



Report of activities Session 2017-18



**Centre for Women's Studies
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur,
Chhattisgarh, India.**

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Year of Establishment: 2001

The Centre was started in the year 2001 to mark "Women Empowerment Year". Objective of the centre is to promote women's studies to translate the component of empowerment of women. Centre is designed to act as catalysts for promoting and strengthening women's studies through teaching, research, curriculum field and extension work training and continuing education etc. Centre is planning to work, in the area of equality, economic self reliance, girls education, health, women rights, laws, social exploitation and awareness activities etc.

Academic Programs Offered

S.No.	Course Name	Duration	Seats
01	Certificate Course "Women Law and Gender Justice"	Six Month	20

Research Project

S.No	Title	Funding Agency	Amount
1.	Prevalence and Awareness of Chronic Disease among Women of different Professions in relation to Life Style and Activity Level	CCOST (Ongoing)	4,90,000=00
2.	Effect of Intervention Programme on Nutritional Status & Mental Health of Adolescents Girls CWS	CWS Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (Ongoing)	1,50,000=00
3.	Nutritional status and utilization of antenatal health care services among the Baiga women of Chhattisgarh	Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) (Ongoing)	6,00,000=00

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

Numerous high profile research Seminars, Conferences, Public Lectures, Workshop, training program and Panel discussions have been organised under the aegis of the Centre.

S.No	Activities	Date	Participants
1	Organized a play “AAYDAAN” based on social issues related to women in collaboration with Azim Prem Ji Foundation	15 th July 2017	250
2	Lecture on “ SOCIAL NORMS & YOUTH : GENDER PERSPECTIVE ” in collaboration with Oxfam India.	21 st August 2017	150
3	Lecture on “ Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) ”	25 th September 2017	200
4	Symposium on “ Bhagini Nivedita: Jivan or Darshan ” in collaboration with Swami Vivekanand Vidyapeeth	24 th November 2017	200
5	Nationwide competition to “ Create Awareness About the legal Rights of Women ” in collaboration with National Commission for Women	24 th November 2017	200
6	State level Mega Event on Promoting Positive Gender Norms with in Families and Society , in collaboration with Oxfam India.	30th November 2017	1500
7	One Day Lecture on “ Youth ki Awaaz ” in collaboration with Jet Set Vote & PRIA Organization	30th October 2017	250
8	Lecture on Bachpan bachao andolan	23th January 2018	200
9	National Seminar on “ Gender Norms and Gender Equality ” in collaboration with Oxfam India.	6 th -8 th February 2018	200
10	Antardwand Natak ka Manchan	7 th March 2018	200
11	One day National Workshop on “ Women Leadership Development ” in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Society Puducherry	8 th March 2018	35

Lecture on “SOCIAL NORMS & YOUTH : GENDER PERSPECTIVE” in collaboration with Oxfam India 21st August 2017

Introduction:

Oxfam India, Chhattisgarh office has been closely working with Centre for Women’s Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University since past 3 years. As part of this collaboration several engagement with youth on issues of gender equality has been organized in the university. Considering the potential of youth as agents of change this engagements is very crucial. This time the orientation has been planned with the students of Centre for Women’s Studies and School of Studies Physical Education, Pt. RavishankarShukla University.

The prime objective of the programme was:-

1. Orientation of youth on basic concepts of gender through activity based learning.

Participants

Total 150 boys and girls from the Centre for Women’s Studies and Department of Physical Education, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University took part in the programme.

Methodology

Lecture cum interactive, activity based learning method with emphasis on a participatory approach to learning was applied in the orientation sessions.

Location and duration of the trainings

The orientation took place in the Centre for Women’s Studies and Department of Physical Education, Pt. RavishankarShukla University, Raipur. It was day long exercise.

Inauguration session

The inaugural session of the programme was attended by Dr. R.K. Mishra, Director Physical Education Programme, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (Pt.RSU). Dr. Rajiv Choudhary HoD of Physical Education, Pt.RSU, Dr. C.D. Agashe, Professor Physical Education, Pt.RSU, Prof ReetaVenugopal, Director Center for Women Studies Pt.RSU and Urmimala Sengupta, Programme Officer – Gender Justice, Oxfam India, Aniksha Varoda, Research Assistant Center for Women Studies Pt.RSU.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants Prof. Reeta Venugopal , Director, Centre for Women's Studies, stated that gender equality is essential part of a balanced life. Understanding of gender equality helps us combat many misunderstanding in our lives. Dr. R.K. Mishra mentioned that gender equality should be practiced in day to day lives. From sports to kitchen the role of male and female should be based on principal of gender equality. Appreciating the initiative of Prof. Reeta Venugopal, Dr. C.D. Agashe stated that more such interaction sessions on gender equality should be organized, he urged the students to clarify their doubts and practice gender equality in their lives. Dr. Rajiv Choudhary mentioned that men and women are all equality and it is time that this equality is celebrated by one and all, he urged the students to give full attention to the sessions on gender equality.

Urmimala, PO Gender Justice, Oxfam India, thanked the faculty members and Prof, Venugopal for organizing the event on gender equality. She appreciated the students for joining the session and their association with gender justice activities in the past as well. She mentioned that the objective of the session was to orient all the participants with basics of gender equality.



Technical Sessions

The inauguration session was followed by introduction of the participants. Each participant was asked to introduce his/her name by simply adding an adjective after their name For example: "I am Sanjay smart. "etc. of the interesting introductions were –

I am Meena talented

I am Alok excited

I am P. Nirmalahappy

Post introduction participants were asked to differentiate between gender and sex. The purpose of this session was to enable the participants to reflect on their understandings of sex and gender and to increase their comfort level with these issues. The differences mentioned by the participants are summarized below

SEX	GENDER
This biological or physical construction is called sex.	These socio-cultural differences between men and women are called gender.
Sex is universal	Differs from culture to culture
Static	Changeable

After this the participants were asked to read aloud following statements –

1. Women give birth to babies, men don't.
2. Care of babies is the responsibility of women because they can breastfeed them.
3. Men have moustaches.
4. Women cannot carry heavy loads.
5. Women are scared of working outside their homes at night
6. Men's voices break at puberty, women's don't.
7. Women are emotional and men are rational.
8. Most of the women have long hair and men have short hair.
9. Most scientists are men.
10. Women cannot drive well.
11. Cooking comes naturally to women

The students were asked to decide which statement denotes characteristics/behaviors based on sex and which are socially constructed.

Some of the explanations-

Students Response	Facilitator's explanation
Only mothers are best care takers because this is a God gifted quality. Hence this is part of sex.	Breast feeding is a biological process hence it is related to sex. However taking care of a child other than breast feeding her is a skill which both men and women can acquire. But socially

	it has been so constructed that only women can take care of children hence this is gender.
Both men and women can cook hence it is not related to sex.	Right, both can cook and it has nothing to do with sex.
Girls have small brains so they are not good in science, this is sex.	True that women have smaller brain than men but there are no scientific evidences that the size of their brain makes them less rational hence they are not good in science. Therefore this a gender not sex.

The next session was Gendered Behaviours and their Consequences –Participants were divided into groups of five. Each group gets to enact one of the following.

- How would a bride/bridegroom behave on their wedding day?
- How would a young woman/man walk through the busy market after dark?
- How would a woman/man laugh in a gathering?
- How would a woman/man show anger?
- How would a woman/man show pain?

After the enactment the participants were asked to reflect on the following questions-

- Do you find women and men behaving differently in these situations? Why?
- How and where are these behaviors learned?
- At what stages of our lives do we learn these behaviors?
- What impact do these norms have on the lives of men and women?

Some of the responses

Yes the behavior immediately help us differentiate between male and female.

We learned these behavior unconsciously.

We judge the goodness/ badness perfect/ imperfectness of male and female behavior based on how they behave during such situations.

Urmimala pointed out that it is through the process of socialization that we all learn our roles and expected behavior.

In the next activity - ,The Story of a Queen and a King the purpose was to examine the lives of men and women in a comparative way. To initiate a discussion on the possibility of reversal of gender roles and qualities.

The participants were asked to form a circle. They were asked to construct biographies of two imaginary people, first the queen, then the king. Participants were given balls and each one was asked to pass the ball to one member of the group and before passing the ball they were supposed to say something about the life of the queen, but by describing events (from birth to death) they associate with the king's life. (Example: “The queen enjoyed war and the sight of blood.”).

Some of the responses-

- The king liked to play with dolls.
- Queen like horse riding.
- The queen was fearless.
- The queen choose to marry the king.
- The king was very shy.
- The king was a very good cook.
- The queen ruled her kingdom.
- The king looked after their children.
- The queen died fighting a battle.
- The king mourned the death of the queen and died in some years in sorrow.



Participants were asked the following questions-

- Did they find the exercise amusing? If so, why?
- What are the roles expected of men and women?
- Which of these are natural and which of these are learned? Why do we find it funny when these roles are reversed?
- Do the roles have to be so different? Why are they different?

Some responses

Yes it was amusing because do you see king playing with dolls?

Men and women are have certain expected role therefore it was difficult for us to reverse their roles.

Shyness is natural while cooking is learnt. Bravery is natural while horse riding is learnt.

We find it funny because all men do not take care of children or all women do not fight battles. They do not do because they are not expected to do so.

Urmimala concluded the session by stating that these response shows that both men and women have and can have both the traits of male and female however we are under pressure to act as per the existing structure of the society.

In the last session of the day boys and girls were asked to stand in a circle boys in inner circle and girls in outer circle than they were asked to face each other and mention about some good qualities and some bad qualities of the opposite sex. Following were some of the good and bad qualities of boys and girls which emerged during the exercise.

Boys Good Qualities	Boys Bad Qualities	Girls Good Qualities	Girls Bad Qualities
Cooperative	Not trust worthy	High level of tolerance	No reasoning power
Good at outdoor activities	Make comments on girls	Good at household work	Selfish
Provide safety	Get angry	Always smilely	Indulge in gossiping
Helpful	Do not cooperate in domestic work	Adjusting	Cry
United	Use abusive language	Cultured	Jealous
	Over react	Sweet spoken	Money minded
	Discourage girls		

The participants were then asked to point out whether the above qualities pointed out by them indicate gender or sex attributes. All agreed that the all most all the behavior are attributes of gender. And all the participants agreed to give attention to their qualities and convert them into good ones.

One Day Lecture on Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) on 25th September 2017

Spokesperson – Mr. Ranjit Gaikwad Patil

Mr. Ranjit Gaikwad Patil is a life coach. He is a walling encyclopedia of NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programme) techniques and terminology and has been training with clarity and precision.

The discussion went on following topics.

- Application of NLP to increase productivity of an individual
- The 3 basic need of an individual to lead a happy life is to sterile balance in health, health & relationship.
- How to become happy by getting clarity on self and the propose of one's life.

The session was a good learning experience, it gives us insight and made us think about the various aspects of life with a different angel.

At the end of session, quires of students were answered by him (Mr. Ranjit). All in all, the exposure given was appreciated by all.



One Day Lecture on Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP)

State level Mega Event on Promoting Positive Gender Norms with in Families and Society” in collaboration with Oxfam India, and Indira Kala and Sangit Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh on

30th November 2017

JashnNayiSochKa

The echoes of Main Nayi Soch Hun resounded far and wide as the collective of more than 1200 youths and women raised their powerful voices shacking the acoustics of the auditorium of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University.

The occasion was ‘JashnNayiSochKa’ a cultural expression on ending violence against women. The event was jointly organised by, **Centre for Women’s Studies**, Pt. Ravishankar University, Oxfam India and Indira Kala and SangitVishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh on 30 November 2017. The programme was participated by around 1200 youth students of colleges, University and schools of Raipur. The participants also included women and men from neighbouring districts of Chhattisgarh, civil society representatives from across the states, academia, media etc.

The venue was prepared as an arena, which has rights in its language, enthusiasm in its air and hope and togetherness in the light. It was a site to witness when in long rows the youth and women started entering the venue. The participants were automatically arrived in an environment, where one need to reciprocate rights. There were different activities kept like selfie zones signature panel, painting exhibition, where the youth can express their willingness to contribute for a world, which is free of violence against women.



As the mode of the day was to evolve the message of eliminating violence against women through cultural expression, a range of programmes like sand art, mono play, skit, kathak, performance by all girls band were listed for the day. The entire auditorium was spell bound when BadalBoroidepicted the struggles of women and stories where women have conquered and have stopped violence against them. The Kathak performance by students of Khairagarh University was in such finesse that the message of women’s empowerment flew across the auditorium. Chandrika and her team glued all the participants to the traditional art form of Pandwani, where they depicted the story of a women, her struggles and how her exploitation can be ended. The TablaJugalbandi by one female and one male student of the Khairagarh University was magical and strongly established the message that coordination and cooperation of both the sexes makes an environment of equality. The fulcrum was a power packed performance by the all-girls band ‘Rhythm Queen’. The pump up performance by the girls pulled up all the participants from their chair and to dance to the tunes of resistance and togetherness. The band also dedicated songs to ‘BanoNayeeSoch’.



Pandwani

Starting the day Anand, welcomed the participants and underlined that we need to talk about gender rights and act to make a violence free society. After Anand’s welcome Ranu, addressed the participants on what are different forms of violence against women and what is the significance of 16 Days of Activism.

Nisha while appreciating the enthusiasm of the students and women present said we need this kind of energy and engagement to create a violence free society. She said, “It is really shocking that violence against women is such a global, widespread epidemic where one in three women say they are subject to violence, and most of the violence is domestic violence. It is even more shocking that 60% of men and women in India think that this is normal and justified for all kinds of trivial reasons. Oxfam India has launched a national campaign ‘BanoNayiSoch’ to try and change these social norms. We are engaging with young people to change attitudes and behaviours about gender equality and to create a world where they can form mutually respectful relationships and dream of having a life free from violence”

During the last 10 years, most states in India have made some progress in reducing violence against women. Chhattisgarh is one of only a handful of states that has seen a rise in cases of violence against women. According to the National Family Health Survey-3, in 2005-06, the state had the prevalence of spousal violence at 29.9 per cent, which has increased by 6.8 percentage points during the last 10 years. As per the National Family Health Survey-4, in 2015-16 this figure stood at 36.7 per cent, which is substantially higher as compared with an all India average of 28.5 percent.

“The fact that violence against women and girls has increased in Chhattisgarh during the last 10 years is alarming. The Government must make a stronger effort to implement the BetiBachao, BetiPadao campaign that teaches society to value women and girls more. It must also complement it with a “BetonkoSikhao, BetonkoSamjhao” type of campaign that redefines the concept of masculinity and teaches young men and boys to accept women and girls as their equals,” said Nisha Agrawal.



Performance by Nisha Agrawal

The chairperson, Chhattisgarh Commission for Women, Ms Harshita Pandey, said, ‘There has to have a zero tolerance policy for VAW, and youths can be a game changer for it. Commission is spreading awareness in this regard, and its impact can be seen in community. She exhorted all the youth to bring in all their energy and act to make our society, which is free from violence against women.

Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, ShriSheo Kumar Pandey said, ‘there is a need to change the mind-sets towards women, so that equality prevails in the society. Young generation needs to be educated and sensitive towards it’.

Vice Chancellor, Indira Kala andSangitVishwavidyalay, Prof Mandavi Singh said, ‘Art has proved to be an exemplary way of expression towards reducing violence against women. Tare Zameen Par is one such example.



Performance by the all-girls band ‘Rhythm Queen’

Throughout the day students went around the venue and took pictures in selfie zones holding quotes of ‘Main Hun NayeeSoch’, ‘Boys = Girls’. They enthusiastically sang on the signature panel expressing their solidarity to eliminating violence against women. The participants also saw the painting exhibition. The paintings were made by the students of

Khairagarh University in a painting session 'Rangshala' to depict the life, struggles and victories of women.



Vote of thanks was given by Dr Reeta Venugopal, Director, Centre for Women's Studies , Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University. She also urged if anybody wants to join the campaign they could give a miss call at 97000 89555.

National Seminar on “Gender Norms and Gender Equality” (NSGNGE) Date - February 06th to 08th, 2018.

‘असमानता का ज़मीन ही वद्रोह का बीज बुनाहुआ होता है’-The seminar started with this particular quote followed by introduction of the Guests and eminent participants for this 3 days event.

Aims and Objectives :

To create awareness amongst women and youth regarding “Gender Norms” and “Gender Equality” and to encourage positive participation and co-operation in society.

Gender norms are the social norms that relate specifically to gender differences. They refer to informal rules and social expectation that distinguish expected behavior on the basis of gender. These norms would form the root causes for gender discrimination and existing gender inequality in the society.

Social norms that perpetuate VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) are norms that justify violence within a specific group or community. The basis for VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) is the association of masculinity as a justification for violence.

Oxfam India launched a campaign. ‘Bano Nayi Soch’ in November 2016, promoting positive social norms against domestic violence and thereby creating an enabling environment addressing violence against woman and girls.

Taking forward this campaign Centre for Women’s Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur in collaboration with Oxfam India, organized a three day National Seminar Raipur 6th -8th February 2018 on the theme ‘**Gender Norms and Gender Equality**’.



THEMES AND SUB THEMES OF THE SEMINAR

Social norms underpinning domestic violence:

Sub themes:

- Protection of women from domestic violence act-implementation and challenges.
- Social norms underpinning domestic violence and indigenous communities.
- Social norms underpinning domestic violence and Muslims.
- Social norms underpinning domestic violence and Dalits.

Role of visual media in reinforcing social and gender norms.

Sub themes:

- Manifestation of gender norms in regional/Bollywood films.
- Manifestation of gender norms in television soaps.
- Manifestation of gender norms in advertisements.
- Manifestation of gender norms in campus.

Manifestation of gender norms in campus

Sub-themes

- Role of women in university and college elections.
- Manifestation of gender norms in cultural and sports activities etc.

Sexual harassment in workplace.

Sub-themes

- Awareness, opinions and attitudes towards workplace sexual harassment.
- States an implementation of the sexual harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act-2013 challenges and achievements.

Women and disability.

Sub-themes

- Achievements and challenges faced by women victims of Acid attack.
- Gender and disability issues.

FEBRUARY 6th 2018

Inaugural Function

The national Seminar on gender norms and gender Equality was inaugurated on 6th feb,2018 by Dr.Kiranmayi Nayak, Ex-mayor, Raipur Municipal corporation ,The program

was presided by Dr. Abha Rupendra Pal, Head & Professor Department of History, Pt. RSU, Raipur, Dr. Reeta Venugopal, Director, CWS, Pt. RSU, Raipur welcomed the gathering.

The Chief guest of the Seminar Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, in her inaugural address, shared her experiences as a lawyer while handling cases regarding dowry and violence against women.

She emphasized that women themselves should come forward to tackle and fight against gender discrimination.

Dr. Sandeep Vansutre, Registrar, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University recited a poem on women empowerment after this Dr. Abha Rupendra Pal, stressed on educating children about gender differences Prof. Priyamvada Srivastava, Head of the Department of Psychology and Associate Director, CWS, Pt. RSU, Raipur Organising secretary gave a vote of thanks.



- 1. Dr. Reeta Venugopal, Director, CWS, Pt. RSU, Raipur**
- 2. Mr. Anand Shukla, Regional Manager, Oxfam India**
- 3. Dr. Sandeep Vansutre, Registrar, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.)**
- 4. Dr. Abha Rupendra Pal, Head, Dept. of History, Pt.RSU, Raipur**
- 5. Ms. Julie, Lead Specialist, Gender Justice, Oxfam India**
- 6. Ms. Audrey Demlo, Social Activist, Majlis NGO Women**

7. Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, Ex. Mayor, Raipur

8. Dr. Priyamvada Srivastava, Organizing Secretary, NSGNCE

Reeta Venugopal, Director, CWS, Pt. RSU, Raipur - Delivering the welcome speech, she briefed about the conference, referring that we generally do organize this kind of programme on Gender Equality, Gender Empowerment, Domestic Violence etc. and at the end of the day we get stuck into narrower goals like women's reservation, empowerment etc. But we hardly talk on the prevailing issues of social norms associated with gender, which wordlessly broadening the gender disparity, social-political-economic gaps and influencing patriarchal practices day by day. We still don't come up, initiate efforts to discuss those issues and find concrete way forward to break them.



Inviting papers was not the main objective of this particular event, it is rather a platform where we can get together and get an opportunity to listen to various incidents, findings and experiences of researchers and different stakeholders and reach to a certain level from where we can plan, initiate and implement some actions from to deal with normative aspects of the society from our end and can approach different Government departments on these for extending further support in this regard.

Anand Shukla, Regional Manager, Oxfam India-In his speech, he started with historical journey of different forms of discriminatory practices against women, citing reference since Kabilaye System till connecting them with different existing governance structure of present

context, especially in villages, like how practices of Khap and Kul Panchayat, endorsing atrocities and gender based violence till date.

He tried to draw attention of the house by giving several symbolic example of forms of promoting notion of masculinity through simple interaction or presentation but deep rooted gender biased construct. For example, Scorpio Car is portrayed as symbol of Masculinity among Cars, concepts of Kishans have been stereotyped as Men, jobs of Engineer, Pilot, Air Hostess, Doctor, and Nurses have been discriminated, polarized and made associated with orthodox concepts of gender. He also gave a glimpse on where and how women's freedom and mobility are restricted and face violence in different forms through several examples.

He advocated for enhanced participation of Men in this type of programme, as these thoughts are mainly associated with their psychology. He also briefed the house about Oxfam's effort on this particular issue and importance of working collaboratively with different stakeholders to deal with this complex issue, by saying 'we all are co-travellers to deal with it and end gender based discrimination and violence'.

Registrar, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.) - On behalf of the University he welcomed all the guests and participants by stating 'It's our pleasure to host this programme in our Campus with the help of Oxfam India'. He further added that though he is not an academic expert to talk long on this particular issue but has a deep concern on it and requested all to introspect-retrospect and take it as a common concern to deal effectively in larger context. He further added 'I believe, outcome of these 3 days will definitely lead us to that direction from where some concrete measures and steps will be evolved for further action'. Taking reference of a beautiful poem on gender perspective i.e. 'Suno Draupadi' he finished his speech and proceeded for Publication of a Brochure on Gender, published jointly by Oxfam India and Centre for Women's Studies Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.).

Abha Rupendra Pal, Head, Dept. of History, Pt.RSU, Raipur- Raising a simple question before the house that 'why women are still vulnerable and victim of various forms of violence when they are given all equal rights, laws and constitutional provisions'? 'Do we all need to think or reflect back to understand where the gap is'?

He gave some important historical facts and figures which was clearly depicting the fact that it got deteriorated traditionally in the sub-continent. During pre-Vedic period women were in the forefront and both women-men used to enjoy equal rights, opportunities and status in the

society. But since the introduction of Varna system, status of women started getting deteriorated and the gap broadened during invasion era, when people started fighting with several weapons like Sword, Bow and Arrow etc. and concepts of winning, defeating and protecting others came into existence. Today's forms of disparity, discriminatory practices, hierarchy structures have long roots into various past civil, religious, economic, cultural and political practices. Even if there several affirmative steps have been taken constitutionally, socially and politically but nothing much could be achieved so far. Constitution makers gave highest respect to the women when it was written, Gandhi Ji called Women to come out of houses and fight for India's freedom struggle a century back but still we couldn't reach to that expectations.

Considering the present context, He suggested, Education can be an important medium through which parity could be achieved broadly. Several chapters, examples, writing pattern can be thought of which will be helpful in developing sensitivity, notion of parity, equality among men and women. Finally he concluded by saying this 'Nayi Soch can lead us in building Nayi Desh'.

Julie, Lead Specialist, Gender Justice, Oxfam India- She started her speech with explaining how social norms, behaviours and reactions are closely associated, interrelated and mixed together, and how our accordingly responses lead to further disparity. E.g. - Generally we see around us that people unanimously practicing Girls shouldn't go outside, they should stay at home and help in domestic work, so this becomes a regular practice and we start accepting and believing that 'Girls must not go outside, and they are for indoor domestic works only'. She further added that lack of awareness and exposures don't give space to question these typical social behaviour of men, alongside women do accept violence because they don't know what is violence and its various forms. Related Laws are there, but gaps are there in implementation, those are not easily accessible by the commoners in villages etc.

She also highlighted men and women both need be addressed together to deal with such problems, as these social beliefs (e.g. – most of the cases women perceive beating is a form love) are so deep rooted in our society. The more we come forward, discuss on it, debate on it, dialogue on it with different stakeholders the more we step forward to minimize the disparity and break the gender social norms.

Giving a statistical figure i.e. '51% men believe beating women is ok but there are 49% men who think this is not ok', she tried to make the house aware that, we need to work with both the group simultaneously so that positive behaviour can be brought up at larger level. We need to create such an environment where men and women both can feel free to come and discuss these issues openly and move towards constructive resolutions.

Ms. Audrey Demlo, Social Activist, Majlis NGO Women - She started her talk stating time has come to move beyond women empowerment to positive gender norms. Referring several Independent Women's Movement resulting into legislative changes, she tried draw inference scenarios have not changed much. For example, from Case of Madhura in 1970 resulted into establishing Women Study Centre in every University, till Nirbhaya Case of 2012 resulting into changes in definition of Juvenile and punishment provisions in the act but nothing has stopped violence against women even it is increasing and becoming more horrendous.

She tried to give some ground challenges through various instances like, Domestic Violence is declared as Criminal Offence in 1983 and we are seeing that even in 2018 most of the women are not willing to go to Police Station, if few reach to the PS, they are demotivated by the counsellor or competent authority in registering case and advised for compromise, mutual settlement and not make private issues public.

She emphasised that Criminalization of Domestic Violence neither empower women nor give them protection. They send men to Jail only. In the name of empowerment there another 'Prevention of Domestic Violence Act' 2005 came into enactment. There demands of establishing office, recruitment of Protection Officers etc. started raising, few states did that too but neither the numbers nor the instances decreased. In extreme cases Women come to the centre to file case and only 10% among this registered group carry forward the cases to Court.

She further highlighted that, it was assumed that Education and Economic empowerment may reduce or stop violence against women but that also didn't prove true. Even if the women who are well aware, come out for Andolan, ask for their entitlements like roads, water, electricity etc. even they also don't report cases of Domestic Violence. So here the question arises why is this happening? There are several structures existing (like Counselling Centres, Tanta Mukti etc.) from Village Level till Police Station which somehow creates pressure and fear for not registering cases, which largely shows that no one is interested on this issue.

She mentioned, we don't rear up Girl Children as an independent individuals. We don't send girls schools for empowerment, we send only to gain degrees for marriage and all. Marriage ceremonies are like declaration to Society of getting into an institution, which become difficult to get out just because of such huge arrangements and publicity. Furthermore, getting out of marriage is considered as weaknesses for women. Single/Divorced women are socially treated in a different manner.

Stating, Law is there just for them, who can access and know that they can afford the consequences. She raised question, are the commoners willing or confident enough to use the law.

Adding to that, she said, every alternate day we ask for new law (Like- Marital Rape) but we never think about proper access and implementation of the existing ones. There is gap in our understanding on law and self-confidence. Until and unless we are confident on ourselves these laws are not going to help the survivors or common citizen.

Kiranmay Nayak- While discussing, she mainly focused on her personal experiences on this particular issue with several contemporary examples. She started her speech, referring recent controversies on Padmavat, Teen Talak etc. and tried to relate the thought process of those particular protesting groups even in this 21st Century. She also mentioned a common quote which we use regularly in our daily life i.e. 'beti ka parwarish, beta ka tarah kar rhe hai'- which clearly indicates we don't try to rear them up as they are, we don't accept them as they are. We always try to surpass each other, compete with each other rather understanding each other in real sense.

She also mentioned another important aspect that is impact of market in constructing our thoughts on the issues of gender, through an example of an American advertisement of Washing Machine, where it showed clear stigmatised division of Work among Men and Women.

She reminded that we need to break and change our own thought process before changing the society at large. But that change must not only be symbolic like wearing dresses, hair style etc. These changes should be from within. We need to be confident on strengths of ourselves. We must not always depend on Men to come forward and help women. Women need to believe they can protest independently and they can help themselves in situations.

She also mentioned that, we need to identify our inner potentials. Because, from the very beginning we are socialised in such a way where we easily accept all the negatives in terms of Gender, which leave no space to promote alternative and progressive thoughts. Highlighting an example she stated that in majority of cases of domestic violence occur because we believe women can't do anything on their own.

She reminded the importance of Education in breaking such thoughts through several ways. Like through texts and literature, through activities, through workshops and seminars etc. which can be helpful in breaking stereotypes in a sustainable manner.

Again she reiterated that we ourselves do discrimination among our son and daughter from the very beginning even in planning before their birth, so we need to initiate changes in our very own behaviour and need to escalate those to the society.

Priyamvada Srivastava, Organizing Secretary- In her very short speech she stated, in present day's context discourse of Gender and Equality is very much relevant as every alternate day we listen to various horrified incidents. So time has come to rethink on the thoughts and orthodox beliefs of society, social norms and its impact on people. She thanked Oxfam India for coming up and showing concerns on these fundamental issues and willingness to deal with them.

First Day 6th February, 2018
Technical Session
Session – I

Chairperson - Ms. Audrey Demlo & Manju Singh

Reporters - Dr. Archana Sethi & Dr. Sanskriti Joseph

Resource Persons :

- 1. Ms. Julie Thekkudan**
- 2. Dr. Sudhmita Jyotshi**

Ms. Sushmita Jyotshi, Director, Sai Regional Center, Mumbai was the key note Speaker of the session. She, while Speaking on Gender & Sports said that there are fewer instances of eve-teasing and sexual harassment in the field of Sports as women in this field are mostly bold and courageous which data men from taking advantages of them, it has been observed, she continued, that cases of harassment are more against women. Who are timid. therefore, girls have to be trained at home to face men in society and should be taught to stand on their own feet when they do not get support from anyone.

The next keynote Speaker, Ms. Julie Thekkudan, Lead Specialist gender Justice Oxfam India addressed the problem of 'Domestic Violence' giving figures, She said that the main reason for domestic violence is dowry system. But unfortunately, people do not hesitate to give and take dowry. Even in the media men are glorified and women are portrayed in a negative manner. Which adds to gender discrimination. This attitude needs to change. The sessions were chaired by Dr. Kusum Tripathi & Prof. Swanlata Saraf, and co-ordinated by Dr. Madhulata Bara and Dr. Smita Sharma.

6th Feb, 2018

Post-Lunch Session

The theme of post lunch session was domestic violence/sexual harassment at workplace. Ms. Audrey Demmelo was the first key-note speaker of this session. Ms. Demmelo, social activist Manjalis NGO women Mumbai spoke on sexual harassment at workplace and domestic violence elaborately. Her organization has been working in this field for the past twenty five years. She expressed her concern that though there is police protection in every tehsil of Mumbai but very few cases of domestic violence are registered. The reasons for this she felt were mainly because of the fear of children's safety and their future, their dignity and insecurity. She said that in the last five years about 1500 cases were registered but only about hundred women were fighting their cases. If this was the situation in a metropolitan city like Mumbai then one can imagine the deplorable condition in rural areas. She emphasized that only through education girls can raise their voice and discriminate and stop the violence against them.

Dr. Inlie Thekkudan & Dr. Manju Singh Chaired the session. The session was co-ordinated by Dr. Archana Sethi Dr. Sanskriti Joseph:

The session continued with paper presentation by many eminent scholars and professor twenty three paper were presented on the theme. “Social Norms underpinning Domestic Violence & Sexual Harassment at workplace” paper were presented both in Hindi and English. The speaker emphasized an various injustices metal out to women against violence but it has been observed that the laws are more often that not breached. Also, they said women face many obstacles when they try to seek relief through legal system. Some of the paper also highlighted the positive role played by the Indian judiciary providing justice to women victims of violence. It has also been mentioned that the supreme court has given for reaching and innovative judgments upholding the basic principles of equality of sexes and tried to maintain dignity and honor of women.

Second Day 7th February, 2018

Technical Session

Session – II

Chairperson - Prof. Moyna Chakravarty & Ms. Urmimala Sengupta

Reporters - Dr. Anubha Singh Gaur & Dr. Banso Nuruti

Resource Persons :

1. Ms. Abha Bhaiya, Founder member of jagori Delhi,
2. Prof. Jayashree Kurup, Director, IGNOU, New Delhi
3. Dr. Sobha Lata Sinha, prof. Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Raipur (CG)

The key note speaker of second day of the seminar, Ms. Abha Bhaiya, Founder member of jagori New Delhi, spoke on women issues & gender norms in society. Ms. Abha has been actively involved in various women movement in India and south Asia for more than fifty years. In her address she said that patriarchy has provided in society for nearly five thousand years and women have been fighting for their rights ever since. She emphasized that in order to about the gender equality we need to bring about fundamental changes in attitude and approach in society and women need to break their silence. We need to raise our voices against husband, father and brothers breaking the cultural traditional and social barrier which finder the emancipation of women.

The session was co-ordinate by Ms. Urmimala Sengupta and moyana chakravarty.

The theme of the Technical Session-II was “Sexual Harassment at Workplace/ Women Issues & Gender Norms in Campus”.

Prof. Jayashree Kurup, Director, IGNOU, New Delhi was the first speaker of their session. According to her both men and women one victim of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace. As women are stepping into male bastions in society, instances of sexual harassment and violence against them are increasing. She continued that in society importance is given to only high profile cases and virtually no action is taken in cases involving ordinary people.

The next speaker Dr. Sobha Lata Sinha, prof. Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Raipur (CG) spoke on gender inequality in workplace. She expressed the opinion that change cannot be brought about only by external appearance like wearing jeans and trousers etc but by enhancing their intellectual stature. Until and unless women get equal right to properly home and impartial treatment in workplace, the gender inequality will persist. The gender inequality is a society imposed issue which can be changed. The session was chaired by Dr. Dipti Thakur (Hindi) and Ms. Anita Toppo(English).

Apart from the above talks fifteen papers were presented by various dignitaries from college and universities on the mentioned them.

7th February 2018

Session – III

Chairperson - Mr. Sanjay Shekhar & Manju Singh

Reporters - Dr. Neeta Nair & Dr. Banso Nuruti

Resource Persons :

1. Ms. Mamta Lanjewar, Senior Correspondent E-TV and joint secretary, Press Club, Raipur
2. Mr. Prakash Chandra Hota, Editor, E-TV, Chhattisgarh

Theme: Role of Media Reinforcing Social Gender Norms Women & Disability

Ms. Mamta Lanjewar, Senior Correspondent E-TV and joint secretary, Press Club, Raipur, was the first speaker of their session. In her talks, Ms. Mamta expressed her concern about the projection of women in media, both in films and TV serials. She draws our attention to

the point that very few women centric films are made whereas majority of the films portray the masculinity of the heroes. The women in TV soap operas are shown as idealistic, sacrificing and stereo type. This does encourage women break the traditional social norms which suppress them. At home, already, they are considered to be weak compared men. Thus they are subjugated. The films and soap operas, she said, reinforce the same. It is said, charity begins at home, so for women to stand on their own, attitude at home should change.

The next speaker, Mr. Prakash Chandra Hota, Editor, E-TV, Chhattisgarh. According to him change in attitude of society towards women is the need of the hour. In ancient time women are highly respected and held important positions in families and society. In some areas of Chhattisgarh, he said matriarchy prevails. There are 126 women for 100 men. The ratio is in favour of women. Among Maoists, he said, women are made commanders. Women should raise their voice against inequality and should come forward to assert themselves in the family as well as society.

The chairperson of the session, Mr. Sanjay Shekhar, pioneer newspaper, Raipur spoke on this occasion on role of media in shaping Gender Norms in society; He said that gender norms are different in different part of our country. The media should educate, inform and entertain women for their progress. Instead of being more concerned about TRP it should be more sensitive to women issues. Thus media can play an important role, he stressed, in bringing out awareness regarding the opportunities they have in strengthening themselves.

The session was also chaired by Manju Singh and co-ordinator by Dr. Banso Nuruti (Hindi) and Dr. Neeta Nair (English).

Apart from this eleven scholars presented their papers on the topic. Topics related to media such as “Gender Construction Through Advertisement on Television” By Dr. Aliva Mohanty, ‘Role of Visual Media in Reinforcing social and gender norms by Anuradha Chakraborty and Palash Chatterjee’.

Transgender: The Gender Disabled by sexuality by Anil Manjhi and Rahul Tiwari and many more topics were presented in the technical oral session.

8th February, 2018
3rd Day of the National Seminar
Session – IV

Chairperson - Dr. Usha Dubey & Dr. Priya Rao

Reporters - Dr. Anubha Singh Gaur & Dr. Smita Sharma

Resource Persons :

1. Ms. Angha Sarpotdar,

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelist

1. Ms. M. Geeta, Secretary, Dept. of women & Child Development, Govt. of Chhattisgarh
2. Dr. Usha Dube
3. Prof. Dr. Abha Pal, SOS in History, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur
4. Dr. Jayashree Kurup, Director of IGNOU New Delhi
5. Ms. Angha Sarpotdar
6. Padmashree Awardee, Ms. Shamshad Begum
7. Prof. Shobha Lata Sinha

A panel discussion on the theme 'Women with disabilities' was organized on the 3rd and the concluding day of the national seminar. A large number of teachers and students, officers of the women & Child Development Department, Chhattisgarh Govt. and members of NGOs participated in the interactive session between the panelists and the participants. The theme of the panel discussion was based on 'women against women' and Sexual Harassment at Workplace. A number of important issues related to the topic came to light during the session and suggestions to improve the condition and solution to the problems were discussed amongst the participants.

The program started off with the convener of the seminar, Prof. Reeta Venugopal, giving a brief report on the papers presented during the seminar. She then invited the chief guest, Ms. M. Geeta, Secretary, Dept. of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Chhattisgarh to put forward her views.

In her address Ms. M. Geeta, spoke elaborately on the policies of the government for the progress of women and children. She focused on various schemes such as 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Noni Suraksha Yojana', 'Chetana' etc elaborately. She also said that the condition of women in Chhattisgarh is better than many other states. Under this 'Noni Suraksha Yojana' in C.G. and 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana' in M.P. promise to give one lakh rupees to the girl child when she reaches the age of eighteen. The government has adopted and enacted the 'Tonhi Pratadna ke Virudh Adhiniyam' to protect women from violence. She also brought to light the fact that there are a number of ultra sonography centers working in the state. The

pregnant women do not go there on their own but are forced by their family members to do so, To stop this, she said, legal awareness and discussion on gender neutrality is important. She also informed that according to survey report there has been deterioration of status of women in Bilaspur District. Showing concerns on human trafficking she said trafficking of women and children is a matter of grave concern which needs to be addressed. Apart from above mentioned scheme, she said that govt. is taking keen interest in the safety of women by setting up 'Mahila Shakti Kendras', 'Sakhi' and 'Chetana' etc in various district. Her speech was well received by the august gathering.

The next panelist, Prof. Jayashree Kurup, said that women should be able to take their own decisions and choose their path and they should be involved in family discussion where serious decision are made, it may be regarding economical condition of the family or any other family matter. Though this is a patriarchal society women needs to support each other and assert themselves in economical, reproduction and other family matter. They should understand and contribute in decision making, Dr. Jayashree Kurup is the Director of IGNOU New Delhi.

Dr. Usha Dube, on answering the question of why women study centers are required, she remarked that the centers co-ordinate among society, organization and administration. She also emphasized that history is witness to the fact that in a that in a country where women are part of the mainstream condition in such country is much better than others. So women should come out shedding their inhibition to be part of development and progress of a country.

The next Prof. Dr. Abha Pal, SOS in Histroy, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur said that children should be taught moral values at home as well as in schools. Parents should include the seed of values in children so that they become good human beings and responsible citizen.

Ms. Angha Sarpotdar, shared her views regarding women empowerment and gender inequality. She also speaking based on her research studies said that women do not hesitate to work what men usually do but men are ashamed to do the mostly women do at home. The example she gave were based on the true incidents during her research study.

Padmashree Awardee, Ms. Shamshad Begum, shared her experiences of twenty seven years in working for women upliftment. She gave information regarding women commandos. This scheme was started in 2006 with only hundred women participant and now the number has risen to 3,500. She also said the main objectives of their are to firstly to eradicate social evils, secondly to established peace and harmony, then to encourage 'Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao' she concluded by saying that it is essential for the youth in the society to come forward to meet the above objectives and make their world a better place for both men and women.

Dr. Kamlesh Shukla spoke on fair justice for women and to focus on our culture. Dr. Kusum Tripathi said that in ancient times women's rolw was only restricted to serve men. But today women need to come forward to assert themselves.

Prof. Reeta Venugopal, convener of the seminar, SOS in Physical Education and Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Stated that Center for Women's Studies, Pt. RSU has currently taken up two projects on 'Baiga Tribe'.

Last but not the least, while proposing the vote of thanks Prof. Priyamvada Srivastava elaborated on the deliberations during the three day seminar and said that the interaction amongst academicians and people working at grass-roof level was the highlight of the seminar. This seminar, she said, would surely help to bring about a positive change in the way women are treated and would help women to stand on their with dignity. She conveyed her heartfelt gratitude to one and all for the successful completion of the seminar.

Group Photo



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One day National Workshop on “Women Leadership Development” in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Society Puducherry on 8 March 2018

A workshop on “Women Leadership Development” was organised on 8 March 2018 by the Center for Women, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Society Puducherry .Inaugurated by Prof. S K Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur and it was a full day workshop for the teachers faculties, research scholar and the students. Forty five participants attended the program. The resource person for the workshop were Mrs. Indrani Ghosh, Core Committee Member, Sri Aurobindo Society Puducherry and Dr. Kiran Bala Patel .

The objective of the conference was to -

- The women will understand how to connect individuals on psychology aspects.
- The women will understand their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges so that true attribute to be leader can be harness with group dynamics.
- Establishing harmony in mind soul and body with their Aim of life.
- Understand the process and practices to be a leader and serve the country.
- In providing a new sense of direction and identity towards life, career and responsibility.



Women are working in various organizations. They can contribute at various platforms from policy making to the ground root reality of the contemporary society. Women are working much more than the truly represented at all levels due to the paucity of leadership attitude in them. With determination and confidence, women can advance the working system and make a difference in the organization and ultimately society.



International Women's Day Celebration

**National Seminar on “Gender Norms and Gender Equality” (NSGNGE)
Date - February 06th to 08th, 2018.**



Seminar Photos



Invited Lecture by Ms. Abha Bhaiya,
Founder member of jagori Delhi



Invited Lecture by Prof. Jayashree Kurup,
Director, IGNOU, New Delhi

EXTRA CURRICLAR ACTIVITY



Farewell Party Prof. Z.T.Khan



Group Photo

