



# Women's Studies Centre

(Funded by UGC)

## Holy Cross College (Autonomous)

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University  
Nationally Accredited (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle) with A++ Grade (CGPA 3.75/4) by NAAC  
College with Potential for Excellence  
**Tiruchirappalli - 620 002, Tamil Nadu.**

*Newsletter*

*2023 - 2024*

*Volume - 14*

### From the Editor.....

#### Editor's note

It's my great pleasure to pen the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Women's Studies Centre Newsletter. The feedback received from various sources, motivates me to compile this Newsletter. To begin with, the activities of Women's Studies Centre started with the various programmes, competitions and National Conference on Girl Child Day conducted by Women's Studies Centre of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, participating in Awareness Programmes on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Working Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 conducted by the Department of Women's Studies Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. National Service Scheme (NSS) and Gender Champion Club conducted various activities for students on the topics like Gender roles for a Happy Home, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Celebrations, Empowering Women through Skills and Employment, National Energy Conservation Day, Menstrual Hygiene, Women in Media and Law protecting Women. Our sincere gratitude to the Management, Principal, Heads of all the departments, Women's Studies Centre Committee Members and Core Committee members, well-wishers for supporting us in all our endeavors. My sincere thanks to the students and Women's Studies Centre representatives and supporters for their enormous help to carry out various activities

#### Teaching

##### a) Foundation Course on Gender Studies Course

The Centre has been offering Gender Studies Foundation Course for II UG students (except students of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology) of our College as per the norms of the Bharathidasan University since 2011 in the odd semester with University provided syllabus and text books which are in English and Tamil. Students can write exams either in Tamil or English. They write two internal tests for 50 marks and an external exam for 50 marks. A total of 1534 students benefited from the course in this academic year (2023-2024).

##### b) Certificate Course in Women in Law

A Certificate Course in Women and Law was conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for the students of II UG, III UG and II PG students in Holy Cross College. 95 students enrolled in the course with 30 hours of duration. Dr. Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous) taught about the need for legal awareness, purpose and the expected outcome of the course in the beginning. Advocates namely Ms. S. Gomathi, Ms. J. Sudha, and Mr. S. Arockianathan handled the classes which included topics on Gender Laws, Women Specific Laws and the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and

Redressal) Act, 2013. The students also visited Tiruchirappalli District Court as part of Certificate Course in Women and Law on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and observed the court proceedings of various courts.

### World Breastfeeding Week

Women's Studies Centre celebrated World's Breast Feeding Week from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. In this regard, awareness was created about breastfeeding by presentations displayed on the



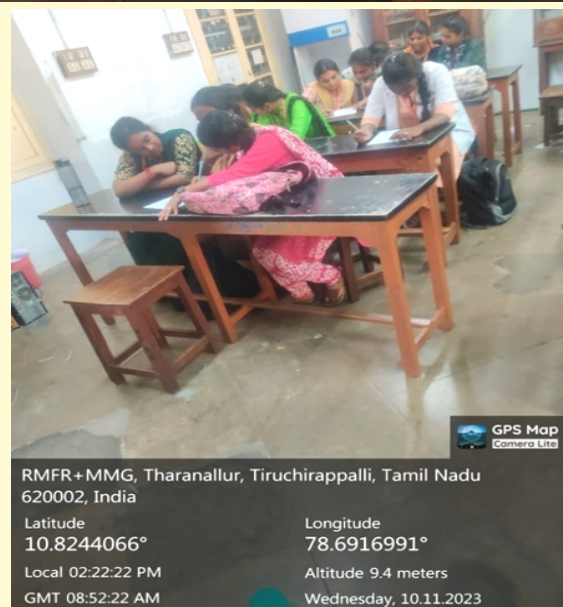
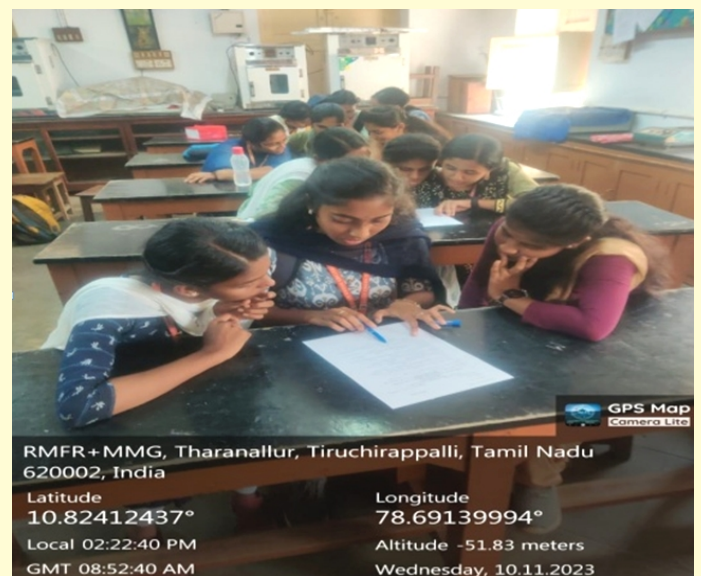
common LED board, posters were displayed by the students in the campus, and a quiz competition was conducted on the importance of breastfeeding.

Totally 607 students attended the quiz and prizes were given to the first three winners. A program was arranged for the faculty of our college on the title Importance of Breastfeeding. A lecture on

awareness of the importance of breastfeeding was given by Dr. B. Arthi Vaishnavi, Laparoscopic & Endoscopic Surgeon, Dr. G. Viswanathan Group of Hospitals, Tiruchirappalli. Totally 75 teachers participated and benefited. A treasure hunt game was conducted for the academic staff members of our college. Totally 60 academic staff members participated and prizes were given to the first three winners.

### International Day of the Girl Child

Women's Studies Centre organized a quiz competition was conducted on 11th October 2023



for the students to commemorate “**International Day of the Girl Child**” based on the theme of this year “**Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being**”. Totally, three different rounds



were conducted and 13 teams participated in the quiz competition. Round 1 was the Paper and Pen round. In this round 10 multiple choice questions were given. Based on the highest score, 6 teams were selected for the second round 'Who am I round'. In round II, the students were given images of the girls who were activists at a young age and they had to identify their names. Three teams were selected for the third round.

The third round was the rapid-fire round, the students were asked 5 questions and they had to answer within 50 seconds. Two Finalists were selected from the third round. The I place was won by the Department of English (Kiruthikaa, M.S., Breena R. Frido, Dhivya Stephen, A of II BA English – B Section) and the second place by the Department of Mathematics (Abarna, R., Arockia Immaculate, J., Refalphanish, A. M of I M.Sc., Mathematics). The judge was Dr. S. B. Darsana, Assistant Professor of History, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli-2.

### **Empowering Women through Skills and Employment**

The Women's Studies Centre and National Service Scheme (NSS) units jointly organised a programme on “Empowering Women through Skills and Employment” was held on 11th December 2023. The chief guest of the programme was Dr.S.Iyyampillai, Former Senior Professor, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.



The chief guest shared his expertise with the students with his rich experience and inspired the students on the topic of Empowering Women. He also stressed on the betterment of life and focusing forward. He also quoted Bharathiyar poetry who wrote about women revolution and reformation. He elaborated on the topic with various real-life situations. The total beneficiaries of the programme were 75 students and 3 staff WSC coordinator and NSS team participated in the programme.

### **Awareness Programmes on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Working Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013**

#### **Lecture on Sexual Harassment at Work Place**

A lecture on sexual harassment at work place was given on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at 1.40 p.m. in Mother Sophy's Block. The resource person was J. Sudha, an advocate from District Court Tiruchirappalli. She handled the topic in an effective manner in the session. She spoke about the history of the harassment case, how to register the case in the police station, and how the family can prevent it and give support to affected girls and women. She delivered this in simple terms and gave examples of original cases through her experience.

The students and staff became aware of sexual harassment cases. She gave practical training sessions to the students. She divided the students into two groups A & B and told two stories to the two teams, and the two teams performed a role play based on the stories. From this enactment training, other students were inspired and enlightened and became more aware of the issues. In this lecture, 45 students from different departments participated along with the staff Dr.Prisheela P, Co-ordinator of Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli-620 002.

### **Orientation Programme on "Creating a safe space: Empowering Respect and Addressing Sexual Harassment in our Community"**



Orientation programme on "Creating a Safe Space: Empowering Respect and Addressing Sexual Harassment in Our Community," was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at the Media House, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. The Resource person was Mrs. Shirley Deepak, Media Relations Officer, Holy Cross Media House. All the student representatives from Women's Studies Centre had an opportunity to learn about Holy Cross Community Radio 90.4 MHz its purpose and service to the community. She gave us a new perception of women and motivated us to do more related activities in the coming years, which helped the students a lot.

The resource person also initiated us to show our unique talents. She enhanced our vision of women and women-based issues. She made us realize how powerful women are and made us feel proud of being a woman. She gave the opportunity to speak through Holy Cross Community Radio 90.4 MHz This orientation benefited 22 Women's Studies Centre representatives, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

### **Awareness Programme on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace**

The students had the opportunity to attend the "Awareness Programme on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace" at the Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan







University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli, held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In this awareness programme, the Women Studies initiatives were explained and stressed that students should be engaged in discussion on the topic of sexual harassment in the workplace.

The session commenced with an overview of what is sexual harassment. The agenda covered sexual harassment (Section and Schemes, ICC). Dr.S.Suba, Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli, addressed in her speech how women must realize their potential and know herself in order to understand the other gender and with the support of men, women can achieve and reach greater heights. Prof.N.Murugeswari, Director (i/c) & Head, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli, introduced the Internal Complaints Committee, Local Committee and explained how to file any complaint regarding sexual harassment of women at work. She also told about the history of Bhanwari Devi (Vishakha Guidelines) and the act of the Local Complaints Committee in 2013. The meeting provided a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the strong woman, 'Bhanwari Devi'. The atmosphere was welcoming and conducive to open discussion. The participants gained valuable insights into ongoing research projects and programmes led by the Department of Women's Studies. The meeting played a vital role in shaping a more inclusive campus. On the whole, it was

effective and useful. In this awareness programme 23 Women's Studies Centre Representatives, participated along with Dr.Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre and all PG students from the Department of Social Work, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

### **Orientation on Background of Sexual Harassment Act 2013.**



Women's Studies Centre conducted an orientation on sexual harassment held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at the Women's Studies Centre through the Legal Aid Clinic. The resource person was Mrs.N.Rajalakshmi, an advocate from Tiruchirappalli District Court. In this orientation, the students of the Department of Mathematics and the Women's Studies Centre Representatives from different departments participated, along with staff Dr.Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous).

The Conversation with the advocate made students aware of different committees such as knowing about sexual harassment of women at working places, she told about two different committee details, how the Convention meant elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1993, the reasons for beginning this act are Vishakha and others. She also explained about

State of Rajasthan 1997 Case to provide safe employment in the workplace. Knowing what is possible through the committee, and according to the Act 2013, how to prevent, prohibit, and redress harassment.

The doubts of the students were clarified with valid answers by the advocate. How to make the women aware of the problem was made known. The students actively participated in the orientation which was useful to the students.

### Discussion about Sexual Harassment

The discussion on sexual harassment was mentioned in her talk. The Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC) and the Gender



Champion Club jointly organised this discussion on sexual harassment in the workplace, school, or college, on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for 30 Gender Champion Club students and Women's Studies Centre ,Representative students. 20 students participated in this programme. The resource person was, Dr.S.Shanthi Getzie Ranjini Devi, Associate Professor, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. She gave a valid example of sexual harassment case in the workplace or College that affected women not only physically, but also mentally, and emotionally.

The Resource person explained the difficulties of girl child with many examples. She

quoted “If the girl child is ready to work or study, the families will not support the daughter, sister, or wife. So the scenario has not changed, but we have to move on from that , only then women can achieve their goals. Otherwise, no one will help her recover. If you are educated, you try to motivate yourself and give confidence to your family. The first point is to be safe, protect yourself, and give awareness in the work place or college. Check if the committee has this organisation or not; if there is no committee, you can tell your organisation to form a committee like that and give brief ideas to the students”.

Gender Champion Club staff included Dr.A.Saranya, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Ms.B.Steffi Sagaya Mary, Assistant Professor, Department of English, and. Dr.Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC), Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli attended.

### First Time Women's Studies Centre Representatives Spoke through Holy Cross Community Radio 90.4 MHz



The students representatives of Women's Studies Centre spoke in Holy Cross Community Radio 90.4 MHz The students spoke through the radio regarding sexual harassment issues on 15<sup>th</sup> December2023, The Students were Ms. N. Rojashri and Ms.R.Mohana Priya, from II year, Visual Communication, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.



## Constitution Day



Students celebrated Constitution Day on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and took the pledge regarding Constitution Day. That day, all the Women and Law certificate course students took an oath about Constitution Day.

In commemoration of Constitution Day, the Women's Studies Centre conducted an oath-taking programme on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 11.30 a.m. in Shanthi's Hall. Women's Studies Centre Certificate Course students, Women and Law students participated in the oath-taking event.

The Principal, Vice Principals, Dean of Student Affairs, HRDC Co-ordinator, Certificate Course Advocates and Women's Studies Centre Co-ordinator of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), took the oath.

## Human Rights Day

In commemoration of Human Rights Day, Women's Studies Centre along with Citizen



Consumer Club conducted an oath taking program on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at 11. a.m. in Shanthi's Hall. Women's Studies Centre volunteers from each department and consumer club students participated in the oath taking event.

Student volunteers of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Women's Studies Centre volunteers and Consumer club members along with the co-ordinators and Dean of students took the pledge on Human Rights.

## One-Day National Conference (Hybrid Mode) on "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl child in a Dynamic World"

Women's Studies Centre (Funded by UGC), Holy Cross College (Autonomous),







Tiruchirappalli in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi organized **One-Day National Conference (Hybrid Mode) on "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl child in a Dynamic World"** on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Chief guest Honourable Ms. Jothimani, Member of Parliament (Karur Constituency) initiated the signature campaign by signing the pledge board to safe guard the girl child and her rights.

The Delegates, Resource Persons, Participants, Faculty, Administrative Staff and the students of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli showed their solidarity in supporting this noble cause by signing the pledge board.

The Inauguration was held at 9 a.m. Dr. Sr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, welcomed the resourceful gathering. Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier, Secretary, honoured the dignitaries with a shawl and Dr. Sr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal, presented the mementoes to the dignitaries.

The Theme of the Conference was unfolded by Dr. N. Manimekalai, Director, and Center for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi. She emphasized on the resilience of women against all the odds of life. The Conference Proceedings was released by Dr. Sr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal, and the first copy was received by the Chief Guest Honourable Ms. S. Jothimani, Member of Parliament (Karur Constituency).

In her Inaugural Address, she shared her personal journey of overcoming struggles to become a political leader. She highlighted the societal deprivation of women's dreams, emphasizing its role in limiting their independence. She also expressed concern about the double oppression faced by women, encompassing both the denial of social rights and gender based discrimination.



Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier, Secretary, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli and Prof. Indrani Mazumdar, Former faculty, Centre for Women's Development Studies, presently on Consultancy contract with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) New Delhi, offered felicitations for the successful conduct of the conference.

The Keynote Address was rendered by Dr. R. Vidyasagar, former UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, Chennai. He highlighted the urgent need to provide women their basic right to livelihood, addressing the alarming consequences of minimal girl child population due to female infanticide, and emphasizing the need for improved access to secondary education for young adolescents.

To emphasize the importance of a girl child in every family, our Principal took an initiative to gather the girl children of our faculty to lively inaugurate the conference with their sparkling presence.



Dr. Horne Iona Averal, the Convener of the conference and IQAC Co-ordinator, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli thanked the gathering.

After the inaugural, four plenary sessions were held in the hybrid mode, a mono acting awareness program on child sexual abuse was presented and paper presentations were held in parallel sessions followed by panel discussion chaired by scholarly panelists.



The Parallel sessions of One-Day National conference had the online and offline paper presentations with an average count of **300**.

The Valediction of the conference was held at 4 p.m in Our Lady's Hall. Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Co-ordinator of the Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, welcomed the gathering.

The guest of Honour Ms. Nithya, District Social Welfare officer, Collectorate Campus, Tiruchirappalli, delivered the Valedictory address followed by Report Presentation and Certificate distribution. The National Conference ended with the vote of thanks by Dr.Elavarasi, Assistant Professor of Zoology, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

## **Awareness through Media for National Girl Day**

### **a) Holy Cross Community Radio 90.4 MHz.**

The students representatives of Women's Studies Centre spoke in our Holy Cross



Community Radio.90.4 MHz The students spoke through the radio regarding National Girl Child Day, on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 3.30 p.m. The Students were Ms.N.Rojashri and Ms.R.Mohana Priya, from II year, Visual Communication, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

### **b) All India Radio - Tiruchirappalli**

The students spoke in FM Rainbow 102.1. The students spoke through the radio regarding National Girl Child Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. The Students were Ms.N.Rojashri and Ms.R.Mohana Priya, from II year, Visual Communication, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.



The student's spoke about girl child safety, how the girl child is important to our society, girl child's freedom and the future generation how to welcome the girl child. 2 students of Women Studies Centre representatives, spoke about girls and safety of women that gave awareness through Radio. They spoke about National Girl Child Day (24<sup>th</sup> January 2024) and it was broadcast on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 3.10 p.m.

## International Women's Day Celebration

Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli celebrated the International Women's day. Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we



cheer each other on. To cheer each and every woman, International Women's Day was celebrated on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The grand event began with the invocation to God with a prayer. A warm welcome was given to the gathering by Dr. M. Rajalakshmi, Assistant Prof. Zoology, Co-



ordinator of Biotechnology, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. The guest of honor of the day was Mrs. Bharathy Bhaskar, debater and motivational speaker. After the felicitation of the chief guest, National conference proceedings of the one day girl child day conference was released. The newsletter on "Say no to drug" campaign" was released by the chief

guest and the first copy of it was received by the Secretary Sr. Anne Xavier. The 52 page newsletter e-copy was made available to students which serves as a guide to say no to drugs. The chief guest released the audio and video advertisement of it. Oath was taken by the students to say no to drugs. This is to empower individuals from substance abuse and choice for declaration of self love, commitment and to be free from addiction. The chief guest addressed the audience and gave the take home message that man and woman should celebrate the woman's day together. Women awardees were honoured with shields and certificates for their remarkable achievements in various fields. A mime depicting the struggle of woman in the form of the butterfly's life cycle and beautiful songs by the college choir team praising the women entertained the audience. A dance depicting the five elements as the woman and motivational songs were dedicated to womanhood. The vote of thanks was given by the student Priyanka. The event came to an end with the National Anthem.

## Women's Studies Centre Valedictory Function

At the Valedictory Function of Women's Studies Centre held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the program title was "Awareness Shaping Tomorrow: Honoring Women's Strength, Leadership, and Vision".

Prof. N. Murugeswari, Director (i/c) and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli, the resource person, spoke about how women can gain strength in life, how to set goals, how to overcome many struggles, and what women must achieve in family life and career at the same time. She also shared her experience, and finally, the resource person distributed certificates and trophy to 95 students received prizes as winners in National Conference Best Paper presenter award, and. 12 administrative staff also





received prizes as winners in Treasure Hunt competition held earlier. Finally 22 Women's Studies Centre gave certificates to student representatives for their service. A total of 140 students benefited, out of this session. Gender Champion Club staff Dr.A.Saranya, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC), Dr.S.Elavarasi, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli attended this session.

### ❖ Information Dissemination

Dissemination of information was done at different levels. Students placed posters at various places in the college on helpline, voters' day, girl child protection.

As part of dissemination of information, the Centre has adopted the following activities.

### ❖ Library

The Women's Studies Centre has been maintaining a library, issuing books to scholars

and staff. Gender and women related books are very useful to the scholars.

### ❖ Documentation of Newspaper Clippings

The Centre is continuously documenting newspaper clippings pertaining to women achievers, women's issues and challenges at the national and global levels.

### ❖ Documentation of articles

The Centre also documented different articles which are related to women and gender from various journals.

### ❖ Documentation and Dissemination of Documentary films

The Centre houses sexual harassment and sanitation related videos as part of awareness creation.

### ❖ Notice Board

As part of Information dissemination, the Centre displayed important content at the Women's Studies Centre notice board namely Zero Tolerance to sexual harassment at work Place, Sexual Harassment of women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act , 2013, forms of sexual harassment at workplace, Child Line 1098, Women empowerment, save girl child-good touch and bad touch, women helpline, women related laws, issues related to gender equality, details regarding Certificate Course in Gender and Development, activities of Legal Aid Clinic and general information.

### ❖ WhatsApp Group – Women Managers

This group is active in sharing much content with teaching staff at College. Programmes, webinars and conferences organized by other colleges are being shared in the group. Success stories, images on gender

mainstreaming initiatives and women related news were disseminated through this group.

#### ❖ Website

The Centre 's vision, mission, objectives, wings and recent activities are displayed on the college website [www.hcctrichy.ac.in](http://www.hcctrichy.ac.in)

#### ❖ Newsletter

The activities of the Women's Studies Centre are disseminated through its newsletter every year. The current year (2023 – 2024) activities are available in the newsletter. (Annexure III)

#### ❖ Newspapers Report of WSC's Activities

Women's Studies Centre has documented all reports from newspapers on the Centre activities (Annexure IV)

#### ❖ College Magazine

Activities of the Women's Studies Centre for the academic year 2023 – 2024 will be recorded in the annual College magazine called Holy Rood; A copy of the magazine is available in Women's Studies Centre. Activities of Women's Studies Centre was also recorded in the Centenary Magazine of the college which was released in 2024.

#### Advocacy

#### Functioning of Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)

Legal Aid Clinic has been functioning in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Tiruchirappalli since January 2013 without any fee from beneficiaries on all Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Legal Aid Advocate provide legal awareness to students at their classrooms, give advice to solve their personal legal problems and forward petitions to



District Legal Services Authority to run the case without fee for the development of economically weaker section people. Totally 274 persons benefited from the legal awareness and 70 persons got guidance to solve their personal problems. The details are as follows.

#### Legal Pamphlets to Women's Studies Centre Representatives

As part of awareness creations, women related and general laws pamphlets were distributed to the Women's Studies Centre Representatives on 28 March 2024 at Women's Studies Centre. They were so eager in reading the laws to inform the persons in need.

#### Women's Studies Centre Representatives

The first meeting with Women's Studies Centre representatives was conducted on 4th December 2023 at Women's Studies Centre from 2.30 p.m to 3.00 p.m. Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Co-ordinator, Women's Studies





equality on the first day and legal aid clinic activities, which were handled by Dr. Prisheela P, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

### Gender Champion Club

The information regarding the activities of Gender Champion Club was displayed on the



Centre explained the aims and objectives, milestones and its wings. Roles and responsibilities of the Women's Studies Centre Representatives were informed in detail. She motivated the students to serve the students of their department and nation wholeheartedly.

The subsequent meetings were conducted on 5December 2023, 6December 2023, 7 December 2023, 8 December 2023, 12December 2023 regarding National Conference on Girl Child Day, legal aid clinic and certificate course in women and law. Likewise many meetings were conducted at Women's Studies Centre to collect names for participating and effectively support to us.

### Women Empowerment Ministers

This year three Student Council Members (SCMs) namely Ms.J.Daphne, II M.Sc Psychology, Ms.A. Lithicya Mary, III Biochemistry and Ms.R.Veena, III BASLP (Audiology) have opted to serve as Women Empowerment Ministers at Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. They support Women's Studies Centre while planning for events, communication to students and on need. They attended an orientation session on Gender

Women's Studies Centre notice board for the benefit of students to get to know about the activities. The aim of this club is to create an enabling environment where girls are treated with dignity and respect. The gender champions will strengthen the potential of young people to advocate for gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice. The club consists of 45 students from I UG and II UG classes under Service Oriented Course which comes under curriculum in our College. Election of the office bearers of the Gender Champion Club for the academic year 2023-2024 was held on 21.07.2023. The club conducted various activities for the benefit of the students as well as public at different places.

The present year (2023-2024) activities are as follows:

#### a) Program to create awareness on Gender roles for a Happy Home

Holy Cross College (Autonomous), organized a program to create awareness on Gender roles for a Happy Home, on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023. The Resource person was Ms.

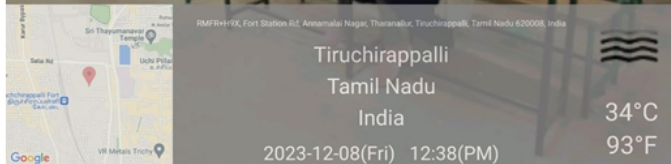


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 Tiruchirappalli  
 Tamil Nadu

Deerkalakshmi, Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of English, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. Family is important because it offers emotional support, nurtures a feeling of belonging, encourages educational growth, and fosters cognitive development. A family meets diverse needs throughout the various phases of life, from infancy through old age. The resource person created a new perspective among the students on how Gender Roles can be a Catalyst to create a happy home. The sharing was well received by the students and 56 students benefitted through the session.

### b) World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Celebrations

The Gender Champion Club of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), conducted an Essay



Writing Competition for all the students to commemorate the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. There were 20 participants from all the departments and they enthusiastically scripted essays on the topic “ The Importance of Anti-Microbial” The judge of the event was Dr. Bhorgin , Head and Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. Ms. P. Priyadarshini of III B.Sc. Mathematics B got I Prize , Ms. S. Sivasakthi III B.Sc. Mathematics B got II Prize and Ms. Virgin Varshini of I B.Com CA received III Prize.

### c) Status of Women in India at Present

The next meeting of Gender Champion Club was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. The Chief Guest was Dr. Shanthy Getzie Ranjani Devi, Associate Professor of Botany, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, she talk



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about Status of Women in India at Present and Energy Conservation Day is observed in India every year on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Madam gave awareness on the value of energy efficiency and conservation to raise public awareness. She spoke on the Status of Women in India at present. She gave statistical details of women development in India after independence and stressed on the ways women have to use power to alter the society.



#### d) Menstrual Hygiene

The Women's Studies Centre and Gender Champion Club jointly organised a meeting that took place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 between 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. The resource person of the day was Ms. P. Salomi Subha RNRM, BSc. (Psychology). The meeting started with a prayer by Ms. Reshma



from I BA English followed by welcome address proposed by Ms. Virgin Varshini of I B.Com. (CA). She warmly greeted Ms. P. Salomi Subha and the members of the club. The session was handed over to the resource person who started her speech on the topic “**Menstrual Hygiene**”. She began the session by talking about the problems that can happen if menstrual hygiene is not taken care of, like local infections. She went on to explain how these infections can spread and lead to more serious issues like pelvic inflammatory diseases and, in severe cases, even infertility. The speaker shared real-life examples from her experiences, including instances where she had to remove the uterus of a teenage girl.

She debunked common myths about menstruation prevalent in society, such as the misconception that period blood is impure, clarifying that this is not true. She provided information about the biological process of menstruation and gave advice on maintaining hygiene during periods. The speaker also raised awareness about cervical cancer, a disease affecting women's lives. She offered practical tips to prevent cervical cancer, making the information

accessible and easy to understand. She went on to giving dietary advice to be followed before and while in period. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks.

#### e) Women in Media

The Women's Studies Centre and Gender Champion Club conducted a program titled Awareness on Women in Media. Ms. Shirly



Deepak, Media Relations Officer, Holy Cross Media House, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The guest of honor spoke on how Media from its time of inception has objectified women in Advertisements, serials and movies. She inspired the students by narrating her life journey as a Media professional and Entrepreneur. She insisted on the student community to use social media rightly and as women of the modern generation we are called to be the voice of the voiceless.

#### f) Law protecting Women

The Women's Studies Centre and Gender Champion Club conducted a program titled Awareness on Law Protecting Women on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The resource person was Mrs. N. Rajalakshmi, “B” Panel Advocate, District Legal Service Authority, Tiruchirappalli. The chief guest spoke on the stages and acts from birth of a girl child to woman remarriage or second marriage and all those basic acts. Where to use? How the



government gives more laws protecting women and children and she delivered her speech in an interesting way. This session was very informative to 55 students who benefited from it.

#### **Accomplishments:**

- ❖ Offered Certificate Course in Women and Law
- ❖ Legal Aid Clinic functioned in association with District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli
- ❖ Observation visit by Law College student to Legal Aid Clinic
- ❖ Offered a course on Gender studies for II UG students
- ❖ Observed National Nutrition Month
- ❖ Observed World Breast Feeding Week
- ❖ Observed World National Girl Child Day
- ❖ Conducted legal awareness programmes
- ❖ Conducted various awareness programmes in National Service Scheme
- ❖ Conducted various awareness programmes on gender in Gender Champion Club
- ❖ Library and documentation
- ❖ Information displayed in notice board
- ❖ International Women's Day celebration

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