CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

ACTIVITIES REPORT: 2023-2024

July 2023:

One day Seminar on 'Know Your Rights: Legal Awareness for Women'

Centre for Women's Studies along with the Postgraduate Departments of Communication, International Studies and the UG Department of History organized a one-day seminar on the topic, '*Know Your Rights: Legal Awareness for Women.*' Students from the departments of PG Communication, PG International Studies and History were the participants. Students and Faculty from colleges such as Stella Maris, MOP Vaishnav, SIVET also attended the Seminar.

Venue: Bertha Corfield Hall, Women's Christian College, Chennai.

Date: 24/07/2023

Time: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Objectives: To understand and generate awareness about the various rights which women of today need to know, whether it is personal rights or professional rights.

The Sessions: In his inaugural address Justice K Chandru narrated real life anecdotes focused on the reality and gravity of the situation. Advocate D Naga Saila presented an overview of the way the laws have come about. Advocate Lita Srinivasan's spoke about our neglect to remember those women whose battles were waged quietly. Although Advocate Swapna Sundar spoke more about rights pertaining to business, it was informative for students to develop an awareness of their rights in general. Advocate Selvi focused mainly on the rights that women must know, both in domestic sphere and in the workplace.

The Outcomes: The seminar was an entry point for young women to become aware of the rights they are entitled. As it covered various section of the law, students from different departments of the College attended the sessions to enhance their awareness.

Brochure and Photographs:

About The College

ADOUT THE COLLEGE Women's Christian College, placed first among all women's colleges in South India by the MIRPLO tach NER's Trainigia 1027; has known for its high standards of education and outstanding achievements in teaching learning, research and extension activities. WCC was founded in 1015 by the combined offfort of 12 Missionary Societtes from Irbinia, ranada and the United States of America. The mission of the college is to provide 'a complete, meaningful and relevant deducation to women so that they are intollectually well trained, morally upright, socially aware and spiritually inspired'. At its inception, the College had 41 students and 7 members of staff. Today it has over 4000 students, Bi5 faculty members and 100 non-teaching staff.

About The Centre for Women's Studies

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About The Seminar It is created for Women to become event of their busic legal rights and the various laws available to help face the challenges in real life situations. The Seminar is an initiative towards achieving the aforementioned objective.

Speakers Inaugural Adddress: Justice K. Chandru

Session Speakers

Advocate D. Naga Saila Advocate P. Selvi Advocate Lita Srinivasan Advocate Swapna Sundar

Participants: Open to all students and staff Registration Link :https://forms.gle/ZrzKLDbcBfbAmvk67



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, CHENNAI An Autonomous Institution affiliated to the University of Madras Re-Accredited by SAAC in July 2019 with Grade A+ College with Potential for Excellence



The Centre for Women's Studies, PG Departments of Communication, English, International Studies and The Department of History

> cordially invite you to a Seminar on

Know Your Rights:

Legal Awareness for

Women

on Monday, 24th July 2023 Time: 11 AM to 4 PM

Venue : Bertha Corfield Auditorium

Patron Dr. Lilian I Jasper

Convener Dr. D Punitha Dean

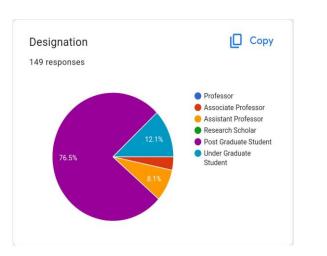
Principal WCC, Chennai

Centre for Women's Studies,WCC

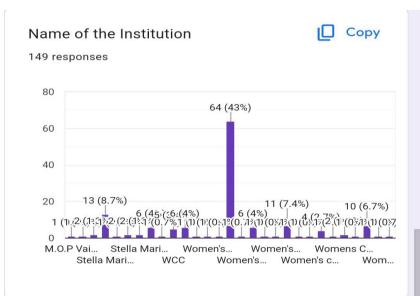




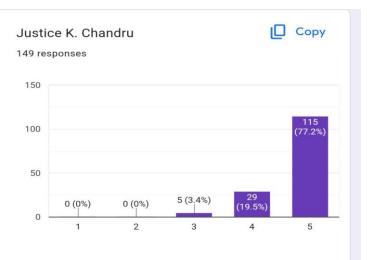
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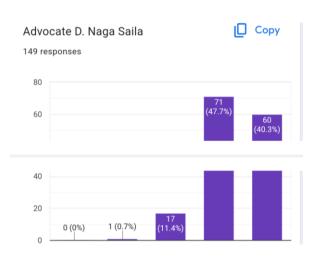


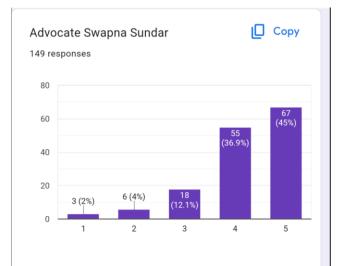
Registration details

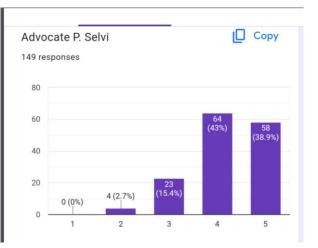


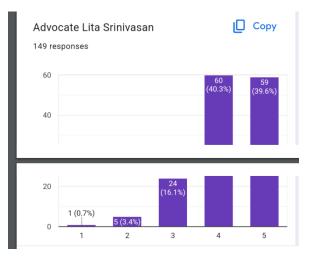
Feedback on Session Speakers

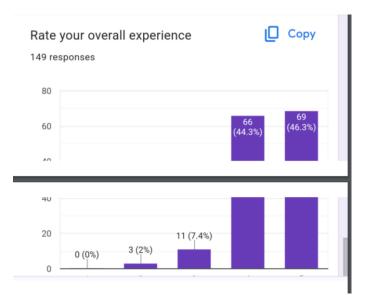












June 2023:

DR. DPUNITHA has been invited to be an External member of the GSICC of the Madras High Court from June 2023 as a Social Activist.

Student Activity: Arulvani A and Sobhana Priya R from PG Communication; Dalmi CT, Florence, Jenita Hepzibah Pauline A and Janani S from PG Chemistry; Muthuvishali K of PG Physics participated in the workshop on *'Crossing Boundaries in Writing' organized by The American Center*, U.S. Consulate General Chennai on June 22nd 2023.

August 2023

Dr. D Punitha's interview on DD Pothigai:

Dr D. Punitha, Dean, Centre for Women's Studies, Women's Christian College, Chennai was interviewed by Doordarshan Pothigai, about women empowerment and media courses. She spoke about the aims and activities of the Centre on the one hour LIVE telecast.



September 2023:

Seminar on Changing Dynamics in Gender Perspectives.

Organised by: The Centre for Women's Studies, the UG Department of English (Shift I), the PG Department of English (Shift II) and the PG Department of Communication (Shift II) in collaboration with All India Radio under G20 initiative .

Venue: Bamford Hall, Women's Christian College, Chennai.

Date: 12-09-2023.

Time: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The Centre for Women's Studies, the UG Department of English (Shift I), the PG Department of English (Shift II) and the PG Department of Communication (Shift II) of Women's Christian College, Chennai, jointly organized a One Day seminar titled *Changing Dynamics in Gender Perspectives* on the 12th of September, 2023. pm at the Bamford Hall, where 220 students were present. The seminar was sponsored by All India Radio, as part of the government's G-20 initiative.

Objectives: To explore the implications of gender dynamics in contemporary times and to examine the changes in perceptions of gender and gender-based realities.

The Sessions: The seminar comprised two sessions. The first session, (9.30-11.00 am) commenced with invocation and Thamizh Thai Vazhthu. After the lighting of the KuthuVizhakku, the Principal welcomed the gathering and emphasized the need for educated, privileged women empathizing with women who still face oppression despite the perceptible progress that has been made over the years.

The seminar dynamics was then presented by Ms. Sweetlyn Moses, Head, Department of English. Ms. Leela Meenakshi, Deputy Director of News, All India Radio, addressed the students on the need for women to not only enable women to empower themselves but also to become empowering agents of others. The keynote address was delivered by Dr.V Padma, (aka) Mangai, who besides being a retired Associate Professor from Stella Maris College, Chennai, is a renowned theatre practitioner, playwright and activist. She extended an overall exploration of gender realities in the contemporary times in her address, substantiating her arguments based on feminist writers and literary critics.

The second session (11.30-1.30 pm) had two speakers – Ms. Geetha Elangovan, lyricist, film maker and writer and, Ms. V Saradha, a journalist, who focused upon women and their challenges in specific contexts. While Ms. Geetha Elangovan screened one of her movies on menstruation and analysed the same, Ms. Saradha succinctly extrapolated through data and concrete examples the challenges faced by female media persons in contemporary times. Each of the speakers had a Question-and-Answer session after their talks that brought into focus many pertinent issues relevant to the context and the focus of their addresses. The programme came to an end with Dr Punitha, Head of the PG Communication Department proposing the Vote of Thanks followed by the National Anthem.

The Outcomes: The seminar not only extended itself towards creating a general awareness on women's and gender issues, but enabled understanding of gender-based realities specific to the current context from an academic standpoint.



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, CHENNAI



An Autonomous Institution affiliated to the University of Madras Re-Accredited by NAAC in July 2019 with Grade A+ College with Potential for Excellence

The Centre for Women's Studies, Departments of English (Shift 1 & 11) and PG Department of Communication

> cordially invite you to a Seminar on

Changing Dynamics In Gender Perspectives

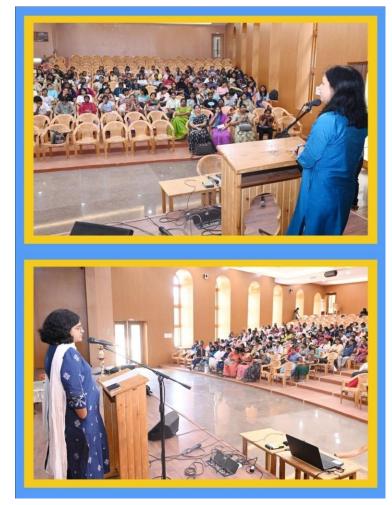
on Tuesday, 12th September 2023 Time : 9:30 AM

Venue : Bertha Corfield Auditorium

Participants: Open to all students and staff

Registration Link :https://forms.gle/ZrzKLDbcBfbAmvk67





POSH Paradoxes Conclave:

The chairperson of the Internal Compliance Committee and the Dean Centre for Women's Studies Dr. D. Punitha and Dr. Preethi Anand, member, ICC attended POSH Paradoxes Conclave on 21st September, 2023 organized by LexPOSH.

January 2024

Conference Publication

Dr.D.Punitha presented a paper titled Portrayal of Child sexual abuse in films: The case of Tamil films Sembi and Chiddha in a National Conference on The Evolving Landscape : Exploring possibilities and challenges for the girl child in a dynamic word on 24 January 2024 organised by women Study Centre Holy Cross College Tiruchirapalli in collaboration with The Centre for Women's development studies New Delhi . The paper was published in the proceedings of the Conference.

Street Play: Prevention of sexual harassment at work places

Organised by: The Centre for Women's Studies, WCC in collaboration with The Department of English (Shift I)

Venue: The open space in front of Doveton House, Women's Christian College, Chennai.

Date: 30-01-2024

Time:10.00 am 1.30 pm.

The Centre for Women's Studies, WCC along with The Department of English (Shift I) organised the performance of a street play during the break time on campus. The students from the III Year English Core Elective, Theatre in Context course performed the street play that focused on harassment of women in public places.

Objectives:

- a) To raise awareness on harassment of women and its implications among the student community.
- b) To enable students to understand the nuances of street theatre as a powerful medium of examining issues in relevant contexts.

Conceptual note: The suggestion to perform a street play was mooted after the direction from the office of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, to the Centre for Women's Studies to organize awareness/orientation programmes relating to the provisions of the PoSH (Prevention of Sexual Harrassment Act) on the campus so as to educate women. With request from Dr Punitha, the Dean of the Centre, the English Department of Shift I decided to perform a street play, that will present to the audience, a string of narratives that will project women who are victimised and harassed in public spaces.

The plot for the narratives of the play was conceptualized by the Theatre students of the III Year English class, who later enriched these narratives through powerful dialogues and exuberant action. The practice sessions were rigorous as students and the course teacher, Ms Sweetlyn Moses stayed after college hours to work on synchronisation, movement and voice modulation.

The audience was drawn towards the space on the day of performance by the actors themselves who welcomed all passers-by to witness their performance through the welcome song *Vaa Maa Raasathi*. As many as 300 students and other passers-by were audience to the bilingual street-play (in both English and Tamil) that lasted for 15 minutes with a series of six narratives unfolding in succession. The message of the play that women can and will rise above such victimisation resonated well with the audience as actors moving in a circle proclaimed, "Just like moons and like suns Still I rise! Still I rise!" -lines drawn from Maya Angelou's poem, *Still I Rise*.

The Outcomes: The street play was a grand success as it poignantly portrayed the sufferings of women harassed in public spaces. It was received well by the audience as it entertained them through humour and crisp dialogues and plotlines drawn from relevant contexts. For the student-actors, the experience was invigorating and delightful.

Photographs:



February 2024

National Essay Competition 2023

Organized by: The Centre for Women's Studies, Women's Christian College in collaboration with

The PG Department of International Studies

Mode: Online

Dates:

Announcement of the competition – 13th December 2023

Closed for entries: 7th February 2024

The Centre for Women's Studies, Women's Christian College in collaboration with the PG Department of International Studies jointly organized the National Essay Competition 2023 with the theme '*Women and Women rights*'. The competition was open to all colleges in India and students from UG, PG or Research Scholars were eligible to apply. Registration was free.

Objectives:

- a) To raise awareness on contemporary issues concerning women in the fields of politics, sports, business, STEM, Journalism, Health, and Climate change
- b) To stimulate debates and encourage constructive articulation on challenges faced by women.

About the event:

The National Essay Competition is conducted annually by the PG Department of International Studies. This time, for its 3rd edition, the Centre for Women's Studies collaborated with the Department to develop topics concerning women and women rights. The topics were:

- a) Reservation for Women in the Indian Parliament 128th Constitutional Amendment Act
- b) Breaking the glass ceiling Striving for Gender Equality in the field of Sports/Business/STEM/Journalism
- c) Impact of Media on Women's self image and empowerment.
- d) Environmental Justice and Women Navigating the impacts of Climate Change
- e) Global Perspectives on Women's Health: Addressing Disparities.

81 participants registered from across the four southern states of India.

Evaluation and Results:

The submitted essays went through a preliminary review for plagiarism, relevance of content and overall articulation. From the received essays, 7 essays were shortlisted for the next scrutiny by Dr.

D. Punitha, Dean, Centre for Women's Studies and Ms. Hemalatha G, Head – PG Department of International Studies. The top three selected essays were as follows:

1. 1st Prize (Rs. 1500/-): Ms. C. S Yamini - Loyola College (Impact of Media)

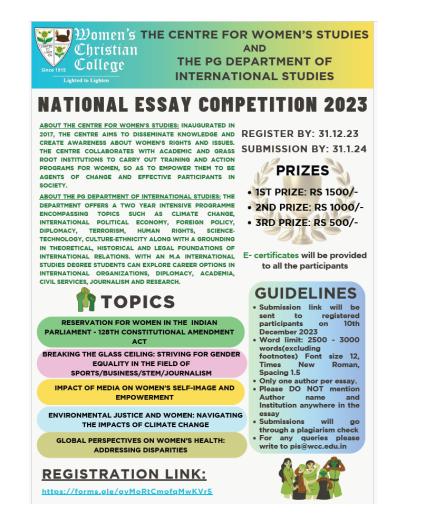
2. 2nd Prize(Rs. 1000/-: Ms. Nancy E Jeba - Women's Christian College (Impact of Media) 3. 3rd Prize (rs 500/-): Ms. Swathi I - Women's Christian College (Global Perspectives on Women's Health)

The prizes and certificates were distributed on the Women's Day celebrations in Women's Christian College on 8th March 2023 by Dr. Punitha, Dean, Centre for Women's Studies.

Ms. Maithili Sane, Assistant Professor, PG Department of International Studies and Faculty Representative, Centre for Women's Studies facilitated the conduct of the competition and distribution of the cash prizes. e-Certificates were awarded to all participants who submitted their entries.

The outcomes: The National Essay Competition 2023, centered around the theme of Women and Women's rights was able to highlight the contemporary issues faced by women in various fields. The submitted entries showed that the topics resonated with the participants and they have written profusely covering various angles. This time, there was more diversity in the number of entries received in terms of colleges and regions from which essays were submitted. Overall, the competition was able to achieve the aforementioned objectives.

Brochure: National Essay Competition 2023



Registrations received for the National Essay Competition 2023

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Prize Distriution Ceremony – Winners of the National Essay Competition 2024





March 2024

International Women's Day Celebrations:

Tamil Debate on "மாணவியரின் கற்றல் திறனை பெரிதும் பாதிப்பது ஊடகங்களே/ உறவுகளே".

Organized by: The Centre for Women's Studies, WCC and The Department of Tamil (Shift 1)

Venue: Bamford Hall, Centenary Block, Women's Christian College, Chennai.

Date: March 8, 2024

Time: 10:20 AM – 12:00 PM

The Centre for Women's Studies, WCC and The Department of Tamil (Shift 1) organized a Tamil debate on the theme "மாணவியரின் கற்றல் திறனை பெரிதும் பாதிப்பது ஊடகங்களே/ உறவுகளே". Students from WCC participated in this event, which centered on the contemporary issue of social media's impact on intellectual development, particularly among young women. 300 students attended the event.

Objectives:

- a) Raise awareness among students about the pitfalls of excessive social media usage, aligning with the Women's Day celebration.
- b) Offer insights into the detrimental effects of engaging in toxic relationships through various mediums, ultimately leaving them vulnerable at a young age.

The program commenced with an invocation song, followed by the recitation of "தமிழ்த்தாய் வாழ்த்து". Dr. J. Jeyasanthi, Head of the Department of Tamil, Shift 1, delivered a speech on the significance of Women's Day. The debate began with an insightful discourse by Esther Joy. S, a first-year B.A. English student representing the team "மாணவியரின் கற்றல் திறனை பெரிதும் பாதிப்பது ஊடகங்களே", who highlighted the adverse effects of social media by drawing parallels between past practices and current trends, citing examples from the lives of influential women leaders and Nobel Prize winners. Muthamizharasi.S, also a first-year B.A. English student, provided a counterargument, shedding light on how relationships can equally impede students' intellectual growth. The jury provided constructive feedback throughout the debate.Jayaniranthari A G, a second-year B.Sc. Mathematics student, eloquently presented her arguments, capturing the audience's attention with her wordplay. Roshini J P, a second-year student from the Home Science Department, countered with examples from everyday life, illustrating how family conflicts can hinder students' studies. Krishnapriya N, a third-year B.Sc. Chemistry student, concluded the debate by drawing from her personal experiences to demonstrate how social media diminishes students' intellectual prowess. C.J. Ann Strino, a third-year B.A. English student, presented a steadfast defense for her team, adeptly addressing her opponents' arguments.

CONCLUSION PART AND OUTCOMES:

In the concluding segment, the jury Dr. Cynthia Jemima Swarnavalli deliberated extensively on the arguments presented. Their unanimous decision affirmed that social media exerts the most detrimental influence on students, diminishing their intellectual capacity. This event served as a wake-up call for students ensnared by social media addiction. While accepting this reality may prove challenging, the profound words spoken during the debate are poised to resonate in their lives and effect change among the current generation of young students.

To further enrich the event, Dr. Punitha D, Dean of the Centre for Women's Studies, shared insights on "Women Empowerment; Feminist Movement; How and when it was initiated". Dr. S.G. Esther Arul Mary, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Shift 1, extended her gratitude for making the event memorable through a vote of thanks. The event concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

and Photographs:

Brochure











International Women's Day Celebrations:

Organized by: The Centre for Women's Studies, Women's Christian College in collaboration with The Department of Tamil (Shift II)

Venue: Bamford Hall, Women's Christian College, Chennai.

Date: 08-03-2024

Time: 01:30 pm - 03:30 pm

The theme chosen for this year's celebration was "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," highlighting the importance of empowering and educating the girl child. The event saw enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty members, showcasing their talents and dedication to the cause of women empowerment. 400 students participated in the event.

Objectives:

- a) To raise awareness about gender-related issues, promoting empowerment, inspiring collective action for gender equality, celebrating diversity, educating the community about the significance of the day, and fostering collaboration among different departments and organizations within the college community.
- b) Through a series of performances and activities, the event aimed to spark dialogue, reflection, and action towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society where women and girls have equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

The performances were diverse, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and artistic talents of the college community. The Department of Tamil (Shift II) of Women's Christian College, along with The Centre for Women's Studies, contributed significantly to the event's success.

The performances included:

Skit Performance: Students from the Tamil Department presented a thought-provoking skit that delved into the challenges faced by girls in society and emphasized the need for their protection and education.

Bharatanatyam Performances: ABharatanatyam performance was delivered by a student from the MA Communication program, captivating the audience with graceful movements and expressive

storytelling. Additionally, another Bharatanatyam performance by students from the Tamil department added to the cultural richness of the event.

Solo Dance Performance: A student from the Tamil department showcased her talent through a captivating solo dance performance, earning admiration for her skill and dedication.

Special Performance by the Department of Corporate Economics: The Department of Corporate Economics delivered a poignant performance centred around the theme of educating and empowering women. Their play shed light on the remarkable life and struggles of Kalpana Saroj, the first successful women entrepreneur, inspiring the audience with her resilience and determination. Through captivating storytelling, the play highlighted the importance of breaking gender barriers and fostering opportunities for women in entrepreneurship. Additionally, students from the department composed and performed a heartfelt song celebrating the strength and resilience of women, echoing the spirit of empowerment and solidarity.

Outcome:

The International Women's Day celebration at Women's Christian College, Chennai, yielded significant outcomes, effectively meeting its objectives of raising awareness, promoting empowerment, inspiring action, celebrating diversity, educating the community, and fostering collaboration. Attendees were captivated by a diverse array of performances, including a powerful play depicting the life and struggles of Kalpana Saroj, presented by the Department of Corporate Economics. This portrayal ignited meaningful conversations on gender-related issues, underscoring the community's dedication to gender equality. The event served as a catalyst for change, motivating individuals to advocate for an inclusive society where women and girls are empowered to realize their full potential.

Brochure and Photographs:









Student Competition: Reel Making competition - 'Aval- Idhu Reel Illa Real!'

Organized by : The Centre for Women's Studies and the PG Department of Communication, this competition was an online reel making competition on topics pertaining to Women and Women's rights.

Ms. Jemimah Robinson from B.Sc Psychology, Women's Christian College, was the winner of this competition

Brochure

