who have completed two general elective courses and participated at least in a workshop organized by the Centre for Women's Studies.





Cultural programme – Mime performed by students



Poetry recitation by Students at International Women's day

**Women's Empowerment Workshop for ELLS Students:** A one day workshop for the English Language and Life Skills Students on Women's Empowerment was conducted on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The first session was Media and Women, second session on Verbal Abuse and third session was an interactive one. Certificates were distributed to the students at the end of the workshop.

First session was conducted by Dr. Ann Samuel, associate professor in fine Arts and Academic Dean. In this session Dr. Anne vividly brought out the influence of Media on Women. She

brought out how the media projects and describes who a woman is how they are judged through clippings from various media.



Dr. Ann Samuel, associate professor in fine Arts and Academic Dean, Stella

Ms. Ramya Prasad, head, department of Public Relations coordinated the second session on **Verbal Abuse**. Ms. Ramya used lots of illustrations and pictures from media to highlight the subtle verbal abuse in media.

The third session after launch break was coordinated by Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, CWS on empowerment of women. This was a participatory session. All students participated with enthusiasm and vigor.



Students of ELLS participating in the workshop on 'empowerment of women'.



Students of ELLS participating in the workshop on 'empowerment of women'.

Later a certificate was issued for all participants by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, the director of ELLS, Stella Maris College.



These sessions were real learning experience of these first generation students. They were trying to identify themselves in terms of their empowerment status and decision making roles. They also gave a feedback saying that they should accept media with reservations and cautions and should not be carried away by all that is projected in the media.

### **Awards of special certificate for Women's Studies – Stella Maris College**

The Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with the Department of Economics and Sociology is offering the following General Elective (GE) Courses "**Women's Studies**" and "**Women and Identity**" to the students from across all the departments in college.

On the completion of these elective courses and participation in the workshops and/or seminars organized by the Centre, the students will be awarded a special certificate from the Centre for **Women's Studies**.

Women's Studies GE course offered by the Department of Economics is an introductory course dealing with role of women in society, in the economy and builds around the experience of both urban and rural women. It is offered in the even semester and seventy students have registered for it.

Women and identity offered by the Department of Sociology critically and creatively examines the social constructions of identities of women from social and experimental perspectives. It is offered in the odd semester and seventy students have registered for it.

Around 18 students across disciplines have enrolled for both the GE courses and attended Workshops organized by the Centre and have qualified for the award of the certificate by the Centre for Women's Studies.

**UGC Standing Committee Member Visit:** The UGC Centre for Women's Studies Standing committee Ms. Indumathi Rao visited the college and Centre on February 18, 2016.



**Co-organized a Conference :** The Centre for Women's Studies along with Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS), Regional Association for Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Ethiraj College for Women and the University of Madras co-organized the Southern Regional Workshop on "Documenting Contributions of Women's Movements , Women's Organizations and Women" on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 participants from different parts of Indian attended the workshop.

**The DAMINI Club:** The DAMINI club which was part of Women's Issues in College was helpful in the coordinating various activities of the Centre. Around 10 students of third year Economics are currently being active members of the Club.

**Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) Sponsored by UGC)  
Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai 600086**

**Report of the activities June 2016 - April 2017**

CWS sponsored by University Grants Commission seeks to study the questions of gender, in an inter-disciplinary and comparative framework thereby providing the space for creating a vibrant community of students, activists, and artists concerned with issues of gender, sexuality and wider issues of powers in society. The Centre is primarily interested in academics and overall approach is multi-disciplinary. The prime aim of the Centre is creation of critical awareness and sensitivity towards women's issues. The Centre seeks to consolidate and strengthen many of the college's initiatives towards women's education as well as extracurricular activities that help women to become skillful and independent.

Director of the Centre is Dr. Millie Nihila, faculty from the Department of Economics. There is a core group of faculty members namely Dr. Anne Samuel, Faculty, Department of Fine Arts, Dr. A Mangai, Faculty, Department of English, Ms. Lora Joseph, Faculty, Department of Social Work, Ms. Ramya, Faculty, Dept. of Public Relations, Ms. Geraldine, Faculty, Department. of International Studies and Dr. Sandra Joseph, IQAC along with the Director of the Centre.

The Damini Club is the Students' wing of the Centre which enthusiastically involves in implementing the activities of the Centre. In this Academic year 2016 – 17, the first event was organized by the Centre with the Damini Club on July 27<sup>th</sup>, Lecture on the title "What does it mean to be a woman" It is a participatory programme where the students shared their personal experiences.





Later, on 6 September 2016, West Indies cricketer Bravo was invited. He interacted with the students on the role of women in sports. He encouraged the students to break the stereotype and take up sports as a career. The cricketer interacted with the students of the college alongside promoting the Tamil Nadu Premier League. The floor was open to questions which were cheerfully answered by Mr. Bravo. Most of the questions pertained to women's participation in sports, particularly cricket. Mr. Bravo encouraged the students to break stereotypes and take on sports as a career. The members of the club were actively involved in planning and conducting the entire program. Various cultural programmes like music and dance were hosted by the members of the club.







Mr. V Balakrishnan from Theatre Nisha conducted 2 sessions for students on 8 September 2016 which focused on breaking innate body images conception arising from community socialization.



The Centre along with the Damini Club observed the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women on November 25. Online competition on this issue was conducted and 16 days of activism against Gender based violence was organized from 25th November 2016 onwards. A sticker board was arranged in OAT to encourage students to express their view on gender violence.



On Jan 11 and 12, 2017 a workshop was conducted by Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar of Red Elephant Foundation and Mrs. Geetha Jeyakumar a leading Psychologist and women's rights activist. This interactive workshop focused on individuals' perception of women's empowerment and coping mechanism of stress relief and believing in oneself.





Following this series of lectures was organized by Centre for Women's Studies to the undergraduate, post-graduate and English language and life skills students of the college.

The Department of English in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies organised an interactive "Meet the Author" session with transgender activist and writer A.Revathi on February 22, 2017. Ms. A. Revathi, one of the most prominent spokespersons for transgender rights in south India, is also a writer, theatre person and actor. In a rather no-holds-barred talk to a crowd of about 200, Revathi disclosed the most painful moments of her life as a transwoman, sensitizing the audience to social issues that discriminate women and members of the transgender community. She also shared her thoughts on the power of her writing, which she deemed the translation of her pain into words. (*"valigalai varigalaai amaithaale podhum"*). During the question session that followed, she was flooded with questions that were both personal and social, which included those about her take on feminism on the label of "the third sex". Her answers proved to enhance the audience's understanding of transgender issues in a healthy direction. By the end, it was unanimously agreed that the interaction with Revathi had sparked off a change within each one of the audience.





This was followed by a workshop for post graduate students of Public Relations Department on Block Printing at SMC DRIVE by Dr. K. Dakshina Murthy a Winner of a national award for his work on Tissue sarees and Ms. Mahalakshmi Saravanan, Founder of Women's Entrepreneur of India, oriented students on Digital Marketing.

The first year students of Public Relations Department of Stella Maris College got an implausible opportunity to attend the block printing sessions organized by the Centre for Women's Studies at Shanti Bhavan on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 12 pm. The session was piloted by Dr. K. Dakshinamurthy (Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai), who is also a National Award winner for his work on tissue sarees. The students were explained and were brought into details about the difference between block printing and screen printing, its merits and demerits. It is the earliest, simplest and slowest of all methods of textile printing. The students were also given convenience and space by giving them one piece of cloth in order to try and experience the labouring of this old practice. They were also trained on how to use the ink, its mixing and methodology of dipping the block, for each and every step taken matters to the most for a sterling output.

Given such an opportunity to figure out talents and taste was one of the finest experiences the students could get. The joy of taking back the material on which each one of them put efforts on, which they never thought they could learn, understand or even touch a block material for a beautiful dexterity output.



Post Graduate students of Public Relations of our college attended one a interesting sessions on “Era of Digital marketing” on February 28, 2017, of a well renowned and impelling personality with an indomitable spirit, a woman entrepreneur Ms.MahalakshmiSaravanan, who is the founder of ‘Women Entrepreneurs India’. Ms.Mahalaskhmi is passionate in

creating better opportunities for women who has been encouraging budding entrepreneurs. Ms. Mahalakshmi has been conferred with the “Best Woman Entrepreneur” award by the SSM Educational Institutions and much more recognitions added to her credits.

Being recently introduced to the field of Digital Marketing, the students decidedly showed pointed interest and attention towards the session, which definitely abetted them to gain more knowledge and opportunities about the au courant area. Ms.Mahalaskhmi assisted the students in figuring out their area of interests and also clearly stated the opportunities of Digital Marketing viz., to become an in-demand professional, high payment than peers effortlessly, to kick start a career by oneself. The energetic interaction with the students was wind up with videos brought by her about the field and various question and answer session after the presentation, where students shared their queries, views and clarifications on various subjects that she daily dealt with. The session was fruitful that many opportunities were open up before them, sharing a new world of squeak and outlook.





The Centre for Women's Studies conducted a one day workshop on 27 February 2017 on Poster making on for the students of English Language and Life Skills (ELLS). Dr. Anne Samuel, Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Academic Dean and Dr. Millie Nihila were resource persons. The theme for the poster making was 'Women's empowerment' Materials needed for the workshop was provided to the students by the Centre and they were asked to design a poster within a limited time. All the students of ELLS

participated with enthusiasm. While giving a feedback they felt that they could express anything in posters, which would be very useful for their future studies, assignments and projects. Also three external judges examined the posters made individually by every student and prizes were given for the best one. At the end of the workshop, a certificate was given to all the participants. Participants felt that the workshop gave them to express their bird's view in a chart.





Dr. S. Anandhi, a well-known historian and an active feminist from Madras Institute of Development Studies addressed the undergraduate students of history department on “women’s Movements in India” On March 1, 2017. Dr. Anandhi recalled how activism for her was never separate from academics. She began her speech by establishing that “Personal is Political”- a widely known slogan used by women activists to fight for their rights. She rightly pointed out that in order to understand women’s movement in India; one should first trace the history of women, and while doing so, history should be re-read through her eyes. She went on to explain how in history women’s participation and sometimes even her existence are neglected by historians. Modern India was specially focused and it was analyzed how different groups- the reformers, revivalists and imperialists gave a new subjectivity for Indian women. She also quoted some women scholars and events from history that proved how women were not well represented during the women’s struggle. She also stated that only a woman can effectively represent a woman; she also suggested that this representation to further subjected to other factors like caste, economy etc. Dr. Anandhi raised a relevant question of where all the women participants of freedom struggle disappear after independence. She explained how during this time, women became a symbol of home or domestic life which was kept away from public sphere and participation. The concept of “ideal women” came about where women were seen as a representative of “Indian-ness”. She went on to talk about the participation of devdasis in the freedom struggle, Hindu code and Dalit women’s conference in Bobmay.

The lecture ended by an interactive session between the students and Dr Anandhi. She was extremely enthusiastic in answering the queries of the students. The lecture was indeed informative and gave a new outlook to women’s history. She helped us realized how history was also her-story and that it has to be looked through from her perspective as well. Around 80 students from the department of history attended the lecture.





Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, Centre for Women's Studies & Associate Professor in Economics and Dr. A. Mangai, Associate Professor in English, was also part of the organizing committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Women's Studies organized by IAWS in Chennai in January 2017.



The International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8, 2017. The chief guest for the program was Dr. Ruth Manorama, Human Rights Activist well known for her contribution in mainstreaming dalit issues and winner of Alternate Noble Prize (Right Likelihood Award). She is also the present President of National Alliance of Women. She spoke to the entire college community on Women's Empowerment. She brought in the integral contribution of women and the importance of women fighting against discrimination and inequality that women face in the society through an effective educational system and social behavior.

There was a short cultural programme – a poetry cum dance on the song entitled 'Baale – Anthem of Womenhood' this was followed by a violin solo recital.

Also photography competition, essay writing and advertisement review were organized in commemoration of International Women's Day.

Prizes were distributed to the students on various competitions held namely- photography competition, advertisement review, and problem solving competition etc., Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras distributed special certificates to 18 students who completed two general elective courses on women's issues.









Also a work shop was held on 'Gender issues in March, where 120 students benefited from it. Ms. Sankari, a transwomen and Mr. Sivakumar from Nilagal and were resource persons. Later a Skit on Ain't I a women was enacted by dramatics club and Dr. A Mangai was the discussant for this session. This was organized on March 22, 2017

The talk in the first session was very insightful and made us all understand the life and the hardships of a transgender and also the basic difference between what is meant by gender and sex. The talk given by Ms. Sankari, Transwomen was very deep even though she put it out in a very subtle manner. Certain aspects of her speech made a deep impact like when she spoke about how she was called different names, how her parents considered her a disgrace to their family, how she was physically abused by her teachers, how society looked down upon her. Even though she has been through so much, she is still so loving and giving and looks at the positive side of life and helps a lot of people who are doubtful about their gender identity.

Following this was the talk on sexuality by Mr. Shiva. He made it so easy to understand what is actually meant by sex and how it is different from gender and how there are certain people who do not want to identified as a male or a female and are slowly transitioning. He also brought out how gender roles influences in this process of transition. Even though transwomen are looked down upon by the society, they at least have the right to change their identity and live somehow either by begging or by pushing themselves into prostitution. But,transmen have not found a place in the society for the very reason that they were born as a female and how this male chauvinistic society considers females as just another play toy or object. He also beautifully explained what bisexuality and homosexuality means.

Very often one hear and read stories of women and men of the transgender community, which sound exaggerated, simply because it's hard to believe the atrocities they are subjected to. What may sound farfetched to us is often their reality. With the Centre for Women's Studies' workshop on the gender issues being kick started with Shankari, a transgender woman, we were all able to hear a first hand, soul bearing account of her life.





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In principle Centre does not focus on large scale issues troubling women as a whole rather we prefer to address a smaller group with specific interest to address gender related questions.

**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES  
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**REPORT 2017-2018**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:**

The International Women's Day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by the Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with the Department of Sociology. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, Founder and Managing trustee, The Prajnya Trust, Chennai. In order to commemorate Women's day, oratorical contest both in Tamil and English; slogan writing, poetry writing, essay competition, photography and poster making competition were conducted by the Centre and winners were awarded prizes by the chief guest. Faculty members who received awards for their distinguished work in their respective field during the academic year 2017-18, were also honoured at the occasion. Furthermore the Centre for Women's Studies distributed book marks amongst the college community.





Centre for Women's Studies along with DAMINI Club, which is a part of the Centre for Women's Studies, coordinated and conducted various activities of the Centre in and around colleges. The following are the list of events conducted by the DAMINI Club during the academic year 2017-18.

- The club conducted an introductory workshop for both Shift I and II students to orient and sensitise young women in campus on issues related to women.
- A movie - "Suffragette" was screened which attempted at tracing women's movement.
- More than 25 students of the club attended the Chennai International Queer Film Festival held in support of the LGBTQ community.

Dr. Millie Nihila, Director, Centre for Women's Studies attended the National Convention on Women's Studies Centres in New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017. The main aim of this convention was to brief about the significant contribution WSCs have made in the field of research on women which are untouched by other disciplines. They requested the University Grants commission to continue grants to the Women's Studies Centres until they are regularized as permanent departments with adequate faculty and staff positions and support activities. Also, the convention spoke about marginalization of the Women's Studies Centres among University Structures despite having achievements. The Director, attended conferences held at the SIET, JBAS College for Women, Chennai organized by the IAWS and RAWS.

**Stella Maris College**  
**Center for Women's Studies**  
**Report 2018-19**

Centre for Women's Studies sponsored by the University grants commission seeks to study the question of gender, in an inter disciplinary and comparative framework thereby providing the space for creating vibrant community of students, activists and artists concerned with the issue of gender, sexuality and wider issues of powers in society.

The Centre is primarily interested in academics and over all approach is multi disciplinary. The prime aim of the centre is creation of critical awareness and sensitivity towards women's issues.

The Damini club is the student's wing of the centre which enthusiastically involves in implementation of the activities of the centre. During this academic year 2018-19, the first event of the centre with the Damini club was in June.

The First workshop was conducted as a part of UBCHEA program in collaboration with the Department of History and Tourism at a NGO Rural Institute for Development Education on Issues related to women's empowerment at Kancheepuram. Students also visited a heritage museum called Kanchi Kudil.

In July, a workshop was organized and guided by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan , a writer , political analyst and social entrepreneur on "What Women Do".

This was followed by another workshop in August by Dr. Mangai on "Gender and Theatre in India". The workshop focused on gender equality in the society and women's empowerment. During the course of the workshop, issues related to LBGT community were also discussed. A short documentary film was screened which showed how theatre in India is biased and the steps being taken to change it.

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Damini week was celebrated in September in which various competitions on poetry, essay and photography was held and during break time reactionary sessions on LBGT rights and Section 377 was organized.

In November a poster making and art competition was held to support the social injustice victims of acid attack, rape, domestic violence and many more. A fund of rupees 16000 was collected from the art exhibition and donated to the victims.

25 students participated in the Symposium organized by the Pranjnya society on difficulties faced by women in the informal sector.

A crossword online puzzle was conducted as a part of International Women's day of disabled persons.

On January, as part of republic day celebration, the club initiated democratic pledge in the prayer where the whole college took an oath on the preserving and promoting our constitution and our country's democracy.

The club launched a new initiative called #women\_in\_unusual\_profession where a lady autodriver named malar who was invited to stella to have an interactive session with the club members, where she inspired the students by sharing her life story. A single mother raising two kids to become army and navy soldiers

Damini club along with prajnya group conducted a film review on Shah Jehan Apa , a documentary film on Shah Jehan Apa's struggle related to dowry. This enlightened the students about the negative effects of dowry and the possible solutions of reducing it in our society.

As a part of the horizon celebration, the Damini club organised a self defense workshop by Shihan S.Haribabu.

An open mic competition was conducted on women in media.

The Damini club along with the centre of women study has conducted various online events for the women's day celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.

Dr.Millie Nihila participated in different workshops organised by Indian Association of women studies, presented paper on Rukmani Lakshmi Pathy an unsung hero of Indian independence at Madras school of social work, she was a also a resource person for the workshop on occupational health issues in organisational sector.

On 16<sup>th</sup> march 2019, International Women's day was organized for the entire college. Dr. Ranjini Manian, Founder of India's Premier Relocation and Cross cultural Services Company – Global Adjustments- whose mission is to empower women and girls in schools, colleges and work place was the chief guest. During the programme 16 faculty members were felicitated for their achievement and awards earned during the academic year. Prize winners of Poetry writing, essay writing and photography competition on the theme Social Injustice against the girl child were given certificates.

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES**

**Report of the activities 2019-2020**

- **INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY CELEBRATIONS:**

**An Open-Air Assembly** was organised for all students of SHIFT-I at 9.a.m. The Guest Speakers for the occasion were Ms Ramya (Firefighter-Airport Authority of India) and Ms Smitha (Activist Physically Challenged) who shared their experiences. An Interactive Activity – Psycho Drama – was conducted by Ms Surabhi Sethia of TGIWF. For the students of SHIFT-II 3.15.p.m the Guest Speaker was Ms Renu Mira who spoke on her experience in parenting a mentally challenged child.

- **International Conference on Shaping Women Leaders** was organised in collaboration with IQAC and The University of Melbourne, on 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. The One Day Conference hosted eminent speakers like Prof Amanda Sinclair, Prof Kate Mac Neil, Prof Dolly Kikon, Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar, Dr. Lilian Jasper, Dr Brenda Lee, Dr Mercy Pushpalatha. They shared their personal experiences, and narratives. The overwhelming and enthusiastic participation of the students made the conference relevant and meaningful.

- Mr Rakshit Tandon, Director, Executive Council, Council of Information Security New Delhi was invited to speak on **SAFE SURFING: GETTING ONLINE WITH AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE** at the open-air assembly for all students of Shift -2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

The session lasted for over two hours with the resource person enlightening young women on safety measures and precautions for cyber safety. This was followed by an interactive session. The students were very attentive and cleared their queries on internet safety.

- The Women's Indian Association organised a Seminar and Competition on Gender and Climate Change on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 at Anna University. The team of three students won the third prize at the competition.
- Damini club, the students wing organised a self -defence workshop by Mr. Anthony Rozario on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2019.
- Damini club also invited Ms VijayaThilagam, Assistant Commissioner, to talk on the rights of women on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2019. The aim of the workshop was to nurture the minds of adolescent girls
- Number of competitions were held to foster the spirit of women hood in college for our students. It included Online Slogan Writing, Photography, Poetry and open Mic.
- A **Discussion** was held on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 marking **The International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women** and was followed by Oath Taking.
- An Art Workshop on moving painting and portrayal of women was held by artist Ms. Dhakshini on 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.
- The Centre will also collaborate with the Stella Maris College Gender Centre and The Great Indian Women Festival to present The Great Indian Women festival in March 2020. (postponed due to covid pandemic)

### **GLIMPSES OF THE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **International Conference on Shaping Women Leaders**



**SAFE SURFING: GETTING ONLINE WITH AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE**



**Self -Defence Workshop**



# Gender Centre - Plan of Action

December 2019 - March 2020

## 1) INTER COLLEGE PANEL DISCUSSION:

**DATE PLANNED: 17 DECEMBER 2019**

**AIM: TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE DISCUSS THE ISSUES FACED ON THE TOPIC AND FINDING VARIOUS SOLUTIONS AND IDEAS FOR CHANGE.**

**A RESOURCE PERSON MUST BE PRESENT AS TO MEDIATE THE DISCUSSION.**

### TOPICS:

- Transgender being a separate gender
- Normalizing LGBTQIA+
- ***Redefining Masculinity: Traditional VS Modernity (YES)***
- Representation of Minorities in Media
- Redefining Gender Roles
- Consent and Will - Its Importance
- Myth busting on Gender, Sexuality and Gender Roles
- Is Sisterhood really a neighborhood?
- How language perpetuates Patriarchy.
- The Dynamic Changes with Culture Appropriation
- As an Adult about Children
- How Gender Roles Play into Leadership Positions
- Empowering the Minority Groups to Take Up a Leadership Position



## 2) SCHOOL MODULE ORIENTATION

**DATE PLANNED: JANUARY 2020**

**AIM: TO REACH OUT TO ONE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AND ONE PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE PRESENTATIONS WILL NEED TO BE PROJECTED AND MUST ALSO REACH THE STUDENTS LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AS FOR THEM TO UNDERSTAND EASILY AND DOUBTS MUST BE CLEARED.**

### ORDER OF ORIENTATION:

1. Introduction of the Gender Centre and its Objectives
2. Skit (Matrum Vidaipom, Puduvidhi Saivom)
3. Mental Health
4. Puberty
5. Good and Bad touch
6. Consent
7. Bullying and Body Shaming
8. Media and its Effects
9. Vocabulary

## 3) OPEN MIC

**DATE PLANNED: FEBRUARY 10-21 2020**

**AIM: TO CELEBRATE WHO YOU ARE AND WHATEVER YOU WANT TO COME AND DO!**

People who participate can:

- Exhibit their art
- Share poetry
- Sing a song
- Dance
- Express how they feel and what they would like to change



#### **4) MOVIE SCREENING**

**DATE PLANNED: MARCH 2020**

**AIM: TO WATCH A MOVIE WHICH IS RELATABLE TO COLLEGE STUDENTS AS WELL AS CREATING AN IMPACT ON HOW TO CHANGE SOCIETY'S THOUGHTS OF THE MOVIE (BASED ON MOVIE)**

#### **5) BREAK TIME EVENT**

**DATE PLANNED: 2020**

**AIM: PERFORM THE SKIT AND REACHING OUT TO THE COLLEGE OF WHAT OUR OBJECTIVES ARE AND THEM BEING A PART OF IT.**

2 small break time OAT competitions will be held and prizes will also be distributed.

#### **6) END OF THE YEAR REPORT**

**DATE PLANNED: MARCH 2020**

**AIM: TO BRING IN ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENDER CENTRE AND TO SEE ATTENDANCE OF GC MEMBERS TO DISTRIBUTE CERTIFICATES ACCORDINGLY**

- All events we've covered and the impact it has created
- Financial report and budget
- Future plans and objectives
- Changes that can be made
- New ideas from the gender centre
- More Inclusivity

#### **7) IPS RAVI SHANKAR CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM**

**DATE PLANNED: JANUARY 2020**

### **Members of GC:**

1. Joanna :P
2. Vridhi :P
3. Lakshika :P
4. Laksha :P
5. Judith :P
6. Meghna :P
7. Ankitha :P
8. Thanvisha :P
9. Meera :P
10. Pushya :P
11. Devaprayaga :P
12. Sneha :P
13. Vashnee :P
14. Abirami :P
15. Rhithika :P
16. Reeba :P





## Gender Centre Plan of Action 2020-21

### Dept of Sociology

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	TOPIC	Open for
AUG	21	Meet your crew & Back to Basics workshop <i>online</i>	Investiture's ceremony and workshop on basics of sex, gender and sexuality by Karishma, ex-office bearer	GC members (certificate)
OCT	24	Nirangal talk <i>online</i>	Interaction with trans persons	GC members (certificate)
JAN	19	Movie screening <i>online</i>	PaavaKadhaigal screening followed by a short discussion on the movie by participants	GC members (certificate)
	20	Webinar (Res. Person: Mr. BaradwajRangan) <i>online</i>	Representation of women and other gender minorities in media	
FEB	8	Legal series <i>Online</i>	Laws related to women	Inter college (certificate)
	9		Trans persons bills and acts in India	
	10		Not yet decided	
	20	Competition announcement	Radio play Team: 2members minimum Judge: 1internal 1external	Entire college (certificate for winners)
	27	Last date for submission		
MAR	3	Competition Result		
MAR	6	Panel Discussion <i>Hybrid: offline + streaming</i>	2 sessions session 1: evolution of queer literature  session 2: perception and acceptance of queer literature in India	Inter college (certificates and prize for winners)
	6	Newsletter	Open for student entries	
	16		Last date for submission	
	26		E-launch	