



# 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

2021 - 2022

Volume - 12

### From the Editor.....

**“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent” – Eleanor Roosevelt**

Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College is indeed happy in bringing out its newsletter edition. The year was filled with activities both online and onsite with huge support from students and outsiders. The Centre's activities in women development has been witnessed by many scholars for more than a decade. Sincere thanks to UGC, the Management, Principal, Task Force Committee members, students representatives and well-wishers for their strong and continuous support

### 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 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. A total of 1792 students studied the course in this academic year. In the even semester, Gender Studies was offered to III UG students of School of Management Studies in the even semester. Syllabus and course details are shared with course teachers. A total of 503 Students studied the course

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

Women's Studies Centre offered a 'Certificate Course in Women and Law' under HRD offered certificate courses from 24 June 2021 to 3 July 2021. The classes were conducted for ten days in which each day they attended 3 hours from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The entire course was handled by Mr. M. Chinna Mani, Advocate, Ms. S. Gomathi, Advocate and



Mr. S. Kothandaraman, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli through online platform. Under Graduate and Post Graduate students from various Departments, 67- both men and women students registered for the course and at last 62 students completed the course. The students opined that the course was very useful and met their expectations.

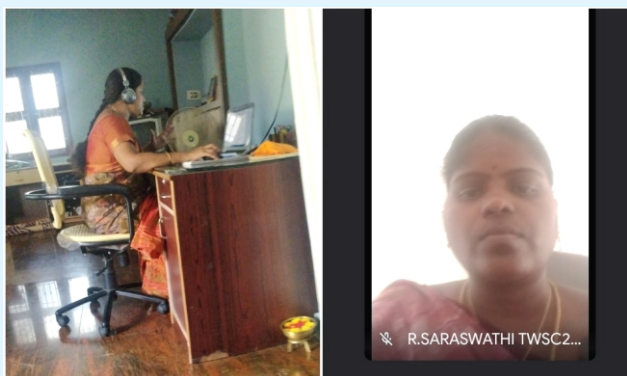
The second batch was held from 6 December 2021 to 11 December 2021. Six days classes were



conducted for I under Graduate and I Post Graduate students in which students attended 5 hours a day from 9:30 AM – 3 P.M. Since hundred students registered for the course, they were divided into two sections. The classes were handled by Ms.S.Gomathi, Advocate, Ms.J.Sudha, Advocate, Ms. Sathya, Advocate, Ms.Kowsalya, Advocate, Mr.S.Arockianathan, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli and Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC at Room No.181 and Room No.182 at Mother Sophy's Block, HCC. Advocates taught classes using chalk and talk method, played videos, role -play on case proceedings, group discussions and writing petitions/ application for basic legal need. A total of 71 students completed the course including one male student. The students opined that the Course was very useful in knowing the women's legal rights and felt satisfactory.. Entry and exit level evaluations were conducted and found that there was much improvement in the scores.

### c) Certificate Course in Gender and Development

The Centre has been offering the Bharathidasan University approved Certificate Course in Gender and Development since 2012-2013 for Under graduate and Post Graduate students. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre and Dr. K. Dhanalakshimi, Assistant Professor of Mathematics handled the classes. The students completed seminar, assignment and quiz as part of the Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA) for 25 marks and the external examination is for 75 marks. As part of CIA component, students had interaction with women to record their achievement and sufferings and recorded in video for seminar, prepared posters on women welfare agencies and some women related international initiative. A total of 7 students from the departments of Business Administration, Physics, and Biochemistry attended the certificate course. All seven students completed the certificate course successfully.



## Training

### • Internship

As part of internship Ms.K. Ranjani, Ms. M. Angelin Arsha, Ms. M. Ramya, Ms. G. Carolina, Ms. V. Santhi, Ms. G.K. Karthika Meenatchi



and Ms. V. Karthika of I-B.A. Economics, Holy Cross College did many activities at Women's Studies Centre, HCC from 15 December 2021 to 22 December 2021. These students participated in the activities such as poster display, watching gender cookies for better understanding about patriarchal system in India. Life Skill Education activities, like street play, The Great Indian Kitchen movie screening and Legal Awareness Campaign for Post-Women. They also attended the orientations on National Legal Services Authority, Legal Aid Clinic and gender sensitization given by Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC. She gave a lecture on Role of women in helping the economically weaker sections in India and functioning of WSC in favour of women at HCC. Students had a discussion on street play concepts and role segregation.

### • Training Programme on Life Skill Education

The Training Programme on Life Skill Education for adolescent girls was conducted at the College campus on 17, 21 and 22 December 2021. The training started with an ice breaking session. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC conducted the training with the activities such as group work, all about me, reasons for child crying, power play, snake and the tail, win-win attitude etc., The



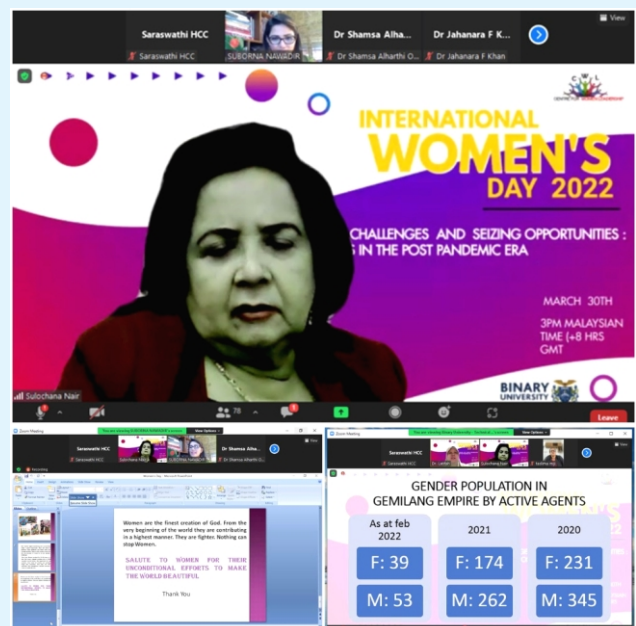
skills learnt were critical thinking, creative thinking, effective communication and self-awareness. The participants opined that they enjoyed the activities as well as identified their power and efficiency of women. A total of 11 students from I UG and II UG participated in the training programme.

### Details of Participation - Students' Participation

- ❖ Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Department of Women's Studies, University of Madras, Chennai and Regional Association for Women's Studies (RAWS) jointly organized the commemorative webinar on “The Contribution of Kamala Bhasin to Women's Studies and Women's Movement” on 6 October 2021 from 3 p.m. to 5. 30 p.m. The following students Suvethasri G.R., II B.Sc. Physics, R. Shruthee, II B.Com – BPO, Akshara R, II BCA 'A', Devadharshini S, II B.Com 'A', Sagaya Sherlin A, II BBA 'B', Kamila Catherin M, II B.Voc (BFSI) and Madona A, II B.Sc. Mathematics 'A' attended the webinar through google meet platform.
- ❖ Department of Women's Studies and Regional Association for Women's Studies (RAWS) jointly organized The International day for the Girl Child National Webinar on the Theme : 'Digital Generation, Our Generation' on 11 October 2021 from 3 p.m. to 5. 30 p.m. The following students Niresha Gnana Mary A, II B.Sc. Chemistry 'B', R. Shruthee, II B.Com (BPO), Suvethasri G.R., II B.Sc. Physics, Preethi R, II B.Sc. Fashion and Costume Designing, Kamila Catherin M, II B.Voc. (BFSI), Madona A, II B.Sc. Mathematics 'A', Devadharshini S, II B.Com 'A', Sagaya

Sherlin A, II BBA 'B', attended the webinar through google meet platform.

- ❖ Mr.Manikandan, I M.Sc. Psychology and Ms.Chrislin Sona, III BASLP participated in 'Digital Poster Competition' on the theme – Mental Health in a Poster making competition organised by Department of Psychology, Carmel College of Arts, Science and Commerce for Women in collaboration with Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), Goa on 25 October 2021. They sent their posters by email as well as posted in Instagram to ensure their participation.
- ❖ Roundtable Discussion on Overcoming Challenges and Seizing Opportunities: Women Icons in the Post Pandemic Era Binary University, Malaysia conducted a Virtual Roundtable Discussion on 'Overcoming Challenges and Seizing Opportunities: Women Icons in the Post Pandemic Era' on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Dr.M. Mary Jayanthi, Dr.M. Mary Mejrullo Merlin, Vice Principals, Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Representatives of Women's Studies Centre and interested students participated in the event held from 12.30 p.m. to 2.40p.m. There were 27 students from the departments of Business Administration, Chemistry, Mathematics, Commerce, Commerce – Business Process Outsourcing, English, Tamil, Visual Communication and History who participated. The main objective of the discussion was to 'Be an Icon. Create dignity for your Life'. The round table discussion highlighted the ability



of women to overcome challenges and seize their opportunities and the problems women faced in the post pandemic period.

- ❖ Participation in 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediation Day Celebration Awareness Camp A group of students participated in the awareness camp to commemorate 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediation day which was celebrated on 9 April 2022 at District Court Campus, Tiruchirappalli. Mr.Vivekanandan, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli spoke about the civil and criminal laws and how it safe guards the rights of citizens



of India. Senior advocates namely Mrs. Selvam Tamarasi, Mrs. Sowndarajan, Mrs. Imayavalli, Mrs. Indragandhi, Mrs. Seethalakshmi, Mr. Chinadurai, Mr. Chellaraj and Mr. Ramachandran spoke about the importance of mediation day, Legal aid, present judgements and Lok Adalat. A total of 53 students participated in the awareness camp.

#### - Co-ordinator's Participation

- ❖ Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC participated in the 'Training for the newly selected Para Legal Volunteers of National Legal Services Authority' on 4 September 2021 from 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Principal District Court Old Building, Tiruchirappalli
- ❖ Participated in the National Webinar 'Shadow Pandemic – Domestic Violence in the wake of COVID-19' organized by PG & Research Department of Social Work, Cauvery College for Women (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli on 7 September 2021
- ❖ Attended five days online National Level Faculty Development Programme on 'Innovative

Approaches in Management Teaching' organized by Department of Business Administration, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli from 20 September 2021 to 24 September 2021.

- ❖ Attended the three day Online Faculty Development Programme on 'Scholarly Writings' organised by PG and Research Department of Commerce in association with the IQAC, under UGC PARAMARSH Scheme from 23 September 2021 to 25 September 2021
- ❖ Participated in the online Genderlogue panel discussion on 'Generation Equality 2021' organized by Sophia Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Sophia College (Autonomous), Mumbai in Collaboration with Friedrich College, Mumbai on 27 September 2021
- ❖ Participated in the commemorative webinar on 'The Contribution of Kamala Bhasin to Women's Studies and Women's Movement' organised by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli jointly with the Department of Women's Studies, University of Madras, Chennai & Regional Association for Women's Studies on 6 October 2021
- ❖ Participated in the online Faculty Development Programme entitled 'Introduction to Mutual Fund Investing' organised by IQAC & Department of Bank Management, Tagore College of Arts and Science, Chennai in association with Mcube Academy on 22 October 2021.
- ❖ Participated in the National Webinar on 'Causes and Consequences of Acid Attacks on women in India' organised by Women's Studies Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamilnadu with the support of National Commission for Women, New Delhi on 16 November 2021.
- ❖ Participated in the National webinar on “Feminism in India” organized by the Department of Social Work, Ganpat University, Gujarat on 21 January 2022.

#### Research

- **Proposals Applied**
- Webinar on 'Reproductive Health in India – Gender and Constitutional Safeguarding

Mechanisms' submitted to National Commission for Women, New Delhi on 30 May 2021 through online portal for Rs.50,000/- (Acknowledgement Number : NCW/1202112259516/SCW/2021-2022/10963)

- Research proposal on 'Study on Role of Media in promoting Gender perceptions among College Students in Tamil Nadu' submitted to National Commission for Women, New Delhi on 31 July 2021 through online portal for Rs.18,37,000/- ( Acknowledgement Number : NCW/1202112263590/RS/2021-2022/3159)
- A proposal entitled 'Seminar on Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence against Women - Safety Measures through Social, Governmental and Legal Systems for Nation Building' has been applied to National Commission for Women (NCW) by online on 12 December 2021
- A proposal entitled 'National Conference on Women's Contribution in Freedom Struggle and Gender Equality for Sustainable Development and Social Justice' has been applied for Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Southern Regional Centre (SRC), Hyderabad under the scheme “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” online on 15 February 2022

## Field Action

### ❖ National Nutrition Week Celebration

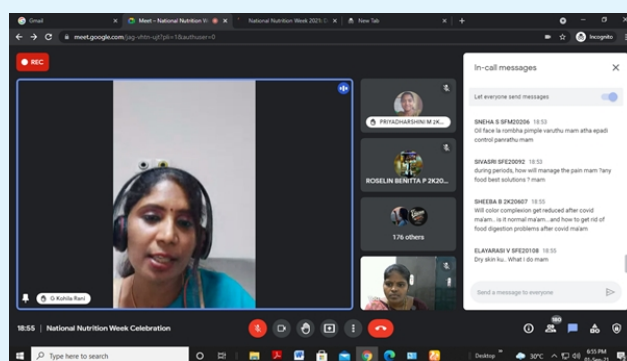
In commemoration of the celebration of National nutrition week ,the Women's Studies Centre of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli conducted a week-long celebration of **National Nutrition Week Celebration** from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021. With regard to this various competitions were held each day, like quiz for Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) Students of HCC on the topic *Nutrition for Women during COVID* on 1 September 2021. There were 617



participants out of which 116 scored 20/20. These students received a prize (Pen) for their full score at the prize distribution programme. An on campus *Know*

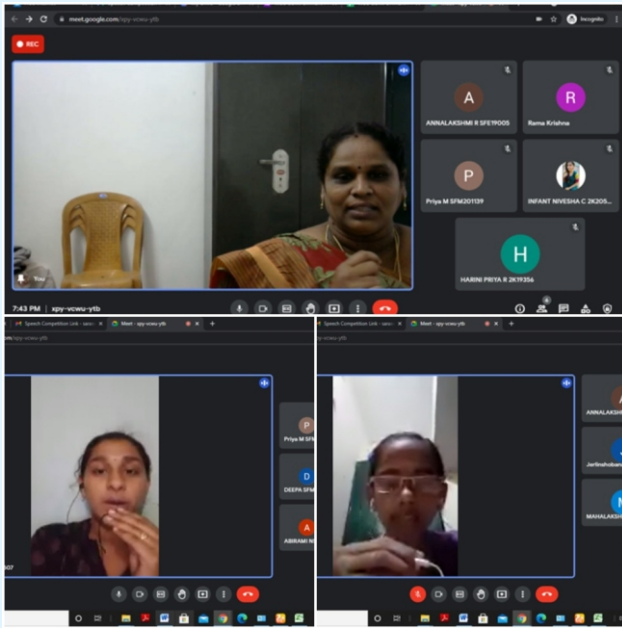


*your health* – Health Check-up Programme was held for the female administrative staff in association with the Department of MLT of the college, where the height ,weight and haemoglobin count was tested. A total of 71 women administrative staff were benefited by this programme. A webinar was conducted for the public in the evening of the same day on the topic *Nutrition during COVID for Healthy Citizens*. Ms.Kohilarani, Nutritionist, Apollo Hospital, Tiruchirappalli was the speaker. She enlightened the participants on health care. 182 participants consisted



both of public and students of HCC. The participants were benefited by clarifying their doubts regarding their health issue and got their e-certificate.

A Speech competition was held for female students of Holy Cross College on 2 September 2021 on the topic *COVID and Families* in Online mode. Dr. S. Mohana Priya, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was the judge for the competition.



There were 18 participants and 3 prizes winners were selected.

*Delicious Diet to fight against COVID* competition was held for Teaching Staff of Holy Cross



College on 2 September 2021, at Women's Studies Centre, HCC in which the participants were asked to select one spice and one herb and mention its nutritive value. Dr.M.Francis Sathiyaseelan, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli judged the event and 3 prize winners were selected from 12 participants.



*Nutri Shape Formation-* an On Campus competition was held for administrative staff of the college on 3 September 2021 at Youth4Jobs Classroom, HCC were the participants were asked to segregate the mixed pulses and formed shapes of fruits and vegetables. Dr.I. Ruby Merlin, Assistant Professor of English & Dean of Student Affairs, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was the judge and 3 prize winners were selected out of 21 participants.

A rangoli competition '*Color Splash on Women in COVID Situation*' was held for male students and male administrative staff of the College on 6 September



2021 at Mother Sophy's Block Ground Floor, HCC. Mr.A. Francis, Teacher, St. Joseph's College Higher Secondary School, Tiruchirappalli was the judge. He selected 3 prize winners from 12 participants.

The week long celebration which came to an end on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, had a huge number of



enthusiastic participants who were judged by the respective field experts and the winners were honored with certificate and prizes held at a prize distribution function at Shanthi's Hall, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli. Dr.M.Mary Jayanthi, and Dr.M. Mary Mejrullo Merlin, Vice Principals, HCC distributed the prizes to the winners. Dr.M.Mary Jayanthi motivated the winners to take care of their physical and mental health which go hand in hand. The National Nutrition Week Celebration brought about awareness of leading a healthy life.

### ❖ International Day of Elderly Persons

International Day of Elderly Persons was observed on 1 October 2021. The theme for 2021 is “Digital Equity for All Ages” which affirms the need for access and meaningful participation in the digital



world by older persons. It was observed through Holy Cross Community radio by giving awareness about the day through poem, speech, song and storytelling on the importance of the day. Ms.Amrita, Ms.Nivesha, Ms.Revathi and Ms.Azhagudharshi of II UG contributed to the programme.

### ❖ World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was observed on 10 October 2021 through Holy Cross Community radio



by giving poem and speech on importance of the day, treatment methods and discussion to elicit the importance of mental health for healthy and happy life with emphasize to take care of mentally ill people. The contributors were Ms.Kamila Catherin, Ms.Sowndarya, Ms.Vidhya and Ms.Jefin.

### ❖ Basic Legal Awareness Programme

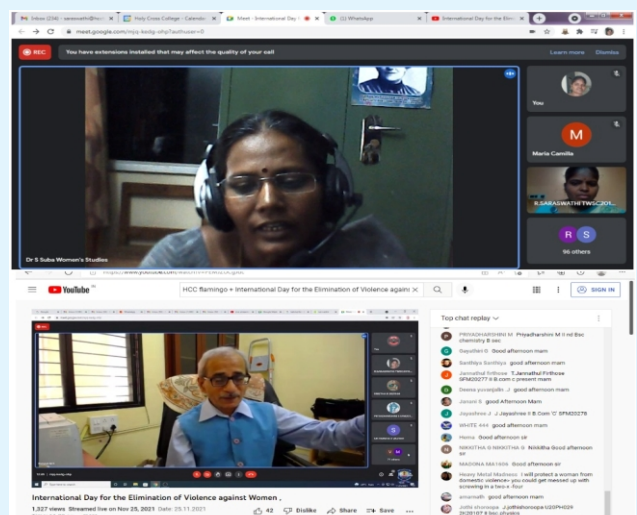
Basic Legal Awareness Programme was conducted for I UG students on 11 December 2021 at Room No.84, Mother Sophy's Block, HCC.



Ms.S.Gomathi, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli stated that women should not sign in blank sheet. Getting letters from bank is mandatory for refund and signing in the letter when one gets the refund. Women must read the notice carefully that has been sent by court for any case. Eg: Divorce case. Understand the process clearly enough to perceive that justice has been done. Insurance is compulsory for vehicles. Commercial awareness: With regard to online harassment, via email, includes black mailing, threatening and constant sending of love letters in anonymous names or regular sending of embarrassing mails- print copies of the mails and take them to your local police station for action. Do not accept the messages from social media whether it was boy or girl.

### ❖ International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

A webinar was organized to commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence



against Women' (#Orange Day) on 25 November 2021 through Google meet and YouTube. Ms.M. Maria Camilla, Assistant Professor, Department of English, HCC welcomed the gathering. Then the resource person Dr. S. Suba, Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli took over the session and gave a talk on the topic "Eliminating Violence through Gender Inclusion". In this session, she explained about the Gender-based violence (GBV) and the Strategies for Gender Inclusion. She concluded the session by listing the strategies for gender inclusion like strengthening legal policy framework and approaching this issue as a human right. Then the second session was handled by the resource person Dr. M.K. Ramesh, Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru. He gave an informative talk on the topic "Legal Rights of Women". He stated the different causes of violence and gender discrimination. He also briefly explained about the SEDA, Committee, shadow reporting and concluded that this discrimination can be avoided by change of mind sets and prejudices against women. Ms.S. Suganya, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, HCC thanked the participants. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC was the Master of Ceremony. There were 98 students via google meet and 1282 viewers via YouTube attended the webinar.

#### ❖ Legal Awareness Campaign for Post Persons

Women's Studies Centre honored the Post - Women on 22 December 2021 who are one of the trend setters in breaking gender roles/hindrances to march



towards women empowerment. The Senior Post - Master, Head Post Office, Tiruchirappalli welcomed the gathering and appreciated the post women for their hard work. Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC congratulated each Post woman and shared that having more post -women is a new and good improvement in postal department. She informed that WSC provide a Legal awareness module to disseminate legal rights of women and a sapling was also provided to each of the 15 post- women. Internship Students of I B.A Economics also took part in the event. The module given was very useful and they liked the idea of giving saplings.

#### ❖ International Human Solidarity Day - Street Play on 'Save Girl Child'

A street play was performed on the theme 'Save Girl Child' to observe International Human Solidarity



day on 20.12.2021. The message was women are born to win, not a sin and women are more powerful and can perform equal to men. The Internship Students namely Ms.K. Ranjani, Ms.M. Angelin Arsha, Ms.M. Ramya, Ms.G. Carolina, Ms.G.K. Karthika Meenatchi, Ms.Santhi and Ms.V. Karthika did street play near Water Tank, HCC. Nearly hundreds of students viewed the street play. Viewers opined that the street play is the need of the hour and conveyed the concept well. The street play actors felt very proud to be a part of the street play. The arrangements were made with the support of WSC Representatives.

### ❖ Movie Screening

To educate the students on the importance of women's contribution in family and patriarchal system, 'The Great Indian Kitchen' movie was screened in Shanthi's Hall, HCC on 20.12.2021. This



movie shows how the women suffer as a servant and how gender roles affect even the educated women. The views shared was that the movie was helpful to understand the sufferings of women managers and gender norms in the society. Women are not inferior to men. Both are equal. Women empowerment and gender equity is the need of the hour. A total of 24 students benefited out of it.

### ❖ Lecture on Gender Equity for Male Students

Women's Studies Centre conducted a 'Lecture on Gender Equity for Male Students' of Holy Cross College on 25 February 2022 at HCC. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC. The resource person Dr.N.Prasanna, Associate Professor & Head i/c, Department of Economics, Director i/c, Bharathidasan University Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Career Hub,



Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli explained about the meaning of gender, need for abolition about sexual harassment, protection of women's dignity, men have to understand gender equality. "Equality of status and opportunity" must be secured for all its citizens under the law as guaranteed by Article 14 of the Constitution. He explained in detail about the role of men in preventing Sexual harassment of women at work place and other common places with the help of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). Mr. L. Praveen Vimalraj, II M.A History thanked the gathering. 48 male students from the departments of Visual Communication, Social Work, Psychology, Environmental Science and Rehabilitation Science participated.

### ❖ International Women's Day Celebration

The Women's Day celebration was celebrated with pomp and gaiety at Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli on 8 March 2022. A prayer service was conducted highlighting women in



various spheres of life. The august gathering was welcomed by Dr K. Sureeka Felix, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Business Administration. The chief guest for the programme Dr.S. Inigo Irudayaraj, the honourable Member of Legislative Assembly, Trichy East, was honoured by the Secretary of the College Dr (Sr). Anne Xavier and the Principal, Dr. (Sr). Christina Bridget.

While delivering the presidential address, the chief guest recalled the history of women's day declaration in the USA by the working women who demanded equal wages. He highlighted the role of

Christian missionaries and sisters in making many women educated and empowered. During this occasion, five women who achieved excellence in different fields were felicitated - Ms. Ashadevi, the Head Mistress of Government Middle School, Pirattiyur, Ms. Vanaja Murugan, Proprietor of Akka Kadai, a traditional food stall, Ms. Vanajadevi, Social Activist on River Kaveri and for the rediscovery of paddy varieties, Ms. Chitradevi, a computer graduate turned organic farmer and Ms. Astalakshmi, the proprietor of Idhu Namma Nellu.

The celebration was marked by the cultural events- mime on 'endurance and empowerment of women' by the students and dance with emphasis on women's role in many aspects of life. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. S. Sashikala, Asst. Professor, Department of Business Administration and the college anthem.

#### ❖ Gender Awareness Activity for PG Students

Gender awareness activity was conducted for the students of II M.A. History and II M.Sc. Psychology on 8 April 2022. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator,



Women's Studies Centre, HCC facilitated the programme by taking class on gender equity. An activity on Gender Awareness was conducted for History and Psychology students separately at the

college grounds where they did self-analysis by answering 25 gender related questions to move one step forward or one step backward. At the end men scored more marks. The facilitator concluded that household activity areas need to be contributed by male students and general awareness and financial management areas need to be improved by female students. 6 male students and 19 female students from II PG History and Psychology classes participated.

#### ❖ Orientation on Women's Studies Centre's Services

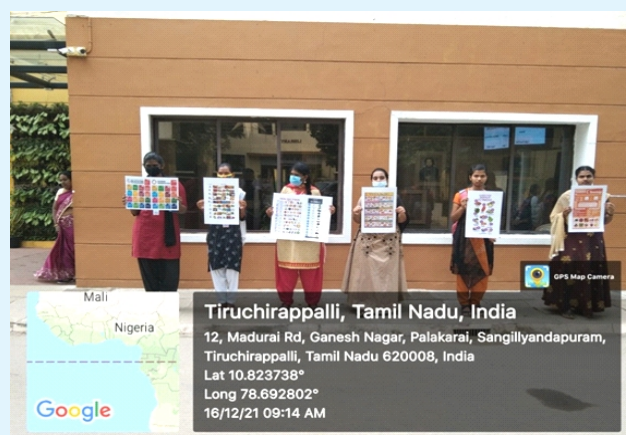
Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC gave an orientation about the various services such as certificate course in Gender and



Development, Certificate Course in Women and Law, Legal Aid Clinic, Gender Sensitization activities for male and female students for the benefit of students who reside at LF block on 8 April 2022. Basic concepts in gender awareness were also explained. Students opined that it was useful. The orientation was conducted from 4 p.m. 5.10p.m. A total of 105 students participated in the orientation.

#### Information Dissemination

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



### ○ **Poster Display**

As part of information dissemination, students displayed posters on 'Nutrition' near the College office on 16 December 2021 from 8.45 a.m. to 9.20 a.m. Staff and Students noted the important nutrition values and food to be taken for healthy and happy life. They voluntarily invited and motivated the students to learn these details.

On 17 December 2021, poster display was done near College Office and Student notice board on the theme 'Agencies for Women Protection'. They displayed poster on National Commission for Women, Women Police Station, Laws for women, Ministry of Women and Child Development, important rules and ways to overcome the problems with the help of government agencies. They also clarified the doubts of students.

### ○ **Library**

The Women's Studies Centre is 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 gender related videos as part of awareness creation

### ○ **WhatsApp Group**

The Centre has been disseminating information through a WhatsApp group called 'Women Managers' (earlier 'Queen') consists of 111 teaching staff, within the College.

### ○ **Website**

The Centre's vision, mission, objectives, wings and recent activities are displayed on the College website : [http://www.hcctrichy.ac.in/Services/Womens\\_Studies\\_Centre](http://www.hcctrichy.ac.in/Services/Womens_Studies_Centre)

### ○ **Notice Board**

This has been regularly updated by posting the programme invitations, gender data and newspaper clippings.



### ○ **Newsletter**

The activities of the WSC are disseminated through its newsletter every year. The current year (2021 – 2022) 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.

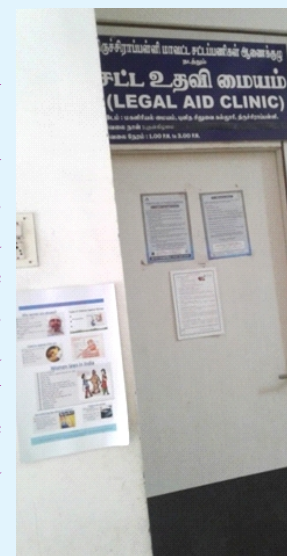
### ○ **College Magazine**

Activities of the Women's Studies Centre for the academic year 2021 – 22 are recorded in the Annual report and included in College magazine called Holy Road.

## **Advocacy**

### **Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)**

Legal Aid Clinic, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli funded by District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli did not have advocate's visit since the District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli did not send advocates to any clinic except HIV/AIDS care Centre, Collector Office and Central Jail due to COVID-19 issue. Dr.R.Saraswathi,



(Co-ordinator, WSC) the Para-Legal Volunteer engaged in guiding people to prepare petition to find solutions for their problems.

#### ❖ **Case 1: Guidance to Approach Police Station**

Ms. A, an Assistant Professor in a College experienced domestic violence, dowry, cruelty and abuse by her husband and his family for eight years from the day of their marriage and not able to bear the torture went to her mother's house with her two children. Her husband filed a case for divorce in court. Her petition filed against her husband regarding property issues was accepted by the police and is in process.

#### ❖ **Case 2: Sexual Harassment at Work Place**

Ms. B, has been subjected to numerous sexual harassments by her department's Head. . The Legal Aid Clinic advised her to always be brave to handle the issue and if she was asked to meet the Principal of the College for this issue. She was advised to have the courage to say what happened at that time. If the problem gets serious she was informed to contact National Commission for Women, New Delhi immediately to solve this. At last the information was shared to a senior faculty and she warned the harasser and solved the issue. The LAC fully supported her by giving guidance and courage to solve this issue.

#### ❖ **Case 3: Legal Advice for Child Welfare**

Ms. C, is divorced with a baby girl. Ms.C got stressed getting a suitable alliance for re-marriage and approached the Legal Aid Clinic for guidance. She was advised to place a Fixed Deposit Fund in the name of baby girl and arrange for her to grow up in the warmth of her grandparents till Ms.C establish good rapport and win the hearts of in-laws.

#### ❖ **Case 4: Advocacy for Land Ownership**

Ms.D an office worker paid a seller with the intention of buying a vacant plot of land. She has sought legal help after being deceived for many years claiming that the recipient did not give her the vacant land. The Legal Aid Clinic Co-ordinator spoke to him by phone call stating that if the land was not given within a month, a case suit will be filed on his name in the following month. So the seller has now assured that he will allocate the land to the staff as soon as possible.

#### ❖ **Case 5: Guidance to Check Case Status Online**

A Teaching staff could not find out the status of the case on her father's property filed by her relatives in another district as she did not have time to go in person to Nagercoil as well as her husband did not allow her to do so. The Legal Aid Clinic guided her to know the status of the case electronically as if she was at home and the details were emailed.

#### ❖ **Case 6: Advocacy for House**

In continuation to the efforts taken to get a house from Slum Clearance Board, Ms.E's has received the information from the same to submit the required details in order to allot a house to the administrative staff as soon as possible with the help of Legal Aid Clinic.

#### ❖ **Case 6: Legal Advice**

An administrative staff was relieved from verbal harassment and torture from her alcoholic father-in-law by the able advice and guidance given by Legal Aid.

#### ❖ **Case 7: Correction in Aadhar card**

Guided an administrative staff to approach Head Post Office to correct her name in her Aadhar card with evidences.

#### ❖ **Case 8: Clarification**

Ms.B got her community certificate which was very much needed for her to get her government post approved, with the help rendered through WSC...

#### ❖ **Case 9: Clarification**

Ms.C is an administrative staff at Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, was advised on the legal issues of the divorce and instilled hope and confidence regarding her husband's return in future.

#### ❖ **Case 10: Cheque issue**

A bounced cheque for Rs. Fifteen Thousand was cleared with the proper guidance and advise by the WSC co-ordinator to a vegetable vendor.

### **Any other**

#### 🌟 **WSC Representatives Meet**

The first meeting with WSC representatives was conducted on 25 August 2021 through google meet – online platform mode from 3.10 p.m. to 4 p.m..

Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, WSC explained the background of the Centre, milestones and its wings. Roles and responsibilities of the WSC Representatives were explained. The second meeting was conducted at



Women's Studies Centre on 20 September 2021 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The importance of certificate courses in Women and Law and Gender and Development were explained to the representatives. Responsibilities were allotted to many to observe International Day of Older Persons and World Mental Health Day at Holy Cross Community Radio. The third meeting was conducted on 22 March 2022 at Women's Studies Centre from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC shared the following details in the meeting such as Soft Skill class reminders should be posted one day before the class, Importance of Certificate Course in Gender and Development should be disseminated to their concerned department students for enrollment. More students should be motivated to attend webinars and competitions and trainings shall be conducted for WSC Representatives. Data collection need to done for research work on 'Gender Roles perception among children in slums'. A 22 student representatives from each II UG class supported the activities.

#### ❁ Professional Support

❖ Mrs. G.S. Leelavathy was a student of B.Sc. Mathematics at HCC. After marriage she tried to join B.Ed College with the support of her husband. Since she has planned to join in girls college and had less idea about the college, she requested the WSC to guide her in this regard. The WSC revealed the truth that that is a co-education college and she has to make sure

about the fees and course material. She also informed to have a discussion with present students.

❖ One administrative staff, HCC tries to obtain a house from Slum Clearance Board for her son and daughter-in-law. Her son has been requesting the concerned authorities for house allotment. The WSC Co-ordinator advised her to apply with all widow certificate as well as salary certificate to avail the house at the earliest.

#### ❁ International Women's Day – Award Committee Member

Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre served as an Award Committee member among 5 members for International Women's Day Award. The committee selected 5 eligible women candidates for women achievers award at the international Women's day celebration.

#### ❁ Visitor

Mr. Mohamed Aashik Rahman, Founder – CEO, Propeller Technologies R& D Pvt. Ltd., Tiruchirappalli visited Women's Studies Centre, HCC as part of observation visit on 5 April 2022. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC explained about the activities of Legal Aid Clinic and courses in details.

#### ❁ Salesian College Core Team's Observation Visit

NAAC Peer team visit for onsite assessment for IV cycle of Accreditation was held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. They visited WSC on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The members were Fr.Prof. Tomy Augustine sdb, Rector, Salesian College Sonada, Director, Salesian Research Centre and Publications, Faculty, Department of English and Philosophy (Leader of the



Team), Fr. Dr. Babu Joseph SDB, Vice Principal, Librarian, Campus Minister, IGNOU Coordinator and Faculty in Department of History, Dr. Bikash Sarma, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Secretary Research Centre and Assistant Editor, Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Shilpita Gine, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Member Women's Cell and Dr. Terence Mukhia, Associate Professor, Department of English and Philosophy, IQAC Coordinator and Dean of Arts in Salesian College, Sonada. Dr. R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC explained the activities of WSC in brief with the power point presentation. The Secretary and the Vice Principal of Salesian College impressed by the works of WSC. Dr. Shilpita Gine, Member, Women's Cell got clarification regarding applying for proposals and Legal Awareness Programme Grant which the WSC received from National Commission for Women. They also asked about the research work and funds for WSC from UGC.

### Gender Champion Club



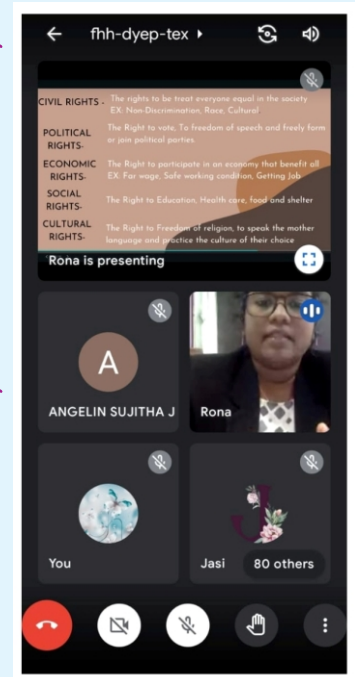
The information regarding the activities of Gender Champion Club was displayed on the WSC's notice board for the benefit of students to get to know about the activities.

Dr.P.Shanthi, Dean of Extension conducted a meeting for all IUG Arts students for the enrollment of members for Service Oriented Courses on 5 October 2021 from 2 p.m to 4p.m. All the wings' Co-ordinators presented their wings activities with its importance. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre presented the importance of Gender Champion Club and the benefits of membership. The same procedure was followed for Science students on the same day. The students were asked to enroll themselves in interested wing through online portal

available in the College website. Dr.M.Prema, Assistant Professor of Tamil and Ms.B. Steffi Sagaya Mary, Assistant Professor of English were the Nodal officers and led the students in the following activities.

- **“All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and Fundamental Freedoms.”**

The Gender Champion Club of Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Tiruchirappalli, organized a guest lecture on 'Human Rights are Basic Rights: Can it be violated?' in commemoration of the Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 2:30 PM to 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker was heartily welcomed by Ms. W. Anabel Cathrene, President of the Gender Champion Club. The keynote speaker, Ms. Rona is a lawyer determined to bring justice to those in need. Ms. Rona spoke on the basic rights of every citizen and broadened the impressions of the participants on human rights and the various aspects involved in it. As per the feedback received from the participants, the session was very informative.



- **“One child, One teacher, One book, One pen can change the world.” – Malala Yusafzai**

Honoring “The Human Solidarity Day”, the Gender Championship Club, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, organized an online meet for the students on 20th of December 2021 from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. The keynote speaker of the day, a great educationist, Dr. Joy Sheryl, Ass. Professor, Women's Christian College, Chennai. Dr. Joy Sheryl conquered the minds of the participants with The Importance of Solidarity and emphasized “HeForShe”, the UN slogan for worldwide Solidarity movement for gender equality.



○ **Thanithuvam Mikkavargal Pengale**

The Gender Championship Club, Tiruchirappalli, organized a talk on 'Thanithuvam mikkavargal



pengale' for its members on 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. The key-note speaker of the day, Dr. Anu, Assistant professor, Department of Tamil, Holy Cross College spoke on the uniqueness and empowerment of women, the responsibilities they carry out efficiently and the high impact they have in shaping the next generation and the society. As per the feedback received from the participants, the session was useful, informative, mind blowing, and deeply analytic.

○ **Awareness on Cyber Crime**

The Gender Champion Club and The Disaster Management Club jointly organised a meet on 'Awareness on Cyber Crime' on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. the guests of honour were



Mr. P. Jayakumar and Mr. N. Murali, Sub-inspector of Police (TECH), Cyber Crime Police Station, Trichy City. They spoke on the vigilance and awareness of Cyber Crime and the several ways it affects the media platform.

○ **Programme on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013)**

The Gender Championship Club of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, organized a programme on Awareness against women harassment on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The welcome address was given by



Ms. B. Steffi Sagaya Mary, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Holy Cross College. The key-note speaker of the day was Ms. S. Gomathi, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli. The speaker highlighted the crimes against women and how the young generation can take safety measures to avoid problems. She stressed on the responsible use of the social media platform. The speaker gave real case histories to bring awareness to the students about the importance of their safety. The Vote of Thanks was rendered by Dr. M. Prema, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, HCC. As per the feedback received from the participants, the session was deeply sensitive and the talk was the need of the hour.

□ **Honouring the Leaders**

The leaders of the club namely Ms. W. Anabel Cathrene, President and Ms. R. Durgadevi, Secretary of the Club were honored with shield and Certificate during the overall Valedictory function which was conducted by the College on 26 April 2022 at Our



Lady's hall, HCC. Dr.L. Ganesan, Registrar i/c, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli was the chief guest. Dr.Sr.Christina Bridget, Principal, Holy Cross College, presided over the function.

#### ❑ Best Social Work Practitioner Award

Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, received 'Best Social Work



Practitioner Award' for the year 2022, in recognition of her passionate professional Social Work endeavours as a Practitioner, for her illustrious, impeccable, impactful service in Commemoration of World Social Work Day Celebrations, held on 15 March 2022 at Bishop Heber College organized by Department of Social Work, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli

#### ❑ Communication to UGC

■ WSC received an email at directorwsc2010@gmail.com from UGC to send the details of Women's

Studies and Gender Studies courses offered by the Centre. The details of courses along with beneficiaries/students from the inception of Centre were sent to UGC by email on 17 September 2021.

■ A follow-up letter for pending grants has been sent to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi by post on 17 February 2022

### Accomplishments

- ❖ Offered Bharathidasan University approved Certificate Course in Gender and Development
- ❖ Offered Certificate Course in Women and Law
- ❖ Legal aid through Legal Aid Clinic
- ❖ Offered a course on Gender studies for II UG students
- ❖ Observed National Nutrition Week
- ❖ Conducted legal awareness programmes
- ❖ Conducted various awareness programmes on gender in Gender Champion Club
- ❖ Library and documentation
- ❖ Information displayed in notice board
- ❖ International Women's Day celebration
- ❖ Participated in the programme organized by phase II Centres.

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