

Stella Maris College Gender Center Annual Report 21-22.

Gender Centre is an initiative of the Department of Sociology. SMCGC has been functioning since 2018 with the collective interest of the students and the department to highlight the relevant gender issues and concerns ensuring students can live up to the motto of BE YOU!

Keeping in line with the main objectives of the gender centre that is capacity- building and gender training and awareness program for faculty and students, the year started off with an informative four day series talk on 26th June 2021 that enlightened students on the topics of gender and sexuality, gender empowerment health perspective, positive socialisation and normalisation of gender discrimination.

The Gender Center opened up its doors for the members to unleash their creativity. The walls came to life with the ideals of the Gender Center, in the form of wall art minted by the core members.

The Department of Sociology has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Soroptimist International, UN Centre networking a global voice for women in creating awareness about gender issues. An intercollegiate mini- documentary making competition on the theme Elimination of Violence against Women, followed by a panel discussion on 8th December 2021 on the topic 'Confronting Patriarchy', fulfilled the objective of conducting outreach activity and

competitions in schools and colleges within Chennai.



The first offline event since the pandemic, was the open mic event on 17th December 2021 on the theme 'embrace who you are'. The International Womens' day celebration on 8th March 2022 had two eminent speakers Thirumathi Maheshwari Ravikumar IAS and Dr. Gomathi Narasiman pioneers in the fields of administration and medicine, enlightened the students on the topics of gender bias faced by women in the field of education and health and fitness for women. Followed by the talk was a captivating and informative mime performance delivered by the GC members highlighting women's security in cyberspaces.



Gender center had the honour of having Dr. Madhavi Menon who addressed us on her book, The Law of Desire on 18th March 2022. In collaboration with Soroptimist International, an intercollegiate workshop on 'Sexual harassment at workplaces' took place on 26th March 2022.



The last event of the Gender Center 21-22 was a workshop on 'Gender and Sexuality' on May 9th 2022. Dr. L. Ramakrishnan from SAATHI addressed the basics of gender and sexuality which was followed by a panel discussion by NIRANGAL, a NGO. There was a heart-wrenching solo performance delivered by transwomen Ms. Revathi. Ms. Manonmani member AIDWA addressed on sexual harassment and legal rights.



This year the gender center took up research activity in order to fulfill one of its objectives: To conduct research that identifies gaps and needs regarding gender issues in Tamilnadu. The research team participated in a workshop on research methodology before embarking on contemporary issue of sexual harassment among college students, titled and published as A Sociological Analysis of Sexual Harassment among College Students in the city of Chennai.

