



# Women's Studies Centre

(Supported by UGC)

## Holy Cross College (Autonomous)

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University  
Nationally Accredited (3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle) with 'A' Grade by NAAC  
College with Potential for Excellence  
Tiruchirappalli – 620 002, Tamil Nadu.

Newsletter

2013 - 2014

Volume - 4

*From the Editor.....*

The Women's Studies Centre (WSC) of Holy Cross College is happy to bring out the 4<sup>th</sup> Volume Newsletter compiling the various academic and welfare activities of the Centre for the year 2013 - 2014. I am glad to note that first publication with ISBN, which is surely a milestone for the Centre. I convey my sincere gratitude to the pillars of WSC which includes the UGC, the Management, Principal, Advisor, Staff, Advisory committee members, Core committee and Task force Committee members for their active support.

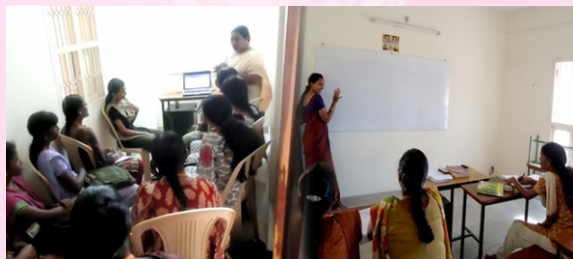
### Teaching

#### a) Gender Studies Course for all II UG Students

The Centre offered the Gender Studies Course to all II UG students of our College during the odd semester. The aim of the course is to lay an academic foundation in gender equality, women welfare schemes and women empowerment. A total of 1327 students benefited from the course in the academic year 2013-2014.

#### b) Certificate Course on Gender and Development

Certificate course on Gender and Development was offered to the students in the even semester. The course In-charge were Ms. R.



Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC, Dr.S. Cathrine Sara, Assistant Professor of Botany, Ms. R. Sowmiya, Assistant Professor of Business Administration and the entire course was coordinated by the Co-ordinator of WSC. Interactive session, case study discussion, movies

and cookies display, along with the chalk and talk method and power point presentation were part of the class room teaching. A total of 20 students from both UG and PG Courses from the departments of Computer Science, Physics, and English Literature had registered.

### Training

#### a) Symposium on Developing Professional Skills and Gender Sensitization

Women's Studies Centre organized a "Symposium on Developing Professional Skills and Gender Sensitization" on 17<sup>th</sup> December



2013. Sr. Niranjana Antony, Advisor, Women's Studies Centre, HCC, Trichy inaugurated the symposium. In the first session Fr. Bhyju, Licentiate in Psychology, Gregorian University, Rome and CMF, Claretian Missionary, Kumbakonam spoke on the topic 'Adolescent Psychology'. In the next session Dr.S. Vasanthi, Associate Professor of Commerce spoke on 'Gender Sensitization'. In the final session, Mr.P. Ramajayam, Assistant Professor, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusion Policy, Bharathidasan University, Trichy spoke on the topic 'Professional Ethics and Development'. Certificates were issued to all the participants. There were 121 participants from 3 colleges attended. The programme was organized by Training Task Force Members.

#### b) Social Work Trainee

Ms. L. Anucia, I MSW, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli was enrolled as a field work

trainee at WSC during the second semester. Ms.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC who was the Agency Supervisor gave training on gender sensitization, social work methods and guided on WSC's work schedule.

### c) Orientation on Gender Studies Course for Staff

The Centre provided orientation to 3 new staff-course In-charge of Gender Studies for this academic year. This helped them to handle the course with a gender perspective. The centre also provided the orientation programme report which was conducted by the centre two years ago.

### d) Training Programmes Participated / Attended

Ms. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC attended the following Training Programmes

- \* National Symposium on "Current Issue of Concern before Women Today- a Gender Perspective Analysis" organized by Centre for Women's Studies, Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli and Regional Association for Women's Studies, India on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014.
- \* National CME workshop on "New Public Health Issues in India" organized by Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), University of Mysore and National Academy of Medical Sciences on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

## Research

### a) Research Work Done

#### A Study on Socio – Economic Conditions of Lactating Women in the Slum of Tiruchirappalli Municipal Corporation

Urbanization is either directly or indirectly linked with the level and process of development. The important underlying factors responsible for maternal deaths are early marriage, short birth interval, illiteracy, ignorance coupled with poverty and low status of women. Other important factors include lack of access to health care delivery system and non-availability of appropriate obstetric care, delay or not seeking treatment due to socio-cultural barriers and poor logistic support and majority of the deliveries are conducted at home by untrained personnel. A total of 30 respondents were interviewed with a structured questionnaire and quality of life scale

(D.L.Dubey, Duivedi.P.Verma (1998)). The salient findings were one fifth of the respondents got married before they were 18 years of age. This brings to light that child marriage is prevalent and women's health is neglected. With regard to the scoring level of scale, more than half (53%) of the respondents have low quality of life and more than one-third (47%) of the respondents have high quality of life.

### b) National Conference on Women Development in the New Millennium – A Way forward

The one-day National Conference on Women Development in the New Millennium – A way forward was organized and conducted by Women's Studies Centre, HCC, Tiruchirappalli, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Sr. Niranjana Antony, the Convenor of the conference welcomed the gathering. The Presidential Address focusing on women empowerment was delivered by Dr. R.M. Ramathal, Former Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Former Member, Public Service Commission.



The Chief Guest of the Inaugural Function was Dr. Suganda Ramamoorthi, Associate Professor of Economics, Member, UGC Curriculum Development, Committee for Women's Studies and Convenor, Centre for Women's Studies, Lady Doak College, Madurai. The Conference Kinetics was presented by Dr.P. Nagalakshmi, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Science, HCC.

The book with 46 papers entitled *Women Development in the New Millennium-A way forward* and the Conference proceedings were released.

The speakers include **Dr. Premila Paul**, Associate Professor of English (Retired), Managing Committee, SCILET (Study Centre for Indian Literature in English and Translation), **Dr. (Sr). Metti Amirtham**, Professor of Theology, Holy Cross Social Centre, Chennai, **Dr. V. Kadambari**, Associate Professor of English, Director, Women's Studies Centre, Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai and **Dr. B. Rose Kavitha**, Dean – Academics, MBA Department, Jyoti Nivas College, Autonomous, PG Centre, Bangalore

The technical sessions had an array of research perspectives on various aspects of



Women development. A total of 46 papers were selected and presented in four different technical sessions. The sessions were chaired by **Dr. S. Sankari**, Member, Child Welfare Committee Trichy District & Supervisor, Umea University, Sweden, **Ms. Bharathi Kannamma**, First Transgender Member, Lok Adalat, Madurai, **Dr.(Sr.) P. Rajakumari**, Assistant Professor of History, Holy Cross College, Trichy and **Dr. J. Godwin Prem Singh**, Associate Professor of Social Work & Dean of International Relations, **Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli.**



The National Conference came to an end with the valediction. The Conference Report was read by Ms.M. Mary Jayanthi, Assistant Professor of English, HCC. Dr.K.R. Murugan, Director i/c & Head Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi was the Chief Guest and Ms.Sherine Xavier Executive Director, Home for Human Rights Srilanka was the Special Invitee. Awards were distributed for the best three papers

and posters. The conference ended with the vote of thanks proposed by the Convenor Ms.R. Saraswathi. There were 279 participants from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu who participated in the conference.

### c) Research Proposal Applied

Dr. S. Vasanthi, Associate Professor of Commerce and Research Task Force Committee leader of WSC sent a proposal on “National Seminar on Exploring Gender Issues in Multi – dimensional Approach (An Inter – Disciplinary Relevance)” to UGC.

## Field Action

### a) National Nutrition Week Celebration

WSC and NSS conducted various activities from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to observe National Nutrition Week. A ‘**Drawing Competition**’ for the under graduate students of Shift II were conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Ms.D. Baranya,



Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, JJ College of Arts & Science, Pudukottai was the judge for the competition.



To educate the women on the importance of Dhal for better health condition, ‘**Dhal Collection Competition**’ was conducted for the administrative staff on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013. 31 administrative staff took part in the competition.

An ‘**Exhibition on Women's Food and Nutrition**’ was conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 at Shanthi hall at 11.00 a.m. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr.(Sr.) Jeusin Francis, Principal & Director, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College. 230 students from various departments benefited out of it. A ‘**Rangoli Competition on**



**Women and Health'** for the administrative staff was also held and 6 staff participated in it. Dr.S. Seethalakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Bishop Heber College,



Tiruchirappalli judged the competition. Mrs.E. Thelma., M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli judged an **'Essay writing competition in Tamil on Gender Inequality and Women's Health'**.

On the fourth day of the observation, a **"Lecture on Women's Health and Nutrition Security"** was conducted for the students of Women's Cell, NSS and Gender Club. Dr.M.V. Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition



and Dietetics, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli spoke on current year theme, data on malnutrition and its remedial measures and a **cooking competition for men** was held.



The fifth day of the observation was the day to honour teachers, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. There were 10 teachers who participated in the **"Brain Gain Health Quiz"** Ms.B. Rajalakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli was the Judge for the quiz Competition.

An **"Awareness Programme on Nutrition"** and the prize distribution was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Dr.(Sr.) Jeusin Francis, Principal & Director, Women's Studies Centre, HCC presided over. The chief guest Dr. Victoria Johnston, Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Janet Nursing Home, Tiruchirappalli spoke on the



importance of balanced diet, eating shape of the edibles, role of fruits and vegetables in day to day life activities etc., Nearly 120 students, staff and winners participated in the programme.

### b) Health Chart Programme

As part of National Nutrition Week Celebration, the Women's Studies Centre and Department of Mathematics jointly conducted



Health Chart exhibition at community college, Ayakudi Village on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The students explained the health charts that focused on the importance of nutrition to 63 women students.

### c) Legal Awareness Programme

Women's Studies Centre in collaboration with National Service Scheme conducted **"Legal Awareness Programme"** for the NSS volunteers. Mrs.B. Syed Hajira Basha, Advocate delivered a



speech on the importance of marriage registration, women's safety measures by the government, self defense mechanism, role of institutions in providing a safe environment for women and ways to overcome it through legal remedies.

**d) Awareness Programme on Acts relating to Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Married Women's Property and Births, Death & Marriage Registration**

Women's Studies Centre and Youth Red Cross jointly conducted an "Awareness Programme on Acts relating to Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Married Women's Property and



Births, Death and Marriage Registration" on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. Dr. (Sr.) Jeusin Francis, Principal and Director of Women's Studies Centre, HCC, Tiruchirappalli presided over the programme. Ms.Sudha, Advocate spoke on married women's equal rights in parents' property, birth and death registration procedure, importance of marriage registration and she also mentioned the harmful effects of marriage during College days. Another Chief Guest Mrs. Kanimozhi, Advocate spoke about sexual harassment against women at workplace act and violence against women and alimony procedure. She requested all the participants to make use of free legal aid clinic and convey the message to neighbours that every district court has District Legal Services Authority to help the poor and needy people. Nearly 150 students participated in the programme.

**e) Awareness Programme on Legal Aid Clinic**

The gram Sabha meeting was headed by the the Panchyat President, Ammapettai on 26<sup>th</sup>

January 2014. Village problems were discussed and the Panchayat President received petition from people. 4 staff from a Voluntary Organisation spoke on the Role and importance of 108 services for the people during crisis. Ms.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies



Centre, HCC spoke on "Role of Legal Aid Clinic in the life of Rural folk". She mentioned the details such as eligibility to get legal services, and ways to get such facilities. Self Help Group members, Youth club members and others took part in the Gram Sabha meeting.

**f) Awareness Programme on Importance of Education**

As part of the Social Work Trainee's programme, Ms.L.Anuciya, I MSW, HCC conducted an 'Awareness Programme on Importance of Education' in collaboration with the Department of Social Work on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 at Solanganallur Village. Mr.Saravanan, Ward Member, Solanganallur gave the presidential address. Dr.A. Gobinath, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Bishop Heber College was the resource person and he addressed the gathering in an interactive manner. He spoke on the importance of child's education and hygiene. Ms.V.Daisy Rani, Assistant Professor of Social Work, HCC felicitated the gathering. There were 45 women who participated in the programme.

**g) International Women's Day Celebration**

The international women's day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at our College



campus. Dr. Jayam Kannan, M.D., D.G.O., Managing Director, Garbha Rakshambigai

Fertility Centre, Tiruchirappalli was the chief guest of the programme. She spoke about consequences of low sex ratio issue at the national and district level, people's attitude towards girl child, role of chromosome in sex determination and emphasized the need for the young generation to be rooted in their culture and tradition. Rev. Sr. Saghayamary, Secretary, HCC honoured the chief guest with the gift. Dr.(Sr.) Jeusin Francis, Principal, Holy Cross College honoured her with a shawl. Students entertained the guests and participants through cultural. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions.

### Information Dissemination

The Women's Studies Centre has a separate library and issue books for staff and scholars. It continuously collects and disseminates information pertaining to women's challenges and achievements. The centre documents all the newspapers on the Centre's activities. In addition to the last year videos, the centre added audio-visual documents on sex ratio, gender and power, constructing Gender through art and media, gendered bodies and sexualities and theories on women and gender studies. The videos were displayed to students and rural community. The Centre's basic details are displayed on the college website [www.hcctrichy.ac.in](http://www.hcctrichy.ac.in). Wall hanging posters and pamphlets on women's rights, sexual harassment at workplace, women's status in India etc., were displayed on the basis of need. Activities of the Centre are documented and disseminated in the College magazine 'Holy Rood' every year.

### Advocacy

#### Legal Aid Clinic

The Clinic is being run in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority of India. An



Advocate visits the Legal Aid Clinic on all first and third Thursday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3

p.m. to give legal awareness, advice and refer some cases to District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli to meet the expenses. The Advocate has been assisted by the Para Legal Volunteer (Ms.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC). The Para Legal Volunteer acts as a bridge between the advocate and various kinds of beneficiaries such as students, students' parents, teaching and non-teaching staff and public. Various target groups such as students, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and outsiders have been benefitted from the Clinic.

### Community Outreach Activities

While students visit villages, they collect information regarding legal doubts. The issues were discussed with the advocate at Legal Aid Clinic and informed on phone to them. Pamphlets on Legal Aid Clinic and law distributed to rural folk for further utilization of legal services.

Others

#### National Lok Adhlat Panel Member:

Ms. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre was one of the panel member during the National Lok Adalat conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 in the capacity of a Social Worker.

**Paralegal Volunteer :** Ms. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC serves as a Para Legal Volunteer since February 2012 and she has been attending almost all the training programme conducted by District Legal Service Authority, Tiruchirappalli.

### Other Activities

- ❖ Nurturing Relationship with Ph.D Scholar by giving material for her course work examination.
- ❖ Guided UGC-NET applicants to register for NET and prepare for exams
- ❖ The students of Department of Social Work, HCC used our library newspaper clippings to disseminate the knowledge on the status of women to different target groups of the participants on the day of their Conference.
- ❖ The students received videos from WSC to create gender sensitivity in the village. They displayed in the village during their visit.

## Strategies

### Partnership

The Centre organized programmes in collaboration with various departments and Centre. The networking agencies within the College are Department of Mathematics, Department of Chemistry, National Service Scheme, Youth Red Cross and Red Ribbon Club. Centre's beyond the campus include District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi and Centre for Women's Studies, Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli.

### Networking/ Outreach

- \* Through Gender club members (Students) in each department we do collaborative effort in adopted villages by giving legal awareness.
- \* Task force members (Staff) support the centre in offering Gender Studies course to students and in other activities
- \* The Centre has a strong relationship with Phase II Centres. One of our UGC Advisory Committee member belongs to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

## Activities of WSC's Wings

### Gender Club

Gender Club consists of 190 students from all the departments of the College. The members participate in the activities of the Centre. They support the Centre in documentation, conducting programmes at villages and acted as intermediary between their department task force members and WSC.

### Annual inauguration of Women's Cell and Gender Club

It was held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Dr. (Sr.) Jeusin Francis, Principal & Director of Women's Studies



Centre, HCC presided over the meeting. The chief guest Mr.T. Tamilselvan, Advocate spoke about various laws pertaining to women. He explained many laws such as marriage registration act, Sexual harassment against women at work place act, Dowry prohibition act, and so on which protect women.

### Lecture on Women's Health and Nutrition Security

The programme was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 for the students of Women's Cell, NSS and Gender Club. Dr.M.V. Alli, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli spoke on the role of nutrition in day to day life, healthy living habits, balanced diet, basic vegetable food groups, south Indian meals and food pyramid.

### Women's Cell (Shift I)

### Awareness Programme on Role of Women in Tamil Society

An Awareness Programme on Role of Women in Tamil Society was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> February



2014. The resource person Mr. Karuthan, Assistant Professor of Tamil, National College, Tiruchirappalli explained the status of women in different periods, conditions of homemakers, ill treatments faced by great revolutionaries by their husband and ways to empower women.

### Awareness Programme on Women related Laws and Fundamental Rights

The programme was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 at Azhinjikarai Village in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry.



Mr. Shanmugam, Advocate spoke on the basic rights and role of free legal aid clinic. He insisted on the importance of birth certificate and death certificate and the role of Indian constitution in the life of human beings. Many clarifications related to bank disputes, compensation, birth certificate, successor certificate and land disputes were made. There were 64 participants who attended the meeting.

## Details of Participation

### a) Students' Participation

#### One day TOT (Trainer of Trainer) Programme on Gender Sensitization

The Centre for Women's Studies, Cauvery College for Women organized a "One day TOT (Trainer of Trainer)" Programme on Gender Sensitization" on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. A total of 5 students from Women's Cell and Student volunteers participated.

#### One day Legal Rights Workshop on Legal Awareness on Family Laws: An Inclusive Perspective

The Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University organized a "One day Legal Rights Workshop on Legal Awareness on Family Laws: An Inclusive Perspective" on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013. A total of 7 students participated in the programme.

### b) Resource Person

- ❖ Ms.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC inaugurated "Women's Empowerment Cell" on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 (Friday) at Thanthai Hans Roever College, Perambalur. She delivered a talk on "Status of Women in Indian Perspective"
- ❖ Ms.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre gave a guest lecture on the first unit of the II year Ethics syllabus to the students of our college on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013.

## Words of Appreciation

I am rationally happy because the conference is well organised and this is really the need of the year. I wish all the best to the organisers.

### Dr. R.M. Ramathal

Former Chairperson,  
Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women  
Former Member, Public Service Commission.

## Accomplishment :

- ❖ Conducted National Conference on Women Development in the New Millennium – A way forward and published a book with ISBN
- ❖ Offered Certificate Course on Gender and Development
- ❖ Functioned Legal Aid Clinic in association with District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli
- ❖ Offered Gender studies for II year UG students
- ❖ Continuation of Women's Cell
- ❖ Continuation of Gender Club
- ❖ Conducted legal awareness programmes
- ❖ Conducted various awareness programmes
- ❖ Guided a Social Work Trainee
- ❖ Nurturing relationship with Doctoral Research Scholar
- ❖ Participated in the workshop organized by phase I Centre
- ❖ Library and documentation
- ❖ International women's day celebration

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