

THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
Gandhigram Rural Institute- DU
Gandhigram

“Women is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details of the activities of man and she has the same right of freedom and liberty as he. She is entitled to a supreme place in her own sphere of activity as man is in his”.

By- Mahatma Gandhi

Genesis

The Centre for Women's Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed University, Gandhigram established during the XI Plan period with financial support from University Grants Commission.

The Centre is to promote gender equality at all spheres of society through the activities of

- Teaching
- Training
- Research
- Field Action
- Advocacy
- Dissemination of Information
- Clustering and Mentoring.

After completion of its assigned tasks successfully during XI plans, the Centre had been upgraded and entered the **Second Phase** during XII plan period from April 2016 onwards.

Vision

Social development through gender equality and equity in letter and spirit in all sphere of life

Mission

1. The Centre will promote development of gender equality and equity in learning and at workplace
2. It will offer networking, advocacy and support for women faculty and students serve as a resource centre on gender and women's issues
3. It will work for designing and implementing participatory development programmes, and networking with grass root women's movements to empower distressed women through various capacity building measures including literacy, training, skill up-gradation, communication and leadership skills

Target groups

- ❖ Students
- ❖ Children
- ❖ Adolescent Girls
- ❖ Rural Women and Men
- ❖ Self Help Group

Thrust Areas

- ❖ Women and Health
- ❖ Women and Law
- ❖ Gender Equality
- ❖ Gender and Development
- ❖ Gender Issues
- ❖ Women Empowerment

TEACHING

- The Centre offers an M.Phil. and Ph.D. programme in Women's Studies
- This consists of four courses, Introduction to Gender Studies, Feminist Theories, Methodologies and the Women's Movement, Gender Science and Technology and a Seminar Course in the first semester and in the second semester the students have to write a thesis on their chosen area.
- The Centre offers different courses to other departments of the University. Some of these include Inter departmental Elective paper titled "Women and Media", Allied Course on "Gender and Social Institution" to UG programmes, Non Major Elective Course on "Basic Principles of Gender Studies" to all UG programme and "Gender Economics" and "Introduction to Gender Studies" to all PG programmes.
- The Centre also collaborates with other Universities, Colleges and offers orientation and refresher courses in Women's Studies.

TRAINING

The Centre has conducted 203 training programmes (legal provisions and Gender Sensitization) during the period 2010-2016 on the following themes

- Special Legal Provisions for Women
- Human Rights as Women's Rights
- Gender and Law
- Gender and Health
- Gender and Media
- Gender and Violence

RESEARCH

With academic flavour, research is encouraged by the Centre. It also welcomes interdisciplinary research and promotes scholars for Ph.D. programme along with execution of various projects.

Research is conducted with gender perceptive. Gender awareness is being organised at different levels to different group of people including grassroots population of women, youth and children. Micro level research works were carried out.

- Health Scenario of Rural Women
- Legal Awareness among Rural Women
- Reproductive Health Awareness among Rural Adolescent
- Women Personalities in Dindigul Districts
- Status of Higher Education
- Gender Audit in GRI

The Centre has carried out three sponsored research projects as detailed below:

- ICSSR Research Project entitled “Knowledge Assessment of Breast and Cervical Cancer among Rural Women (KACRW)”, 2 years, Rs. 8.00 lakhs
- UGC Major Research Project entitled “Cultural practices of farming communities in different ecological conditions”, 2 years, Rs. 4.54 lakhs
- UGC Minor Research Project entitled “Assessment of Knowledge and Awareness of Legal rights among Rural Women in Dindigul District”, 1 ½ years, Rs.0.51 lakhs

FIELD ACTION

Field Action is one of the main components of extension work of the Centre, as Field Action helps the Centre to build a rapport with the people in conducting research. The Centre has undertaken various Field Action / Outreach and Advocacy activities.

Seminars /Conferences organized

- Women in Leadership: A Gender Perspective
- Employability Soft Skills
- **Sensitization Awareness Motivation (SAM) Workshop**
- Science and Technology
- Curriculum Development Workshop
- Aims at promoting introspection among girl students
- Women and Law
- Family, Youth and Futures
- Human Rights

The proceedings were brought out.

Sensitization Awareness Motivation (SAM) Workshop

UGC Sponsored Sensitivity, Awareness, Motivation Workshop on Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education was organized by the Centre for Women's Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute –Deemed University campus, Gandhigram, Dindigul District, Tamilnadu from 4th to 8th Feb 2013 in GRI Campus. The workshop is part of the UGC nationwide programme of Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education under which such Workshops are being organized in all the corners of the country.

Dr.K.Velumani, Coordinator of the workshop, welcoming the guests and participants, informed the participants that in this 5-day period, five-manuals would be transacted by

Resource Persons from the Universities of Bharathiar, Sri Ramachandra Medical University and Madurai Kamaraj University, Monomaniam Sundranar University. She said that the main objective of the workshop is to achieve the increase in the number of women in decision-making positions in higher education and develop a gender friendly environment.

In her introduction to the Workshop, Prof .K.Hemalatha, Core Group Resource Person and Member, UGC introduced the basic theme of the programme and reinforced the need for women entering managerial positions in higher education in order to transform higher education and infuse a gender perspective into policies.

Dr.M.Jayamala, Regional Coordinator, UGC SAM workshop stated that it is necessary through training to create a critical mass of academicians who are highly motivated to move to senior positions.

The workshop is being attended by 31 participants from colleges in various districts Theni, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, Chennai. Dr. K.Velumani, Local Coordinator, UGC sponsored Workshop on Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education coordinated the workshop. Dr.SM.Ramasamy, Vice –Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute Gandhigram distributed the participation certificate.

Awareness Programmes and Day Observation

The Centre has organized 248 Awareness programmes and Day observations during the year 2010-16

Day observations

- International Women's Day
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Sexual & Reproductive Health Awareness Day
- World Aids Day
- Human Rights Day
- Remembrance of Transgender Day
- Gandhi Jeyanthi Day
- International Day of World Indigenous People

- International Drug Abuse Day
- World Breast Feeding Week
- Environmental Day
- Bharathiyar Birth Day
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- World TB day
- International Youth Day
- World Diabetics Day

Awareness programmes

- Women's Health
- Legal Provisions /Schemes
- Gender Sensitization
- Importance of Girls Education, etc..

Created knowledge about

- ❖ Gender roles and gender issues in the society
- ❖ Human rights and women's rights
- ❖ Education, laws, culture and natural medicine
- ❖ Functions of Various Commissions
- ❖ Way of getting their legal provisions
- ❖ Legal procedure (FIR, Arrest warrant, the judiciary)
- ❖ Facing the real life challenges without fear

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Advisory Committee Meeting convened and reports on the activities of the Centre for the Women's Studies, statement of the accounts for the years and action plan for the next year was presented by the Director, Centre for Women's Studies and future of the centre was discussed.

Members of Advisory Committee are

1. The Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul -624 302.
– **Chairperson**
2. Dr.Meena R.Chandawarkar, Chairman, UGC Standing Committee, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Women’s University, Bijapur-586 108. – **External Member**
3. Dr.K.Manimekalai, Dean of Arts, Head & Professor, Department of Women’s Studies , Alagappa University, Karaikudi - 630 003– **External Member**
4. Dr.S.P.Denisia, Professor and Director, Department of Women’s Studies, Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal - 624101 – **External Member**
5. Dr.P.Anitha Pius, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul – 624 302. – **Internal Member**
6. The Dean, Faculty of Rural Social Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul - 624 302.- **Internal Member**
7. The Registrar, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul - 624 302. – **Special Invitee**
8. Finance Officer, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul- 624 302. – **Special Invitee**
9. Dr.K.Velumani, Director, Centre for Women’s Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul - 624 302. – **Member Secretary**

STANDING COMMITTEE

Standing Committee Meetings convened and discussed the Centre activities (teaching training, extension activities, networking, programme etc) for growth of the Centre.

Members of Standing Committee are

- Dr. K. Velumani, **Chairperson**, Professor & Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul - 624 302
- Dr.V. Raghupathy, **Member**, Professor, Department of Political Science & Development Administration, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram ,Dindigul - 624 302
- Dr. P. Anandha Kumar, **Member**, Professor, Department of Tamil, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul - 624 302
- Dr. P. Anitha Pius, **Member**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram , Dindigul - 624 302
- Dr. M. Hilaria Soundari, **Member**, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram- 624 302

BOARD OF STUDIES

✓ **Board of Studies Meeting** - 3

Members of Board of Studies are

- Dr.Moly Kuruvilla, Director Centre for Women's Studies, Calicut University, Calicut. **(External Member)**
- Dr.N. Manimakalai, Director and Head, Dept. of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Trichy. **(External Member)**
- Dr. V.Ragupathy, Professor & Head, Dept of Political Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute, **(Member)**
- Dr.M.Hilaria Soundari, Associate Professor, Dept. of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, **(Member)**
- Dr. P. Anatharajakumar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Rural Development, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram. **(Member)**
- Ms.S.Genani , Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram **(Member)**
- Dr. K.Velumani, Professor & Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram. **(Chair Person)**

INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

The Centre library is a specialized resource centre for a comprehensive collection of published and unpublished materials helpful for academic scholars, researchers, students and activists. The library through its collection aims to provide an overall perspective regarding the situational analysis, current issues, development policies, programmes and schemes relating to women.

Presently, the Library has a collection of 616 books. The books, cover a wide range of subject matter pertaining to Women's Studies such as Feminist thought, theory and philosophy, Empirical studies on women in India and abroad, General status of women, Specialized studies on women's work, Health, Violence, Education, Policies, Religion, Women and Development Issues, Women's Rights and Empowerment, Women and Law, etc. 5 News Letter of the Centre, 20 Documentary Films related to gender issues and children educational issues, photos collection and reports on each activities

The Centre has systematically documented news paper cutting in different folders in the name of Women and Health, Women in Sports, Women and Law, Women and Environment, Women and Profession, Women and Politics, Women and Entrepreneurship, Women and Higher Education, Women and Policy, Women and Movement, Women Empowerment etc.

Webpage designed for the Centre and its activities are uploaded. It is useful for the Women Academia and Scholars pursuing Research.

NETWORKING AND COUNSELING

The Centre for Women's Studies GRI has been organizing various programmes involving / collaboration with various departments of the university, Centre for Women's Studies of the other universities and Colleges, Government and Non Government Voluntary Organizations.

It has established networking and collaboration with the following bodies:

Women's Studies Centres of other universities within Tamilnadu like Bharathiyar University, Bharathidasan University, Mother Teresa University, Alagappa University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Avinashi Lingam Women's University, Periyar University, Monomaniam Sundranar University, Annamalai University, Tamilnadu Agriculture University, Tamilnadu Teachers Education University, etc..

Women's Studies Centres of other Universities Outside Tamil Nadu like Calicut University, Andhra University, Pondicherry University, University of Hyderabad, Jadavapur University, North Maharashtra University, Pune University etc..

Colleges within TamilNadu like Lady Doak College, Cauvery College, M.V.M College, GTN College, GVG College, Amman College, Arulmigu Palaniyandavar College for Women, Institute of Cooperative Management, Nadar Mahajana Sangam S. Vellaichamy Nadar College, The Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College for Women, Pannaikudu Veerammal Paramasivam College, PSG Krishnammal College, Scott Christian College , Ethiraj College etc..

Leading NGOs like such as GANDHIGRAM TRUST, PEACE TRUST, READ, CENTRIDA, SIMCODEUS, EKTA, KARUNA TRUST , DINDIGUL FRIENDLY WOMEN FEDERATION, MANITHAM TRUST, EKTA, SHARP etc..

Various department of GRI like Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, Rural Development, Cooperation, Applied Research, Rural Industrial Management, Sociology, Life Long Learning, Education, Physics, Maths, Chemistry, Home Science, Agriculture etc..

Freelancers and development Agents like Media, Legal Aid Boards, Police Department, Lawyers, Feminist Thinkers, NSS, etc..

Future Plan of the Centre

- The Centre will build up documentation in the area of gender studies and women's movement across disciplines.
- It will take up translations of critical texts to make them more accessible to a wide range of readers.
- The Centre will build a data base of primary and secondary sources, archival records, oral histories and other material in vernacular languages.
- The Centre will create extensive documentation of women's participation and leadership in movements.

Staff of the Centre

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