

JUSTICE BASHEER AHMED SAYEED COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (Autonomous),
Re-accredited by the NAAC in 2013 with an Outstanding CGPA of 3.61 (out of 4) at 'A' Grade
Teynampet, Chennai-600018.

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

An Overview of the Centre:

The Centre for Women's Studies of the JBAS College for Women, Chennai has the distinction of being the **first UGC Sponsored Centre among the Colleges** in Chennai city. It was established in 2005 under the X Plan scheme and is being extended to the plan periods of XI & XII. Dr. B. Madhana Rekha, M.A, M.Phil, Ph.D is the Director of the Centre.

Objectives:

The Centre for Women's Studies is involved in fulfilling the objectives with regard to Teaching, Training, Research, Advocacy and Extension Services for the uplift of women.

Infrastructure Available:

The Centre has good infrastructural facilities consisting of eight computers with LAN connection; three Laser Jet Printers with scanner, printer, fax and copier facilities. 15 KVA generator for power backup. UPS and Landline with broad band connection to the benefit of the students and the staff.

Library:

The library of the Centre has a high quality collection of reference books, documentation of Research materials, Refresher Course materials in Women's Studies, Modules for Certificate Courses on Communication Skills & Personality Development, MS Office and Internet programme and newspaper clipping on women's' issues.

Innovation in Curriculum Design:

The Centre has introduced the following two Non-Major Elective Papers for the UG students of the College under the Choice Based Credit System from the Academic year 2010 onwards viz.,

- i. **“Women’s Studies in India” and**
- ii. **“Women and Legal Rights”**

Short Term Certificate Courses Offered:

The Centre conducts Short Term Certificate courses on

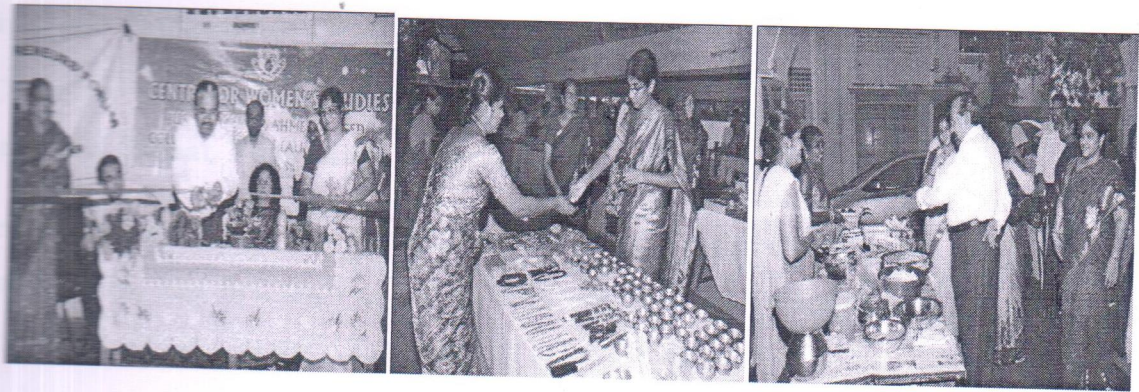
- i. **MS Office and Internet programme** for the Staff and Students of both the Forenoon and Afternoon sessions. Through these courses 9 students and 2 Staff have been trained with basic operating skills in Computer.
- ii. **Effective Communication Skill and Personality Development Programme** for the students of both F.N and A.N sessions of the College in collaboration with the Faculty of English and **de’arc HRD Chennai**. About **49 students** were trained through the programme which provides an opportunity to them to develop their soft skills.

Collaboration and Networking with Other Institutions:

Dr. B. Madhana Rekha was invited to **chair a session** in the **International Conference on Social Exclusion and Inclusion of Women** held on 20th & 21st August 2013 organized by the Alagappa University, Karaikudi and Mother Teresa University, Kodaikanal. She also presented a paper on the topic **“Violence against Women: A Denial of Human Rights and Dignity”**.

The Centre for Women’s Studies and the **Young Entrepreneur’s Forum** (F.N session) of the College jointly **in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women** under the Magaleer Thittam Project of the Tamil Nadu Government organized the **College Bazaar 2013** in the College premises for **three days** from **2nd to 4th December 2013**.

It was an exhibition cum sale of products prepared by the Self Help Group Women in Tamil Nadu. **Mr. Moosa Raza, Padma Bhushan** awardee, Former Chief Secretary to J&K and Secretary to the Govt of India and Chairman, S.I.E. Trust declared the College Bazaar open. The general public, Staff and students from various parts of the city purchased the products prepared by the Self Help Groups and interacted with them.

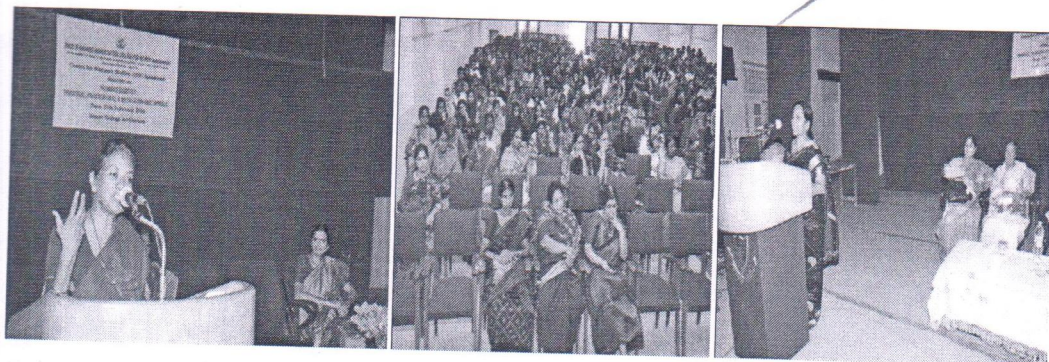


Inaugural function of the College Bazaar

Seminar organised:

The Centre regularly invites distinguished Officials, Academicians, Lawyers, NGO leaders and Journalists as experts for the Seminars and Conferences.

A Seminar on **“Women’s Identity: Personal, Professional and Socio-Economic Spheres”** was organized on **27th February 2014** in the College Auditorium. Staff and students from various Colleges in the city participated and presented papers in the Seminar. Mrs. Sheela Jayaprakash, Advocate was the Chief Guest for the seminar. Dr. Bharathi Harishankar, Professor & Head Dept. Women's Studies, Madras University, Dr. Rameeza A. Razeed, Former Associate Professor, Dept. Of Economics and Dr. N. Manimekalai, Professor Head, Dept of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University delivered lectures in the technical session.



Glimpses of the seminar

Research and Publications:

The Centre for Women, Studies conducted a survey on the **Socio-economic Status of Fisher Women Folk, Pulicat, Tiruvallur District** in March, 2014.

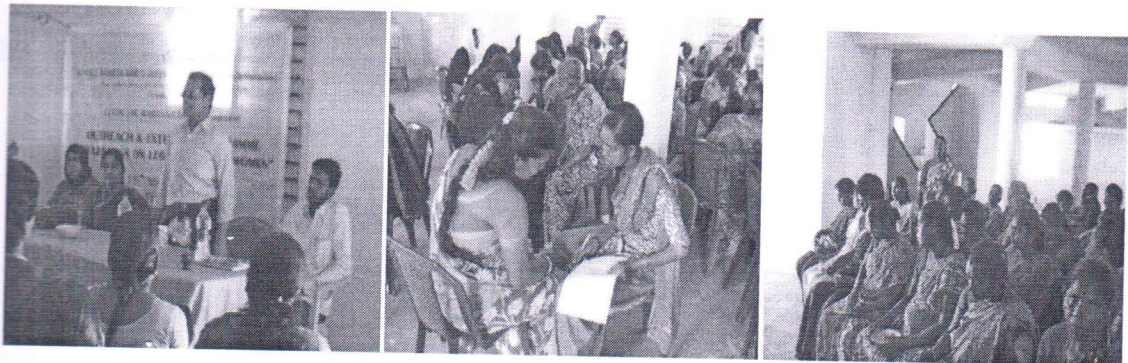
A booklet on the Centre for Women's was released by the Chairman, S.I.E.Trust on 4th December, 2013. The first copy of the booklet was received by Mr. Faizur Rahman Sayeed, LL.B (Canada), Bar at Law and Correspondent of the College.

Two papers have been submitted to the Alagappa University for publication entitled **"Violence against Women: A Denial of Human Rights and Dignity"** by Dr. B. Madhana Rekha, Director, CWS and **"Literacy-A Key to Women's Empowerment"** by Mrs. Thahira Naseeruddin, Librarian, CWS.

Advocacy and Extension Services:

The Centre involves in creating awareness on Social Legislations, Constitutional Guarantees, Government Policies and Programmes available for the development of women.

On 19th March, 2014 an **"Outreach programme on Legal Rights of Women"** was organized to create awareness for the Fisher Women folk of Pulicat, Tiruvallur District. **Dr. S. Elumalai**, Assistant Professor of School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai was invited as the Chief Guest to address the Fisher Women folk.



Outreach programme on Legal Rights of Women

Suggestions and Recommendations given by the Centre for Women's Studies (UGC sponsored) Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women (Autonomous), Teynampet, Chennai to the Honorable Justice Ms. Usha Mehra Commission on Measures to Curb Violence against Women

This is for your kind attention that the Centre for Women's Studies of J.B.A.S College for Women, (Autonomous) Teynampet, Chennai had conducted a study on "Measures to Control Violence Against Women in India" in 2012. The following suggestions and recommendations could be adopted by the Central, State and the Local Governments of India:

Consequences of violence are varied forms affecting women's productivity in all forms of life, getting emotionally disturbed, physically injured, become economically weaker due to loss of work or absenteeism and remain quite after occurrence of the torment. Though support services are available, intervening the problem from health care to resolution of the problem situation, women very minimally utilised the services, except for using the police help in times of severe harassment or frequent violent behaviours after crossing their tolerance limit. After analysing the six cities inclusive of the four metropolitan cities in the four regions of India, the present study proved that violence against women was experienced by the respondents in all the selected regions. Therefore, it is suggested that interventions should be planned at the Central level to design action plans that penetrate from grass root level to authorities working towards intervening violence against women.

From the findings of the study the recommendations for effective interventions and approaches are drawn as follows.

Central & State Governments

1. Advocacy for gender equality and human rights, and monitoring of national progress toward international commitments need to be strengthened.
2. Monitoring the decline in the female sex ratio due to increased abortions in areas such as Rajasthan, Haryana, Rajkot, Varanasi and Pune.

3. Government should take efforts to compliment their legislation with the commitments to improve the quality of life of women in Kolkotta and Udaipur and provide good transportation facilities. The Central Government has to bring about the necessary changes in national laws, policies and better educational programmes in these areas which would uplift the status of women in India.
4. Education of the girl child and Collegiate education for women should be emphasized citing Kerala and Goa as examples. Primary and higher secondary education of the girl child can be manifested in regions of Rajasthan and Bihar.
5. Mandatory child and women's rights through Value Education should be included in the curriculum beginning from School Levels and the spotlight put on violence against women and children in all its forms.
6. Stringent measures to be taken with regard to crimes like Trafficking of girls which is prevalent in areas like Dindigal, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli in Tamilnadu and places in Bihar, West Bengal , Rajasthan, Raichur and should be closely monitored by Prosecution of the traffickers and protection of victims.
7. Immigration officials at the borders need to be sensitized so that they can network with the police as well as with NGOs working on preventing trafficking.
8. Government should ensure that laws on gender-based violence give adequate protection to all women, and respect their integrity and dignity. Engaging men at the authoritative levels in the government to advocate and restrict gender based violence against women.
9. Empowering Women's economic status through equal remuneration for equal work and increased job opportunities for women, as well as equal rights to property, inheritance and family income will help in reducing women battering caused due to economic deprivation. The Centre should allocate a percentage of woman employability in every state owned private and public sector units.
10. Expansive strategies should be developed to specific states depending on the prevalence in the respective states in line with the International recommendations.
11. Invite assistance, information and advice from the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to support and assist efforts being deployed to eliminate harmful traditional practices.

12. Criminalization of dowry violence in states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh should be strictly implemented.
13. Foreign women tourists should be given additional security measures.
14. The need to post women Government employees as Protection Officers in Social welfare departments across the country to handle cases related to dowry harassments can be perceived as being more sympathetic to victims.
15. Awareness programmes on the existing laws should be made mandatory in the educational institutions.
16. Gender-sensitive training of judicial and law enforcement officers and other public officials should be given to have better response to the situation.
17. Fast Track Courts on cases of Sexual Assault for immediate redressal and effective justice delivery to be ensured.
18. Gender sensitization of Government, Private and Corporate Sector Officials at all levels should be made mandatory.
19. Sexual harassment at work places must be treated as a serious criminal offence and severely punishable.
20. More funds to be allocated for research studies.
21. Immediate implementation of the recommendations to be encouraged to the Departments concerned.
22. Stringent measures to ban dowry practice in the whole country.

Local Government

23. Monitoring: *CCTV's in rape prone areas or in major bus stops, metro areas in Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon.*
24. Increase in deployment of police: *increasing* the frequency of the patrolling in Delhi and NCR region and increased traffic vigilance in all areas especially crowded markets.
25. Sexual assaults on girl students in schools by teachers, bus drivers and peons are becoming common. Special task officers in every locality should have the authority to dismiss the culprit.

26. Action plan has to be framed to impart knowledge to remove the stigma and fear by victims to report to the police. Awareness of the public to be increased through media, pamphlets, banners etc.
27. Domestic violence cases needs to be reported to the Police immediately with the help of Non-Governmental and other service organizations. Employment of women police in every police station as the head in-charge of all domestic violence cases. Setting up of more number of All Women Police Stations in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkotta as in Chennai.
28. Women's help lines: Emergency numbers to be advertised through posters and billboards in cities. Victim's privacy should be respected.
29. Workplace safety: The Government must ensure procedures for accountability in all workplace to follow strict safety mechanism.
30. Awareness: The state needs to campaign against sexual harassment - public messaging on women's rights, shift male perspective of women, display hotlines and safety procedures all over the city.
31. Delhi being the most unsafe city for women due to molestations being reported in public buses. Posters and helpline numbers can be printed in buses and the drivers and conducted to be given counselling to handle such situations.
32. Separate compartments for women can be introduced in metro trains in Delhi. As in cities like Chennai where even in buses there is a separate section of seats only for women, this can be adopted in Delhi. Armed Women Police to be appointed in all the ladies compartments to ensure safety of the passengers.
33. The Increase in the number of BPO in the Southern cities (Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad) with women employees work in night shifts, emphasize on extensive care that needs to be taken care of at the workplace and during travelling.
34. Pick and drop facilities by authorized and registered travel companies.
35. Police verified drivers and woman escorts guards to be employed at all hours.
36. SMS services, office hotlines numbers and pre-installations of GPS and CCTV for internal security in BPO's.
37. Honor killings that are quite common in Haryana and Tamil Nadu when young girls marry somebody outside their caste and clan against her family's wishes need to be addressed by state authorities and local agencies and strictly banned.

38. Public conveniences (Lavatories) and sanitation areas especially in vulnerable cities like Delhi, Kolkata and parts of Andhra Pradesh where molestation and rape cases are high can be guarded by women instead of men.
39. Government should establish special Departments in hospitals to help identify women victims of violence and to provide them with appropriate counselling and referral services.
40. Advocacy, support and target focus should be individually tailored to the needs of the woman to be free from violent actions.
41. Encourage the effective implementation of the policies at district and municipal level which could strengthen the action plan developed and work towards sustainability.

Policy Makers

42. Gender sensitise officials for implementation of the existing Government policies.
43. Monitor the situation of women comprehensively and develop new policies to ensure empowerment of women in all respects of life.
44. Special attention to be given on the rights and needs of women and girl children.
45. Special focus to be made on factors relating to the reproductive role of women and their subordinate position in some societies which make them especially vulnerable. Doctors can be given a role to play in every policy making and decision making.
46. Ensure that barriers to equality are overcome, including those resulting from illiteracy, language and poverty especially in slum dwelling units of cities as Delhi, Mumbai and Patna.
47. Help formulate new policies and effectively carry out strategies and measures to eliminate discrimination.

Coordination with Local Organizations

48. Multi-agency relationships and referral systems must be strengthened to work in coordination for interventional support.

49. Effective system has to be designed to provide support in terms of placing complaint to health care and resolution of problems through nodal agencies in every city as a means to provide a channel for women to freely walk and share their problems.
50. Awareness campaigns on violence against women and ways to combat it should be conducted in wide range to reach all ends. Campaigns can start with the help of college students in cities as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai.
51. Publicity campaigns in radio, television, posters and stickers to impart awareness on support services available for women who are victims of violence.
52. Involve shapers of public opinion by way of the mass media in the effort to publicize the campaign.
53. Effective measures should be taken to ensure that the media respect and promote respect for women.
54. Parents and caregivers should be sensitized about sexual assault issues.
55. Advocacy and support have to be provided to women with reference to :
 - Being safe in all situations of life.
 - Enable women to deal with immediate issues in terms of physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
 - Elimination of crime against women in religious groups, youth groups and men groups separately to understand the situation in a more focussed manner.
 - Imparting knowledge on facts of violence against women to men in the community, workplace and social groups.
 - Eradication of harmful use of alcohol associated with the perpetration of both intimate partners and sexual violators.
56. Outreach workers of service organizations should have regular visits to women and community groups to provide holistic support.
57. Various sectors, including the police, prosecutors and social workers, should conduct coordinated outreach efforts in marginalised communities where there are problems of domestic violence.

Research Agencies

58. Introduce appropriate educational and training programmes and seminars based on research findings about the problems elicited through all research forums.
59. Encourage and support research and experimental studies to measure and value the unremunerated domestic activities of women.
60. Include questions pertaining to women related issues as part of the national household survey like time spent on activities both in the household and employment, visits to hospitals, its purpose etc.
61. Periodic surveys are required to identify the nature and extent of attitudes, customs and practices that cause violence against women and the kinds of violence that result.
62. Researches should be undertaken to overcome violence and the effect of those measures.

General Women

63. Strengthen women by involving in leadership and decision-making bodies.
64. Improve women's self-esteem and sense of personal power by encouraging them to form support groups.
65. Impart awareness among young and adult men on the repercussions of violence against women in their own lives and to change attitudes and behaviour towards women.
66. Self-defence is the best method to manage the violent situation.
67. Women should be aware of themselves, their surroundings, and their potential attacker and the situation.
68. Reacting based on the situation, initially with avoidance strategies would be the sensible thought.

Students

69. Increase access to education for women and girls.
70. Integrate lessons on abuse, sexuality, and healthy relationships for students especially girls.

71. Remove the minimum qualification required for school dropout among girls in order to permit them to continue distance education.

Individuals and Media

72. Pub owners should keep vigilance to avoid any type of incidence to girls especially at night time. This has come into light with the molestation of a girl in the heart of the city of Guwahati that caused a public outcry, where a mob of nearly 40 people had tried to gang rape her at night.
73. Media that includes television, radio and newspapers can play a positive role in creating awareness about the pitfalls of violence against women.
74. Mass media's power should not be undermined by the policy makers. They should fully utilize the media as an effective tool for developing awareness among the people by educating on the punishments that are attached in the disobedience of law.

Suggestions and Recommendations given by the Centre for Women's Studies (UGC sponsored) Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women (Autonomous), Teynampet, Chennai to the National Commission for Women, New Delhi to Improve the Status of Self Help Groups in India.

Community Level

1. Most of the members in the SHGs are not adequately trained in their field and most of them are not highly educated. So, before choosing a project or venture, adequate knowledge should be provided to them.
2. Wherever the group is not cohesive, interpersonal differences should be removed through counseling and organizing special training programmes for them.
3. SHGs awareness programme should lay greater emphasis on creating faith in the people about the potential of SHGs rather than overemphasizing the procedural and formal aspects of SHGs.
4. The subsidy provided under the Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarojgar (SGSY) programme should be discontinued and the amount should be spent on creating market support to the SHGs for their IGA (Income Generating Activities) products and also provide some sort of reward to the successful SHGs as an incentive for good work.

Financial Agencies

5. Simple procedure and right encouragement from the financial agencies may enable women to form more and more SHGs in their locality.
6. Loan repayment is important as SHGs borrow mainly from the credit agencies, such agencies should advise them about repayment. Proper advice will enhance respondent ability repayment of SHGs.

Government and NGO's

7. Officials of concerned development departments should make the rural people to realize that SHGs are the main source for generation of employment opportunities in rural areas. Encouragement and support by the government will solve the problem of rural unemployed.
8. Monitoring of SHGs should be made more rigorous to ensure
 - a) Regular and timely savings and contributions
 - b) Regular holding of SHGs meeting and members' attendance in it
 - c) Providing necessary guidance to the group to make every meeting meaningful and to take objective decisions regarding inter-lending, interest rate, and loan recovery and bank linkage etc.,
9. Rotation of office-bearers of SHGs at regular intervals should be made mandatory.
10. Motivation training for income-generating activities and technological training for capacity building should be organized by competent agencies with greater seriousness.
11. Training programme on (a) Health education (b) Formal education for school going, school dropout children and awareness about prevalent social evils should be given adequate priority.
12. A rapport-building programme may be offered in which bank functionaries, NGO functionaries, SHGs' office-bearers and other grass roots level stakeholders should participate.
13. Rigorous exercise should be undertaken to select only competent NGOs to lend their supporting hands to SHGs.

14. The NGOs should be imparted skills in organizing motivational camps and training programmes so that they may motivate the villagers and create faith in them in the potential of SHGs, with greater transparency to avoid current mal -practices at DRDA (District Rural Development Agency) level, particularly for SGSY- supported programmes.
15. NGOs should not be deployed only for the formation of SHGs. They must stay and work with the SHGs till they mature.
16. The NGOs should actively help the SHGs in both backward and forward linkage and provide them market support in particular. Institutions like NABARD need to gear up their district -level delivery mechanism in closer partnership with the NGOs and encourage more decentralization of their decision-making process at the state level in order to give momentum to the community banking support process.
17. With massive expansion, the performance of SHG's also becomes even more critical, especially as many SHG's are being promoted by governments and banks. Ensuring good performance and sustainability across such a vast number of small local organizations is a real challenge and will require significant resources for support and development. As, specialized micro-financial organizations grow, whether NGO's, cooperatives or companies, they are required to increase resources not just for capital but also for organizational and human resource development. They have to ensure that they become more effective financially. Another challenge is that the vast majority of resources are channelled through public agencies, which can be slow, rule bound and risk averse.

Future Plans:

- The Centre strives to upgrade as a Potential Centre for Research in Women's studies.
- The Centre intends to offer Research programs leading to M. Phil., and Ph.D., in Women's Studies.
- The Centre aims to have international collaborations and exchange programs for staff and students in Women's Studies.

B. Madhana Rekha

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