



JYOTI NIVAS COLLEGE

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Bengaluru , Karnataka

A National Seminar on Empowerment Of Women in Revitalizing India.

In association with **SICHREM** (South Indian Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring), the department of sociology, Jyoti Nivas College (Autonomous) conducted a two day National seminar on '**Empowerment of Women in Revitalizing India**', 9th and 10th of august in the academic year 2016-17.

Empowerment of women in Revitalizing India:

A nation that has unfurled its wings and ready to take off, the role of gender and participation comes to forefront that needs to be answered. Empowerment, the catch phrase of the 90's around the world has evolved with time, space and generation. So, the question arises about what is gender empowerment today and if it has a space in this nation that we have envisioned? Is there a space for those who are in the margins, whose voices have been silenced and muffled? Are they empowered to be heard? Have we moved away from victimhood and respected agency? Are we empowered citizens or just subjects of the nation state? We hope to address these and many more issues in this two days of gathering.

Sub theme of the seminar:

- Feminization of labour
- Role of women as social entrepreneurs
- Legal, Legislative, and Policy measures around gender
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Citizenship: Realizing Rights
- Transgressing Cultural Boundaries
- Empowerment and Politics of power

Day 1

Inauguration

In a mission to inculcate into its citizens, a sensitive and proactive response to the social issues of the country, the Social Sciences Forum of Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous, Bengaluru held a two day National seminar on the 9th and 10th of August under the theme Revitalizing India.

The event was inaugurated on the 9th at the JNC auditorium, graced by the presence of Sr. Elizabeth, Principal of JNC and Prof. Shivanand B Hosamani as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, Prof. Sandeep Kulshreshtha.



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The event advanced with the lighting of the lamp and a brief introduction of the guests by Dr. Sara Samuel, Vice Principle of Arts. Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C. S, the principal of the host college addressed the delegates and the students of the college, pulling into focus of the idea that “Revisiting the past would revitalize the present”. She concluded by laying stress on the importance of youth power that help create a new resurgent India.

Ms. Leena Nair, from the Department of Economics, presented the overview of the seminar and the sessions which is followed by an excellent performance by the Indian Dance Team of the host college.

Prof. Hosamania, Vice Chancellor of Rani Channamma University, in his brief talk included a calculated view of the scenario of the economic growth of India and the prominent trickle-down effect that impacts the life of many.

Following this, Prof. Kulshreshtha of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, gave an account on the diverse tradition and colourful culture of India and its influence on the economical impact on India’s tourism.

Inauguration ceremony came to a close with the release of the Book of abstracts by the Departments of Sociology, Economics, History, and Travel and Tourism which constitute the forum.



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Session 1

In association with SICHREM, the Department of Sociology held a conference on the “Journey of Women’s movement” by Mrs. Asha Ramesh, trustee of ONDEDE under the motif “Empowerment of Women”.

Mrs. Ramesh, National coordinator for the National Alliance of Women began her talk by giving an astounding 15 million figure of missing girls around India and deliberately pointing the appalling sex ration of our Bengaluru with respect to Haryana and Punjab. She dived into a worldwide historical account of Women’s Movement- with its birth, its rise in the 1900’s, and with its progress in the new millennium; LEADING THE PARTICIPANTS into a detailed study on the various milestones of the women’s struggle such as the establishment of the ‘Commission of Women’ in the UN in 1946.

Close to home, she revealed the various women issues that were addressed parallely with the Telangana struggle, though it never made it to the news. With this she questioned the unacknowledged role of women in the defining moments of our country’s history. “What of the women who gave their lives for their country?” she stated. She commented on the recognition of men while the women remain invisible in their public sphere, then and now.



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She continued her talk with the laws and the articles in the constitution and the issues of discrimination that Article 15 deplors which is very much present today in various circles including politics. She concluded by adding that, though various Acts and changes have been included and made in the constitution, the legal system has still a long way to go in regard to the “women question”.



Session 2

To kindle the light of the educated yet ignorant women within us, the Department of Sociology in association with SICHREM invited a dynamic individual who has given her contribution towards the upliftment of women. Mrs. Geeta Menon, member of the Stree Jagruthi Samiti and activist for the past 30 years has been fighting for the rights of the Female Domestic Labour Force, introduced herself as the “mother of two girls”. She led the congregation through a process of how the society is supposed to revitalize a terminally ill country. She also pointed out the irony of India celebrating her 69th year of independence yet failed to understand “freedom” in its actuality; In her words, the talk of “Nationalism and Ache Din failed to protect their Mata”. In this course of development she added, there are the unrecognized workers who are choked by the increasing economic division in society. Menon defined our culture as schizophrenic and brought



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out the hypocrisy of our society as they both revered women and at the same time trample them. She brought out the brutal reality of the “commodified women” through a short film “Anamika”. She questioned the cause of human trafficking and the answer she put forward was “demand”. The talk further led us to look into ways to curb this inhumane cycle of demand and supply. She also spoke about how we as a society re-victimize the victims by revoking their right to live as equal citizen. The session ended with the crowds pledging in one voice ‘STOP’ downplaying the enormity of the vulnerability of women ‘NOW’.



Session 3

Dr. Sarasu, Associate Professor, coordinator for the Centre of Women and Law, Human Rights Program and a visiting Professor from the Royal Institute, Sweden; began her lecture by raising questions about “Why, if Human Rights includes Women’s Rights, must be strived to achieve Women’s Rights independence?”. Bringing up the necessity for the laws to bridge the gap between the public and private rights, she introduced her topic of discussion that is; “The Convention on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women” (CEDAW, 1979). She talked about



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how on an international arena, the home is seen as a single unit of society and thus very difficult to reach individually. She therefore argued for the need for the separate; for women.

The major standards in CEDAW are Equality, Non-Discrimination, and Non-Stereotyping. She gave a brief explanation on the forward two and spoke at length on the standards of non-stereotyping, saying that non-stereotyping is the elimination of those gender roles that based on the idea of the inferiority of a certain gender.

Another major point brought up by Dr. Sarasu was the concept of Universalism VS Cultural Relatives and how the standards of both vary from gender to gender according to the society which was followed by questions such as “Are Human Rights Universal?”, “Should content be read in a cultural context?”. The last point she picked on this note was “Is there an Indian culture which affects the way we see Rights?”.



Day 2

Session 4



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Mrs. Rekha Shetty, an advocate with a vast experience in fighting for Rights of Women and Marginalized communities took the podium and began the session on the topic of violence against women.

She, with much gusto began talking about the Legal Protection for Women Within and Outside the Family. She began by explaining its two dimensions that are; Natural Vulnerability led Violence and the Vedic Period. She quickly moved onto the statistics provided by the NCRD for the years 2004-14; mentioning the alarming recorded 2.24 million crimes against women. She gave the audience the legal definition of violence against women and informed the audience about its legal aspects. Asserting her dissent on the fact that despite there being more than a hundred's laws directly impacting women, they are widely inadequate or unimplemented.

Mrs. Shetty highlighted the aspects of the various laws and amendments that affect women such as Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution. She also went on to give a comprehensive legal overview of Sexual Harassment; be it in the workplace, public and private space, citing the Sexual Harassment Act 2013. She elucidated on the note of The Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1987; Amendments to Criminal Rape Law 2013; Indian Evidence Act; Personnel Laws and how they impact women.

She wrapped up her talk on with the legal aspect of marriage and divorce, which was followed by a Q&A session where the speaker received questions such as, the reason for the absence of a marital rape law, the procedure and consequences for a legal separation and many other insightful queries.

Session 5

Setting an example to a large crowd Ms. Suma, a social activist dealing with Issues of Sexual Minorities made her way to the podium to give a testimony of who she is today. The 5th session started with her putting forth a question- "Who am I?" and the one response that stood out was "You're a human being".

Ms. Suma gave an insight into the lives of transgender women. Born as a man in the middleclass family, she identified herself as a woman at a very young age. Her journey towards acceptance was challenging because of the conflict within herself and the society she was born into. Her only means of survival was to resort to sex work where she was harassed, tortured and raped multiple times. She recounted how she was shamed for who she is even by the police and the irony of how the very law that was intended to give her justice violated her rights as a human being. But all these ills of society, she pointed out, added to thicken her skin and gave her the courage to be true to herself.



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Another example who tried to kill the stereotype against sexual minority was Ms. Akai Padhamashalli, Director of ONDEDE. She spoke of a very similar struggle like that of Ms. Suma but her passion remained in eradicating the prejudice against minorities and giving them a voice. She brought to our attention how ruthless and ignorant our society is towards these issues, she gave a call for equality and demanded for their rights.

Both Ms. Suma and Ms. Padamashalli conveyed the same message that individuals belonging to the LGBT+ community or the sexual minority are also human beings who wants and needs to be treated like any other citizen and be able to exercise their basic fundamental rights. The talk ended with a Q&A session with a lot of people curious to know what they could do to help out.



Paper presentation:

Entrepreneurship:

1. Women Social Entrepreneurship: Problems and Challenge



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Ms. Salma Bano

Research Scholar,

Department of Studies in Sociology.

University of Mysore, Mysore.

The present study has been carried out with the primary objective to analyze the major problems and challenges faced by women as Social Entrepreneurs. Her study found out that the basic issue prioritized by female social entrepreneurs was the lack of finance, training, and development, lack of managerial abilities and technical support. She recommended strategic measures towards fostering women for entrepreneurship; focusing on access to funding, entrepreneur culture, education and training, and coordinated support. Her key themes were on economic development, empowerment of women, and women in the social entrepreneurship sphere.

2. Empowering women entrepreneur makes the world a better place

Shahshikala S

Assistant professor and research scholar,

GFGC, Yelahanka.

The Main objective of her paper was focused on the women entrepreneurs with special reference to rural area (Chickballpur district of Karnataka) who in turn have empowered their true self by effective awareness, orientation, and skill development programmes, and mainly to determine her success ratio as an entrepreneur.

In her study done by using various Primary and Secondary data, shows that women go higher in strata despite several hurdles. The paper endeavored to study, using multidimensional approach from different sectors, namely individual women entrepreneurs, financial institutions where women are molded with traits and skills to meet the challenges.

3 . Women Entrepreneurs – An Elevation to Economy : An overview.

Ramya R

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Gowramma Kempogowda Government Degree College, Kanakapur.



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The paper focused on women entrepreneurs and how they play a key role in elevating themselves and the economy. She also brought out the relationship between a woman starting a business and the cultural and social background of their countries.

4. Women entrepreneurship Growth and Performance of MSMEs in India.

Sarvesha .H.K

Research scholar in Economics

Bangalore University

The paper laid out the importance of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as the driving force of an economy in relation with the rise of women in entrepreneur sectors. Another point that was stressed on was Gender equality and economic development as the two sides of the same coin. However, the paper also pointed out that though the entrepreneurial procedure is the same for men and women, there are however, in practice, many problems and challenges faced by women, which are of unlike dimensions and unmatched magnitudes which inhibit them from apprehending their full potential as entrepreneurs.

5. Analysis of Recent Patterns in research studies and the effect of policy making for the urban and rural Indian women.

Shruti Dutta and Tanya Dutta

Indian Institute of Psychological Research, Bangalore

This paper collectively highlights the recent patterns in research studies and the effect on policy making for the urban and rural Indian women. Research in the sector of social entrepreneurship has helped uncover the potential role of women, leading to gender integration and a way out of financial dependence.

Using critical analysis approach, it was found that a common pattern appeared in the research conclusion that is of basing the creation of a social enterprise by Indian women solely in a community background focusing only at a micro level of economy. The paper further suggested inclusive discussion of Indian women both at urban and rural level for further studies so as to bridge the socio-economic gap that exists currently.

6. Economic Impact of SHGs in development of Rural Women in India.



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Dr. Surappa Naik,

GFGC, Anekal.

Manjula Bai,

GFGC, Yelanka.

The subject matter of this paper is the goal of Self-Help group in development. The presentation dealt with the inadequate support to women and insufficient protection to their respective families and its effect on society which undermines the efforts to achieve gender equality. The emergence and rapid multiplication of SHGs based on micro credits as a phenomenon that is gaining increasing importance in the development scenario and the field of empowerment of women was also pointed out. In this paper, an attempt had been made to understand the performance of SHGs and its economic impact on empowerment of women in rural areas.

Transgressing boundaries

1. Atrocities Against Women in India: A case of research in quality life of women

Premajyothi D., Dr. Sangeetha R. Mane;

Department of Social Work, Karnataka University, Dharwad

This paper dealt with violence against women and the need for thorough investigation with respect to incidences regarding crime against women. The major points of this paper was to bring to awareness the fact that a major percent of the crime against women are unreported, fewer still persecuted, and a negligent number of accused are actually punished. The present paper endeavours to find ways and means to reduce the incidence of violence and also call for an urgent need to understand the psychology of the violators.

2. The Different Stories of Success

Barsha Bharali, Jagriti Daga;

Indian Institute of Psychology and Research Bangalore



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The present study was focused on disabled or differently abled women succeeding in normal functional life like the rest of the mainstream society. They predicted a link between the emotional support to radical empowerment. The study was conducted on metropolitan cities. The methodology used was a semi – structured interview conducted on five subjects. According to the analysis, it was found that the acceptance of oneself and the society, women with disabilities be it; physical or mental or both, can have normal lives like any other.

3. Breaking Taboos and Controversies: Muslim Women’s Success Stories

Kiron Ann George;

Indian Institute of Psychology and Research, Bangalore

This research highlighted the impact of social media to expose Muslim women transgressing their cultural and social background in varied fields. Using a critical approach, it was found that, legit cultural practices curbed the personal identity and freedom of Islamic women. However, other studies found that few countries were liberal in their policies for women. The inconsistency showed that, the society or the ethnic minority groups may have misinterpreted the Quran and the Sha’ariah law that is passed across generations. The study also dealt with the use of social media as a medium to voice against the suppression of the brutal, patriarchal society for recognition, equality, and justice by Muslim feminists.

4. The Perception and Response Patterns of Girl Students to Eveteasing: A study in a college setting

Mr. Shouvik Sarkar, Mr. Mohit Arora;

Indian Institute of psychology and research, Bangalore

The present study is to identify the response pattern of girl students to eveteasing taken up in the campus of the Indian Institute of Psychology and Research. The sample consisted of 50 respondents who were undergraduate students and a data was collected using a survey. The results revealed that the whole sample has been exposed to multiple and recurrent attempts of eveteasing in course of mobility, pursuing education, work, and other general settings. Lack of a culture of respect directed towards women and a lack of punishment to the perpetrators were found to be the major reason for resulting incident.



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Most of the sample was against the ideology that women behaviour was responsible for sexual harassment. The paper also suggested ways to deal with this social evil of proposed by both the researchers and the respondents.

5. Legislative Measures for Child Sexual Abuse

Sarika S;

Research scholar, Bangalore University.

The study dealt with sexual abuse as a non-consensual sexual continent and the truth that sexual abuse can happen to both sexes in any age. The subject matter also included the incidents of marital rape and the various forms of sexual abuse which goes unnoticed such as; deliberately causing unwanted pain during sex, deliberately passing STD using derogatory names etc.

Women Empowerment

1. Role of Women Empowerment in Agricultural Indian Perspective

Nagaraju. K.O.;

Department of Economics,

Research scholar, Bangalore University.

This study discusses the need for a new agricultural research and extension agenda which integrates gender analysis into the process of technology generation and dissemination. It also comes up with future strategies to make women an active part of important for decisions both at the household and legislature level. This study emphasizes the importance of balancing agricultural research systems, extension education, and policy-making bodies to attain women empowerment in agriculture. This study was made with the help of secondary data and information obtained through economic survey, census reports, journals, periodicals, and internet.



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2. Women empowerment: Marriage in Transition.

Deepthi Nandan, Nissi Ann Philip;
Jain University, Bangalore.

The objective of the study is to bring forward the views and opinions of women, on marriage as a social and traditional institution. This study tries to understand and analyze the various socio-economic factors which have an influence on the women's perspective about the institution of marriage itself and the related aspects of- choice of marriage, partner, divorces, and other changes or trends in the society, revolving around the topic. A small primary survey was conducted on a group of around 60 women of different age groups in and around Bangalore, using quota sampling method. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The questionnaire and interview methods were used; the data so collected was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. This study concluded with the summary of education and employment having a vital influence on women's choices, decision making power, portrayed through the progressive roles held by her within the institution of marriage and otherwise. The paper also added some suggestions to accelerate the pace of women empowerment in such socio-cultural institutions and in society at large.

3. Tribal Women and Health Care Issues of Empowerment; Karnataka.

Manjunatha B T;
Research Scholar,
Department of Sociology,
Bangalore University

The paper tries to find out what were the means and aims of tribal exclusion and inclusion and the consequences of the same. The paper dealt with Health as a comprehensive approach designed to prevent deprivation, assured the individual of a basic minimum income, and protect the individual from any uncertainties. Social securities as a part of the developmental process was also introduced along with its part to help create a more positive attitude to the challenge of globalization with respect to both; the tribal and the national scale.

The paper also dealt with the problems faced by tribal people with respect to the dominant development paradigm of the country.



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4. Women Empowerment through Panchayat Raj.

Srinivas B.S , Thirumalesha;

Research scholar, Department of Sociology

Jnanabharathi campus, Bangalore University,

This paper was traced on in a theoretical way whether women should allowed to participate in decision making process in Panchayat raj and how the Panchayat Raj plays a very important role for women empowerment in rural areas. The objective of the paper was to study the different aspects of women empowerment in various levels. The research methodology used for this paper was secondary data and data available with the government.

5. Empowerment and Politics of Power – A Global View

Dr. Kavitha. K;

Department of English

Government First Grade College, Yelahanka, Bangalore

This paper dealt with the participation of women in the political sphere and its progress in the past 70 years. However, despite all progress, as far as there is economic, political and social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men. The paper explained how women on power with equal education and achievements are still not given equal opportunities and position in the major professional sectors and legislator.

6. Beautician as a Profession and Women Empowerment – A case study of Beauty Parlors in Mangalore City

Dr. Yashaswini.B.;

MSW Course, Mangala Gangothiri, Mangalore University

This paper dealt with the relationship between women with moderate education and personality development through entrepreneurship which startup professions such beauticians. The paper also dealt with how financial freedom, reputation; both in family and society certainly help in women empowerment. It also pointed out how this manageable business also requires simple business skills with financial management and



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customer skills, giving importance to self confidence and motivation as a very essential requirement for establishing successful businesses like that of a beauty parlor.

7. 'Self-Help Groups' Instrument for Women Empowerment and Revitalize India

Dr. Ashalatha;

Department of studies in social work,
Karnataka University, Dharwad

The paper addressed the issue of empowerment with respect to Self- Help Groups. Empowerment of women; according to this study was not just a goal in itself but a key to all global development goals. The Self- Help Group movement in India began in the 1980's when several NGO's had mobilized an organized poor communities in rural areas to provide formal channels for social and financial support. Today, these Self- Help Groups are seen as more than a conduit for credit. This paper examined the role of SHG's in women empowerment and subsequent revitalization of India.



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Mrs. Sadhna Kaikini, Founder/Director, Buoyancee conducted a final joint session on the theme 'Youth Empowerment for Revitalizing India'. The session was lively and interactive as she made the audience think about their own perceptions of themselves. She encouraged each and every one to bring out the best in themselves and together contribute to the Revitalizing of India.



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The two-day conference was a grand success with meaningful discussions

