



Women's Studies Centre

(Supported by UGC)

Holy Cross College (Autonomous)

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

Newsletter

2020 - 2021

Volume - 11

From the Editor.....

It's my great pleasure and honour to present you the eleventh edition of HCC Women's Studies Centre Newsletter. Due to pandemic, we have shifted from on campus to online activities. With the abundant blessings of God almighty and management the Centre was able to conduct many webinars through which many students and faculty members throughout the nation participated in the webinars. This helped the Centre to widen the network as well as create an awareness and sensitize thousands of college students as well as teachers especially men for the betterment of the nation. Students won maximum number of prizes in the cultural event called 'Gender Fest competitions' organized by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. I extend my sincere gratitude to the management, Principal, Heads of all the departments, Task Force Committee members, teachers, Gender Champion Club members, fellow academicians for their contribution to the successful functioning of the WSC.

Teaching

a) Gender Studies Course

The Centre has been offering Gender Studies Foundation Course to II UG students (Except students of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology) of the entire college as per the norms of the Bharathidasan University since 2011 with University provided syllabus and text books which are in English and Tamil. Students write two internal tests for 50 marks and external examination for 50 marks. All II UG students (1239) except School of Management Studies studied the course in the Odd semester and III UG students of School of Management Studies (505) such as Department of Commerce, Economics and Business Administration studied the course in the even Semester. A total of 1744 students benefited from the course in this academic year 2020-2021.

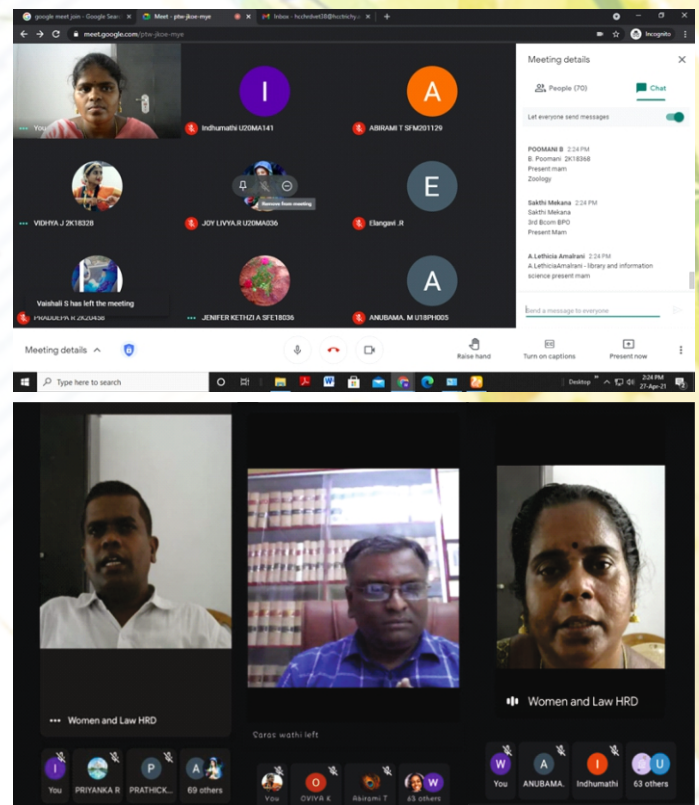
b) Certificate Course in Gender and Development

The examination for Bharathidasan University approved Certificate course in Gender and

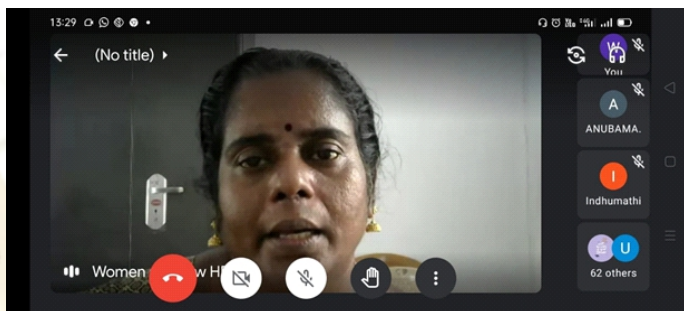
Development was conducted for the students of Shift - II in the even semester. Due to COVID 19 issue, students were unable to write semester/final exam in the previous year. So they wrote their exams in the even semester and a total of 23 students qualified for the degree certificate.

c) Certificate Course in Women and Law

Certificate Course in Women and Law was offered to the students through HRD offered Certificate courses from 26 April 2021 to 30 April 2021 from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. The entire course was handled by Mr. M. Chinna Mani, Advocate, Ms. S. Gomathi, Advocate, Mr. S. Kothandaraman, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli and Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC through online platform.



Under Graduate and Post Graduate students from various Departments and comprising of both boys and



girls studied the course. One hundred and three students registered for the Certificate Course. Ninety four students attended the entire course. The students opined that the course was very useful and met their expectations. They also suggested that the course could be conducted for the entire College students for their benefit.

Training

Co-ordinator's Participation

- ❖ Participated in the Two Day International Conference on “The Impact of COVID Pandemic in the Universal Tertiary Sector” organized by PG and Research Department of Commerce, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli held on 16 & 17 March 2021
- ❖ Participated in the Two Week Webinar on Faculty Development Programme on “Engendering Research with Feminist Research Methods” organized by the Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli from 16 June 2020 to 29 June 2020
- ❖ Participated in the One Day National Level Webinar on “COVID -19 Issues and Challenges” organized by Department of Sociology, Government College for Women (Autonomous), Mandya, Karnataka on 15 June 2020
- ❖ Participated in the National Level Webinar on “Psychological Condition of Students During and After the Pandemic” organized by the Department of English, G.Venkataswamy Naidu College, Kovilpatti on 4 June 2020
- ❖ Participated in the “Gender Impact of COVID 19” organized by the Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi on 29 May 2020
- ❖ Participated in the “World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2020: Breaking the Silence Way Forward” organized by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University and National Service Scheme of Cauvery College for Women (Autonomous) on 28 May 2020
- ❖ Participated in the Webinar on the topic “Everything started with Nothing – Make a Start”

by Mr.M. Parvez Alam, Chief Executive Officer & Director, Crescent Innovation & Incubation Council (CIIC), Chennai for the Teaching Faculty of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli organized by Institutions' Innovation Council (IIC), Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli on 13 May 2020

- ❖ Participated in the 3 day National Online FDP titled 'Quality Enhancement in Higher Education Institutions – Future Vision' organized by IQAC, St. Ann's College for Women from 4–6 May 2020

Research

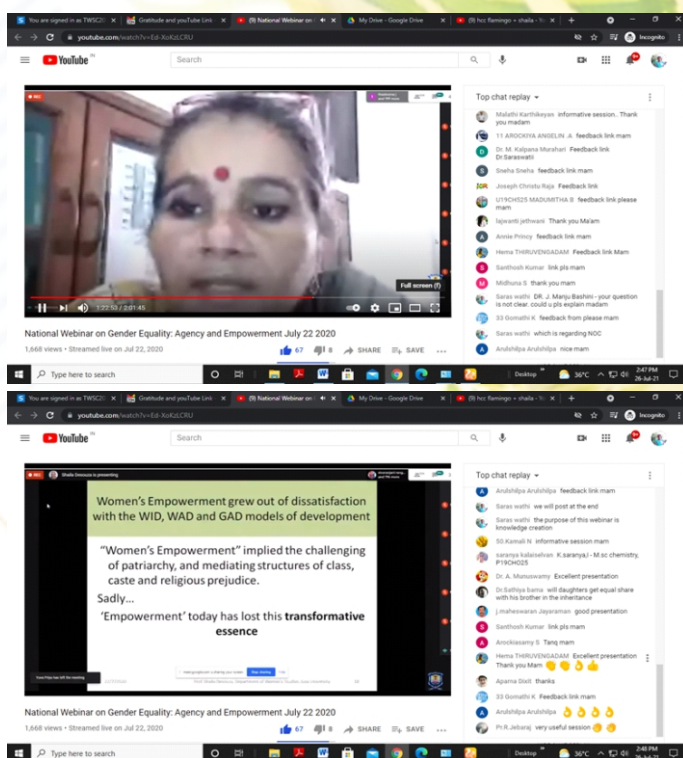
Proposals Applied

- ❖ COVID 19- Self-Employed Persons' Socio Economic Condition and Gender Equality-Coping with Life Skills – ICSSR, New Delhi on 15 May 2020
- ❖ A National Webinar Conference on Women's Mental Health and Well-Being at Work Place in India – National Commission for Women, New Delhi on 12th June 2020
- ❖ Faculty Development Programme through Online Platform – Department of Science and Technology on 30 June 2020

Field Action

National Webinar on Gender Equity: Agency and Empowerment

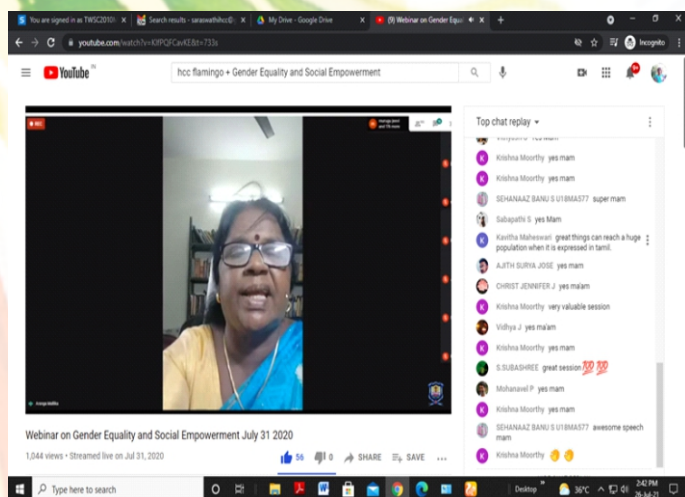
The Women's Studies Centre organized the National Webinar on Gender Equity: Agency and



Empowerment on 22 July 2020 for the benefit of students and public. Dr. Shaila Desouza, Professor and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Goa University, Goa delivered her message on equality of men and women. She stated that the concept of equality and social movements towards equality are not new but Gender Equality is more recent. Gender Equality is now an international buzz word. Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 mentioned about gender equity. Equality implies treating everyone alike with the goal to promote fairness and justice. Women's Empowerment implied the challenging of patriarchy and mediating structures of class, caste and religious prejudice. Total number of beneficiaries of this conference was 1768.

❖ Webinar on Gender Equality and Social Empowerment (Language: Tamil)

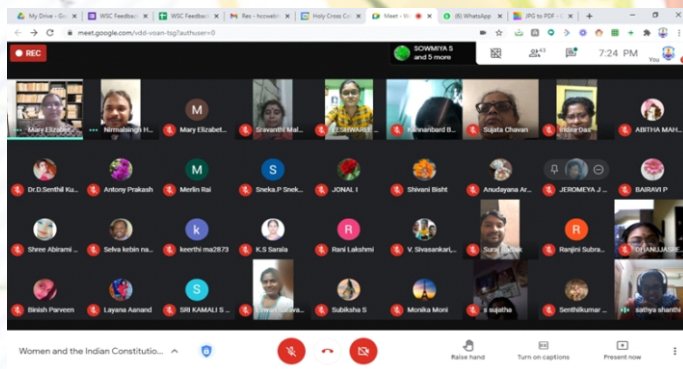
Women's Studies Centre organized a webinar on Gender Equality and Social Empowerment on 31 July 2020 from 2.30p.m. to 4 p.m. in Tamil. The speaker



Dr.R. Mallika, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Tamil and Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Ethiraj College for Women (Autonomous), Chennai shared that Women are concentrating more on satisfying practical gender needs at home. Women's body is not a commodity. Men should have the capacity to understand Women's talent and power. United Nations says that the government should ensure that women's needs are fulfilled. During this pandemic period, women's workload has increased. She has shared lot of data on violence against women. Women's household activities should be taken into account and they should be respected. Government should take into account women's household activities. She has also requested to create a platform to increase the courage of women. 1144 persons from both College and public participated via google meet and you tube.

❖ Constitution Day Celebration - 'Women and the Indian Constitution - A Transitional Approach'

Mr.A. Nirmal Singh Heera, Assistant Professor (Law), Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli, was the resource person for the webinar and gave a talk on 'Women and the Indian Constitution – A Transitional Approach' at Constitution Day Celebration on 26 November 2020 conducted by Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli. Initially he talked about the celebration of Law Day and about constitution.

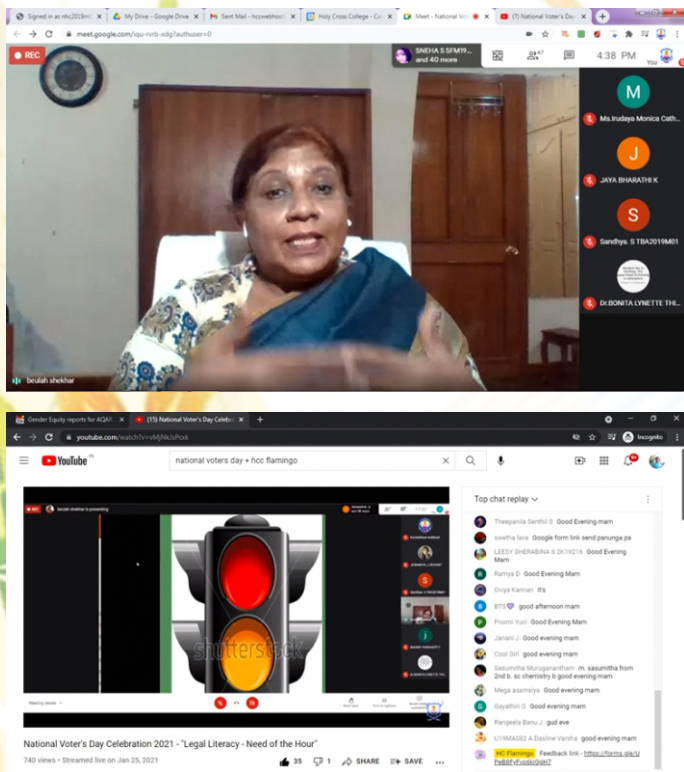


He explained in detail about Article 14,15 ,21 ,39, 42 and some special laws related to women. He explained them with case studies for easy understanding and explained the property Rights of women, labour laws, Maternity Benefit Bill, 2017. He concluded his speech by saying that everyone should know about all these rights. The meeting was attended by 36 members.

❖ National Voter's Day Celebration 2021 - "Legal Literacy - Need of the Hour"

Women's Studies Centre celebrated National Voter's Day on the webinar topic on 'Legal Literacy – Need of the Hour' on 25 January 2021. Dr. Beulah Shekhar, Emeritus Professor, Department of Criminology, Karunya Institute of Technology & Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu was the resource person. Dr. Beulah Shekhar enlightened on the main purpose of the NVD celebration that is to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrolment, especially for the new voters. It also focuses on ECI's commitment

towards conducting elections safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Voters Day theme for the year 2021 is –“Making our voters Empowered, vigilant, safe and informed”.



She also explained the four wings of the Criminal Justice System, Victim friendly provisions in the IPC, POSH, POCSO, causes for Gender Based Violence / Crime, Legal Literacy, Knowledge is power. A total of 783 persons participated in the meeting = 740 (Google meet : 43 + Youtube : 740)

❖ Radio Programme



WSC had given a programme in our College FM which had one theme, one conversation, and one awareness song which was recorded on 22 January 2021 and relayed on 25 January 2021 to observe National Voter's Day.

❖ International Women's Day Celebration

The International Women's Day 2021 at Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was celebrated on 08.03.2021 at 2.00 p.m. The programme commenced with a prayer song followed by a narrative tableau featuring the women characters from the Bible. Ms. Merlin Janet, Women Empowerment



Minister, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli gave a warm welcome address which was followed by the presentation of memento to the chief guest by the secretary Dr. (Sr.) Niranjana Anthonisamy and Dr. (Sr.) A. Christina Bridget, Principal Holy Cross College. To commemorate the achievement of women, the College honoured five women with a shawl and cash award for their service to the society during the crisis of COVID -19.

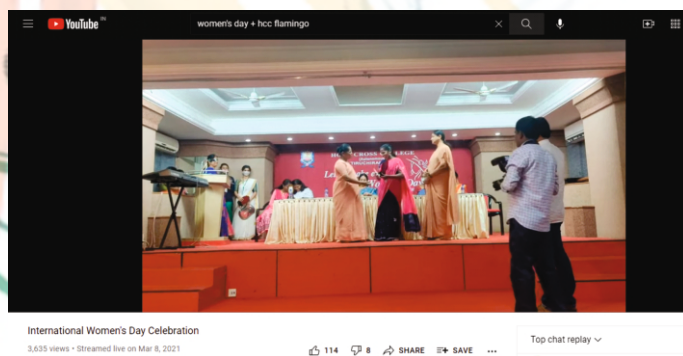


Following which the chief guest of the day, Dr. Shakila Zameer, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Shanawaz Hospital shared the importance of health and nutrition of women, the different stages of adolescence and the common diseases that affect women. Dr. G. Anitha, Former Dean, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, addressed the audience on the importance of gratitude towards the Almighty and stated that service to the society to be practised both from home and College. She shared her experience in the field of medicine with captivating real life stories.



Ms. S. Brindha Sriharish of Puthiya Thalaimurai Channel began with a powerful quote from Bharathiar. "Every woman is capable of achieving great things and Women's day is not to just celebrate women but to cherish and realize the rights and indispensable role we women play - said the speaker.

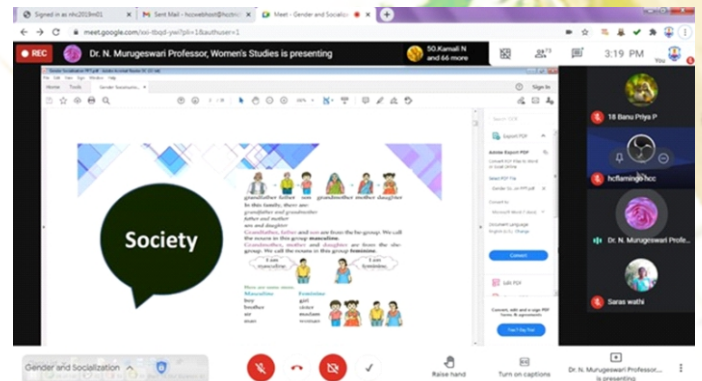
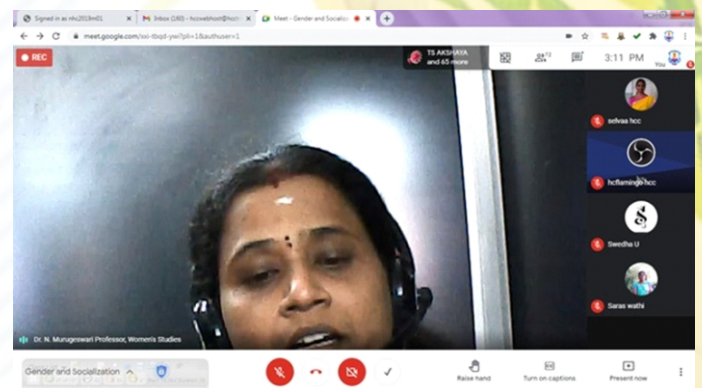
Ms. Kathlene Reena, Staff reporter, The Hindu engaged the audience with an enthralling story from her life, which moved the hearts of the participants. She emphasized on the importance and role of teachers in one's life. Ms. C. Puspharani, 5 rupees food seller spoke on the significance of courage and highlighted the need to inculcate the thought and act of gratitude.

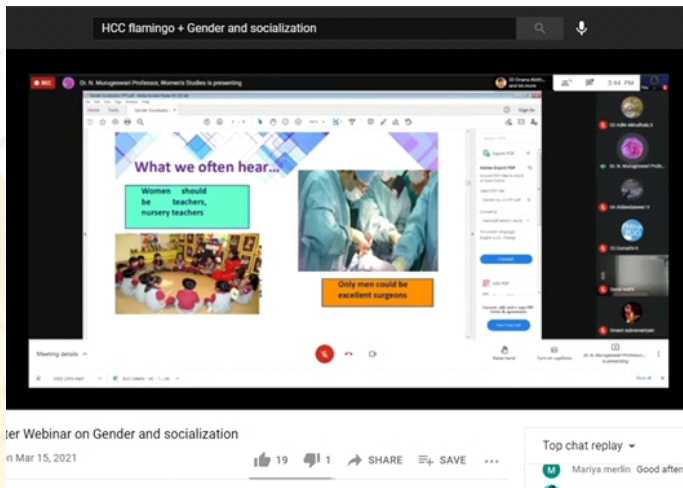


Ms. B. Murugalakshmi, Grocery shop owner who rendered her 14 houses at free of cost and gave grocery items to those houses shared the indispensable requirement of today's society- to uplift the down trodden. She spoke about humanity and kindness. The cultural events were presented by Departments of Rehabilitation Science and Audiology and Speech Language Pathology which included solo dance, mime and dance performance based on Mallala Yousafzai's speech stressing the importance of women education. About 300 students and faculty witnessed the program and thousands of students participated online. The event was coordinated and organized by the Departments of Rehabilitation Science, Audiology and Speech Language Pathology and Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. Vote of thanks was rendered by Ms. B. Hashmitha, III BASLP, Student Council Member. The meeting came to an end with College anthem. 3885 participants (250 : google meet + 3635 : YouTube) attended.

❖ Programme on Gender and Socialization

The Webinar held on the topic "Gender and Socialization" by Women's Studies Centre on 13 March, 2021, imparted the much needed descriptions on gender norms and gender sensitizations. The talk was delivered by Dr. N. Murugeswari, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Kajamalai Campus, Trichy. She began the session by bringing out the difference between gender and sex. She referred to gender as Sociological determination whereas sex as a Biological one. She mentioned that these were the





intimate causes for gender discriminations. She also made many interactions by assigning exercises and asked the students to point out the gender and sex based discriminations. She made a clear notion that a family is wholly responsible for a society's upliftment and also suggested that every family should consider the girl children equal to men and never resist manual tasks which showcase their ability. She concluded that a Gender Neutral Society will be attained if we stand by the 4 'E's, such as Education, Economic Independence, Empowering Women and Enhancing the morale and Self-Confidence. A total of 597 persons attended the webinar through google meet and youtube.

❖ Programme on Gender Equity

Women's Studies Centre conducted an 'Awareness Programme on Gender Equity' for students (Men) of Holy Cross College on 19 March 2021 at 1 p.m at Regina's hall, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli. The resource person Mr.K.Sathish Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Kalai Kavari College of Fine Arts, Tiruchirappalli explained about gender equity, gender equality, difference between rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. He informed that 90 % women were sent off from their work due to pregnancy and child



rearing practices. Gender equity is the need of the hour which promotes equal access to both women and men to material resource – land, labour and capital and intellectual resources such as education, political participation and decision making power. Gender mainstreaming should be done in almost all areas for the betterment of the society. Mr.Xavier, I MSW thanked the gathering. The programme came to an end at 2.30 p.m. There was a participation of 25 male students from the Departments of Visual Communication, Social Work, Psychology and Library and Information Science and opined that the programme was beneficial and a motivation to read Tamil literature related to gender equity.

Information Dissemination

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

Newspaper clippings regarding women's condition, gender, Centre's activity details are put up on the notice board

❖ WhatsApp Group

The Centre has been disseminating information through a WhatsApp group called 'Women Managers' (earlier 'Queen') consisted of 118 teaching staff within the College.

❖ Website

The Centre's vision, mission, objectives, wings and recent activities are displayed on the College website www.hcctrichy.ac.in.

❖ Newsletter

The activities of the WSC are disseminated through its newsletter every year. The current year (2020 – 2021) activities are available in the newsletter.

❖ Newspapers Report of WSC's Activities

Women's Studies Centre has documented all reports from newspapers on the Centre's activities

❖ College Magazine

Activities of the Women's Studies Centre for the academic year 2020 – 21 are recorded in the College magazine called Holy Rood. A copy of the magazine is available in WSC.

Advocacy

Functioning of Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)

The Legal Aid Clinic did not have advocate's visit since the District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli did not send advocates to any clinic due to COVID-19 issue. Dr.R.Saraswathi, (Co-ordinator, WSC) the Para-Legal Volunteer was engaged in guiding people to prepare petition to find solution for their issue.

Case 1

Ms.A (L.A No.645/21) filed a petition for family reunion and it was forwarded to the District Legal Services Authority. At the third sitting, her husband came and the lawyer said that he could not do anything without his mother's permission, so the lawyer who tried to reconcile said that he should come with his mother. Two days later, he came with his mother. The conflict was sorted out and they united.

Case 2

Ms.B (L.A No.646/21) was married on 22.4.2019 and has a ten-month-old baby boy. Her Mother-in-law

created lot of problems and her drunken husband attacked her severely. so she went to her mother's house to live for sometimes and asked her husband about the problem. She wanted to live with her husband in nuclear family but her husband refuses. Her request was accepted and sent to the District Legal Services Authority. Her husband attended the conciliation session and at last both reconciled are living a happy life now.

Case 3

Ms.C (L.A No.338/21) the mother of an office staff at Holy Cross College approached Legal Aid Clinic to get her share from ancestral property which her bother is enjoying entirely. She is living in extreme poverty. Her petition was received and sent to the District Legal Services Authority. She went to District Legal Services Authority on 7.4.2021 for first sitting. But her brother family did not come. So she was asked to come for second sitting on 23.04.2021. The case is in process at Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre.

Case 4

Officials from the Slum Clearance Board had given assurance that they will allot a house for Ms. D (L.A No.775/20) where she stayed. Her name had been added to the name list because the Para Legal Volunteer had gone to the construction site and the name was on the name list. Now the construction of house is over. A reminder letter has been sent by the District Legal Services Authority requesting that a house is not been allotted to her even though the houses is nearing completion. If there is no positive reply we have planned to appeal to court for justice.

Case 5

Ms.E sent her husband abroad for employment due to family poverty. From there he made no contact with his wife and did not send any money. She was also unable to contact him. Due to extreme poverty, she asked her mother-in-law for a share in the property. The Legal Aid Clinic advised that by filing a lawsuit she can get the property needed for the betterment of their children.

Case 6

One administrative staff's first daughter eloped from her house while going to College on 3 March 2021. The staff went to nearby police station with an Advocate to file a complaint to find her daughter. But the police officials did not take the petition since the girl was a major and has a right to take decision. On receiving information from the head of the institution, the LAC Co-ordinator filed an on-line petition (Reference No. RHR21034441) as per the request of Dr. M. Mary Jayanthi, Vice Principal, HCC on

6 March 2021. The Petitioner received calls from the Police station and assured that they will find her daughter. The girl was also found within a week and produced before the parent. Now she is continuing her studies after marriage .

Legal Advice:

- ❖ Guided an administrative staff to change her date of birth and father's name instead of husband's name in the Aadhar card at Head Post Office
- ❖ One scholar was guided to file complaint in Local Police station to take her things from an Industry where she stayed and worked on part-time basis.

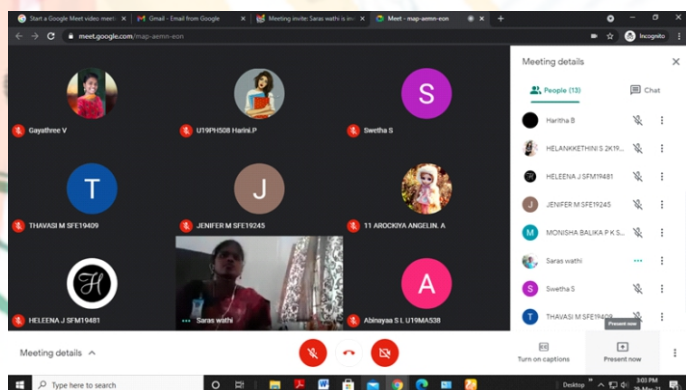
Referral Work:

- ❖ One administrative staff's husband passed away nearly 10 years ago. She hasn't received death certificate. Since she wanted to avail widow welfare fund from government, the Co-ordinator informed her to avail receipt from cemetery then she can apply for her husband's death certificate.
- ❖ One administrative staff wanted to receive her husband's death certificate. She was informed to give the necessary documents to apply for the same.
- ❖ Referred a girl to avail government scheme for financial assistance under single girl child scheme.
- ❖ One teaching staff requested the details for a single girl child scheme. The LAC Co-ordinator referred to collect details from Collectorate
- ❖ Referred an Advocate to an Aided staff to collect her father's property case details at Nagercoil

WSC Representatives

The meeting with WSC representatives was conducted on the basis of need. The Co-ordinator explained the background of the Centre, milestones, wings and the purpose of having the WSC.

Representatives from each Department attended the first meeting through Google meet platform on



29 March 2021 from 2.30 p.m. to 3.10 p.m. The WSC Co-ordinator also spoke about Level II: Soft Skill Development classes and also informed that we shall conduct extra classes for the absentees. WSC had 23 representatives this year.

STRATEGIES

Partnership

The Centre organized programmes in collaboration with the following other networking agencies such as

a) With Other Departments of the College

- All the Departments

b) Outside the College

- District Legal Service Authority, Tiruchirappalli
- Centre for Women's Studies, Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli

c) With Universities

- Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli
- Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi

Other Activities

Gender Champion Club

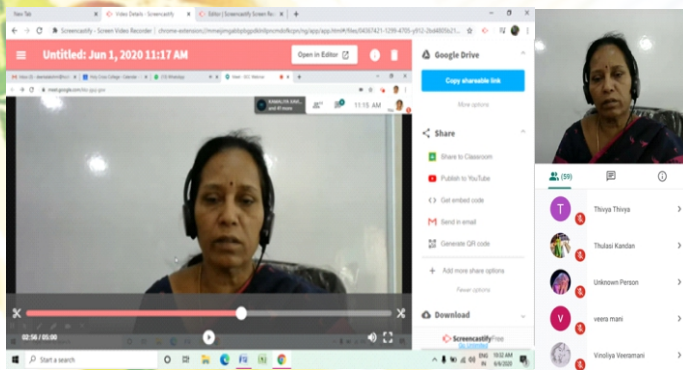
As per the information from Dr.Sujatha Ilangovan, Dean of Extension Activities to prepare a video which contained details of respective clubs, the Co-ordinators prepared a video with details about Gender Champion Club and motivated them to join in club. After seeing the video in ERP portal, the students can enroll themselves in any one club as per their wish. After receiving the name list from the Dean of Extension activities, the club started its activities. The Facilitators of Gender Champion Club were Ms. Deerkalakshmi, V.S., Assistant Professor of English, Ms. Irudaya Monica Caherine. J, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre.



Ms. Kamalia Christy.X , II B.A English 'A' was the President and Ms.Thulasi.K,II B.Sc. Chemistry'C' was the Secretary of the club. The Club consisted of 113 members out of which 36 belonged to I UG and 77 from II UG (Shift I: 57, Shift II: 20).

Webinar on Gender Equality: A Prerequisite for Development

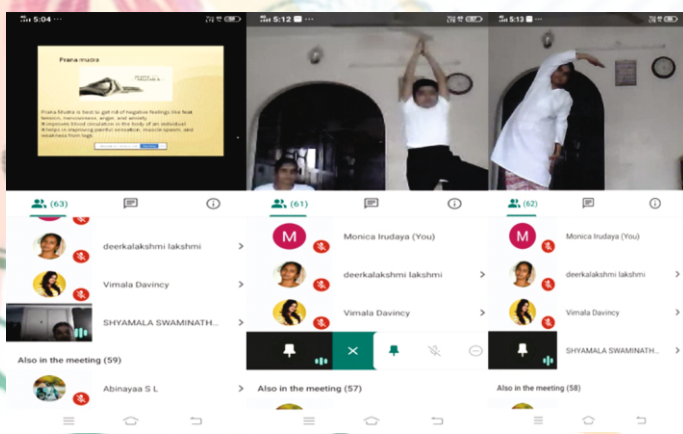
The Gender Champion Club of Holy Cross College (Autonomous) organised a series of Webinars during the Covid -19 pandemic for the better utilisation of the time for the students. The first webinar was conducted on 1 June 2020 for I and II UG Gender Champions of both Shift I and II on the topic “Gender Equality: A Prerequisite for Development” from 11am to 12 pm via Google Meet. The Resource Person of the programme was **Prof. N. Manimekalai**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Director and Head Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. The students were benefitted from the webinar as the Resource Person defined the difference between Gender and Sex in the sociological perspective and encouraged the younger generation to



create gender equality in society. She also highlighted the recent increase in the rate of domestic violence during the lockdown and discussed the reasons behind. Sixty students participated in the webinar.

Webinar on 'Simple Yoga for our Body and Mind'

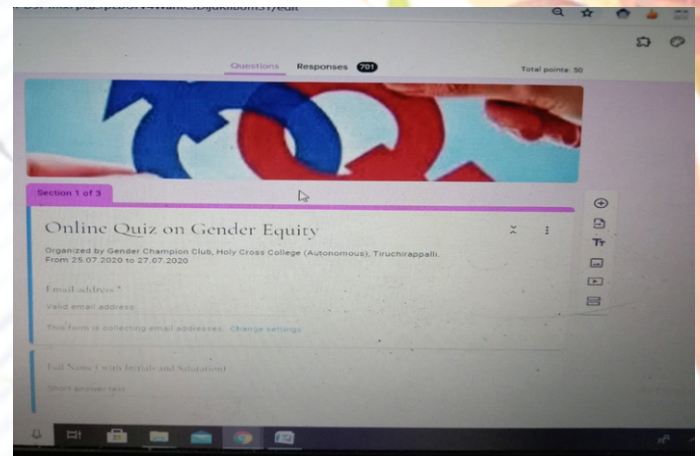
The second webinar in the webinar series was organised by the Gender Champion Club on 26 June 2020 on the topic 'Simple Yoga for our Body and Mind'. The Resource person was **Dr. Shyamala. K**, Head & Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce (CS), Shrimathi Devkunvar Nanalal Bhatt Vaishnav College for Women, Chrompet, Chennai. This webinar was organized exclusively for the



stressed mothers and homemakers during the pandemic. She demonstrated the simple yogasanas that could be performed easily to get relieved from stress. The Resource person also provided an insight on the effectiveness of Mudras and how regular practising of mudras and yoga help to get cured from various physical and mental illness. 87 Gender Champion Club members participated in the webinar.

Online Quiz on Gender Equity

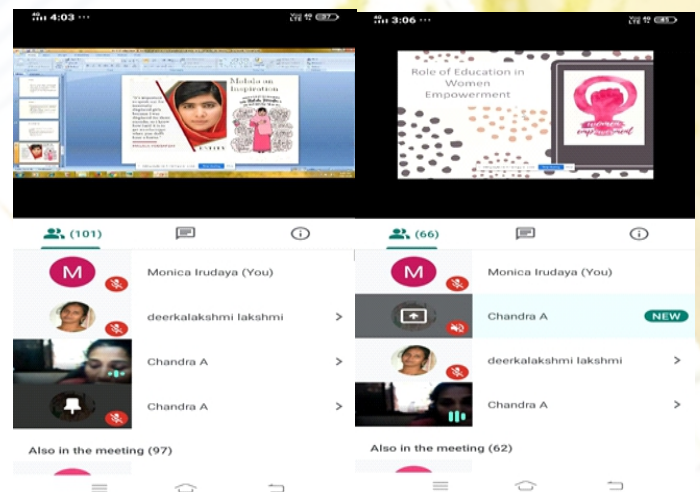
The Club organised an **Online Quiz on Gender Equity** from 25. 07. 2020 to 27.07.2020, between 9 am – 5 pm for the students of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Trichy. A quiz consisting of 25



questions carrying a total of 50 marks was framed using Google forms. A total of 701 students attended the quiz and the certificates were issued to a total of 400 students who scored above 60%. The participants shared positive feedback and expressed their interest to attend more quizzes of the same kind in the future.

National Webinar on “Role of Education in Women Empowerment”

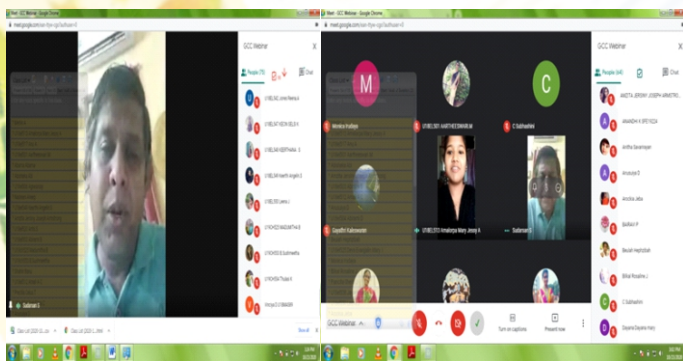
A special event of the club was the **National Webinar** conducted on 31 July 2020. **Dr. Chandra. A**, Academic Supervisor, SSB International School, Bangalore was the resource



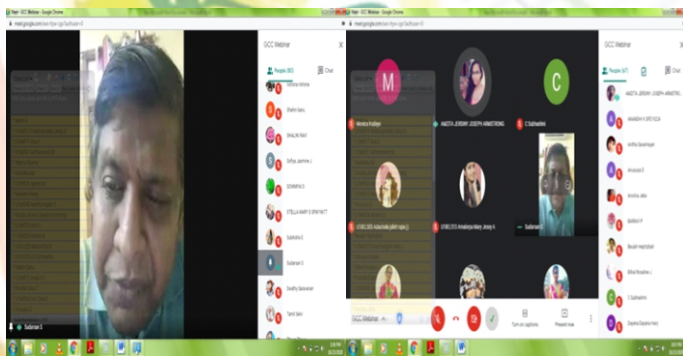
person and she spoke on the topic **“Role of Education in Women Empowerment”**. The webinar focused on the need and importance of education in the lives of women. Dr. Chandra expressed her love towards education and efforts of the youngest Nobel Laureate, Pakistani young activist for female education Ms, Malala. 103 students actively participated through Google Meet.

Webinar on “Ignorance of Law is no Excuse”

The Third Webinar was organised on the topic **“Ignorance of Law is No Excuse”** on 23 October 2020. This webinar mainly focused on how today's womenfolk from infant to aged are becoming the



victims of Social and criminal harassments. The resource person Mr.Sudarsan Sundaram, Advocate, Adjunct professor, School of Law, Sastra University



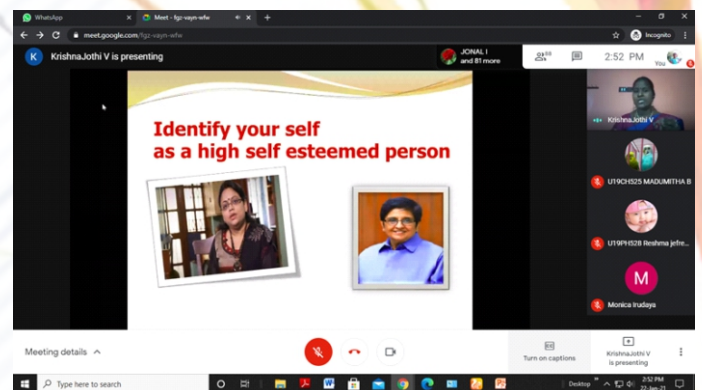
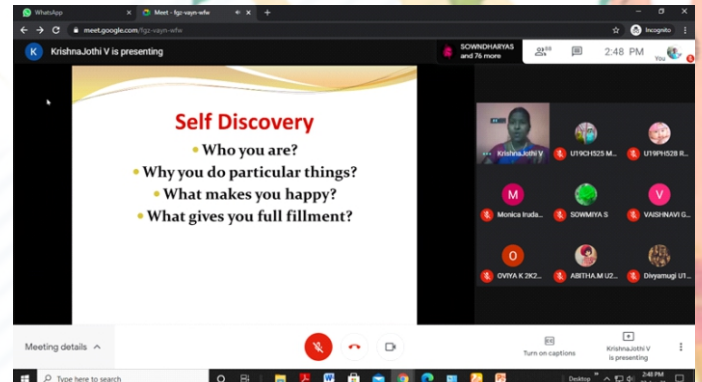
enthralled the audience with the topics of the law against the enforcement on child marriage, divorce system, domestic violation and dowry prohibition. He also enunciated about the depreciation of women education, injustice led by bigamy and polyandry. The webinar's main objective is making the students aware of the laws that would be beneficial in the social life. 80 members participated in the webinar.

Webinar on “National Girl Child Day 2021”

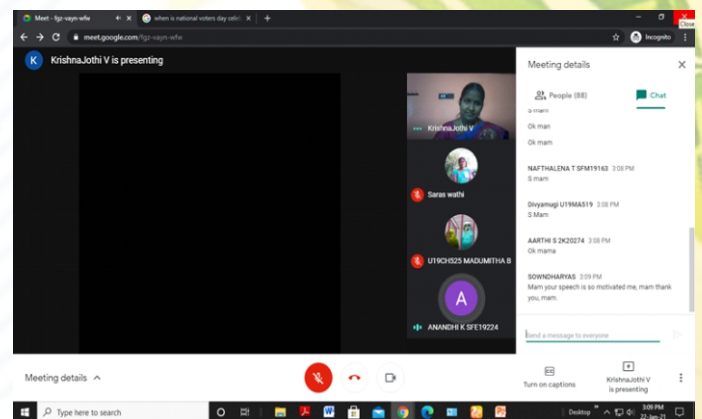
The fourth Webinar was organised on the eve of National Girl Child Day 2021 in the same topic on 22 January 2021. This webinar was organized to emphasis the need of celebrating the girl children and the resource person of the session was Dr. V. Krishna Jothi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religion

Philosophy and Sociology, The American College, Madurai made a mention of being a girl child to the lovable parents.

She quoted the lyrics of the great Tamil Poet Kavimani Desiyavinayagam **“மங்கையராய் றிறப்பதற்கே மாதவம் செய்திட வேண்டுகும்மா”** and



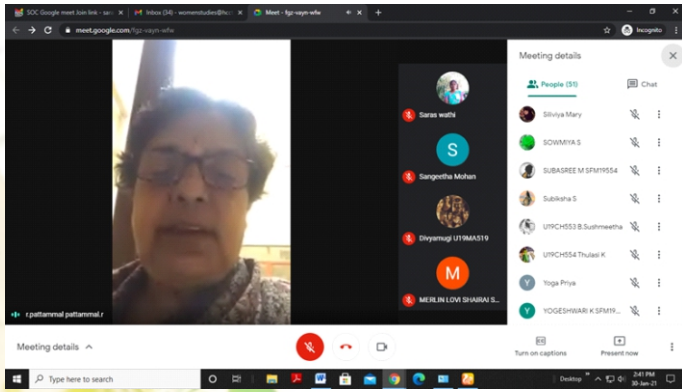
made the audience feel elated on being born as female child. She also insisted that the students should be grateful to their parents for nurturing and treating them



as their little princesses. 78 students participated in the webinar.

Webinar on “Women's Challenges and Prospects”

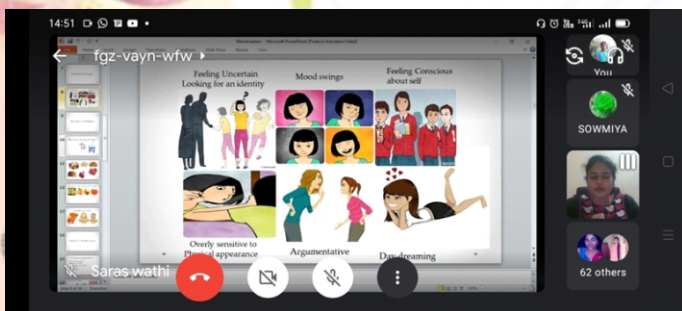
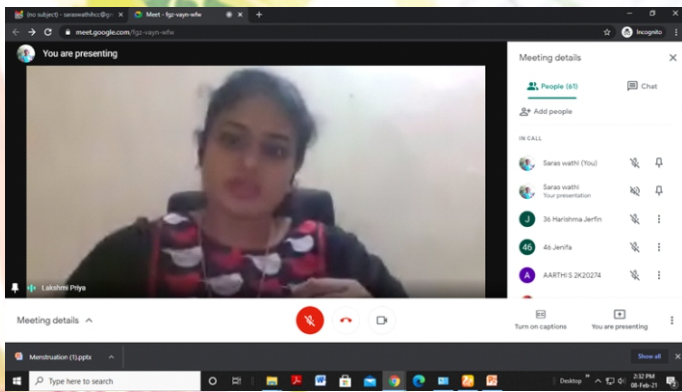
The fifth Webinar was organised on 30 January 2021 on the topic **Women's Challenges and Prospects**. The speaker Mrs. R. Pattammal, A Freelancer from Bangalore, created awareness to the students and cautioned them on the challenges they have to face in their near future after graduation. She



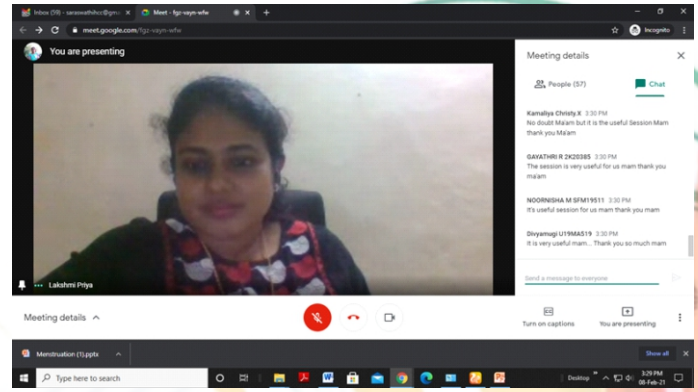
discussed the practical difficulties and the challenges faced by the women in all spheres of life. She also shared it is ecstatic to be a woman and that too a successful woman who makes all her obstacles as the stepping stones of success. The entire session was motivating and captivating to the gender champions. 78 Gender Champion Club members participated in the webinar.

Webinar on “Menstrual Hygiene”

Ms. K. Lakshmipriya, Future Coordinator, Rainbow Home Programme, Chennai was the speaker for the sixth webinar organised by the club on 8 February 2021 on the topic **Menstrual Hygiene**. The speaker insisted that it is important for every woman to feel comfortable and to be at ease during her menstruation; in the same way as the youngsters the



teenagers and adolescents should be aware of the ways and means of maintaining the health and hygiene at the time of their menstrual cycle. She provided the data of mishaps that took place during the menstruation because of the lack of menstrual hygiene. Her speech



was a note of warning to the students to maintain their menstrual hygiene and to have healthy and happy periods. 78 students participated in the webinar through Google Meet.

Honouring the Leaders

The President (Ms. Kamalia Christy.X, II B.A English) and Secretary (Ms. Thulasi.K, II B.Sc. Chemistry'C') of the Club were honored with shield and Certificate during the Valedictory function which



was conducted by the College.

Details of Participation

❖ Gender Fest Competition

Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli organized 'Gender Fest – 2021' on 4 March 2021. This year's theme for the Gender fest is same as International Women's Day, "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world". Due to COVID – 19 lockdown, participants were asked to record the events in DVD and submit the written papers to them. WSC had participated in all the competitions except Documentary film making. The WSC received maximum number of prizes in the competition. Twenty eight students got prizes in the following competitions. Elocution(Tamil) - II Prize, Folk Dance - I Prize, Classical Dance Solo - I Prize, Group Song (Indian) - II Prize, Skit - II Prize, Mime - I Prize and Poster Making - I Prize. The Gender Fest prizes were distributed at International Women's Day – 2021, on 15 September 2021 at Women in Convocation Hall, Bharathidasan University, Palkalaiperur Campus, Tiruchirappalli. Due to COVID 19 pandemic and to



maintain social distance the organizers requested the College to send one staff Co-ordinator and one student to receive the prizes. Hence the Gender Fest Co-ordinator Dr. R. Saraswathi, and Ms. K. Thevatharsane, I M.Sc. Mathematics 'B', HCC received the maximum number of prizes from Prof. M. Selvam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University and Prof. G. Gopinath, Registrar, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

❖ **Best Social Worker Award**

Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, selected for the '**Best Social Worker Award**' for the year 2021, in recognition of her ardent Professional Social Work endeavours as '**a Practitioner**'. The award presented in the '**World Social Work Day Celebration 2021**' organized by



Manamakil Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Research Foundation, Villupuram in collaboration with PG & Research Department of Social Work, Bishop Heber College, on March 16, 2021.

❖ **Self-Appraisal Report to UGC**

As per the communication received from the University Grants Commission, the Centre submitted its Self-Appraisal Report to UGC on 2 August 2020 through the online link given by the UGC.

Accomplishments:

- ❖ Offered Certificate Course in Gender and Development
- ❖ Offered Certificate Course in Women and Law
- ❖ Offered a course on Gender studies for II UG students and III UG Students
- ❖ Advocacy activities in association with District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli
- ❖ Celebrated Indian Constitution day
- ❖ Observed National Voters Day
- ❖ Conducted legal awareness webinars
- ❖ Conducted various awareness programmes on gender in Gender Champion Club
- ❖ Library and documentation
- ❖ Information displayed on notice board
- ❖ International Women's Day celebration
- ❖ Participated in the programmes organized by phase II Centres
- ❖ Certificate course and Gender Champion Club members won maximum number of prizes in 'Gender Fest Competitions'

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