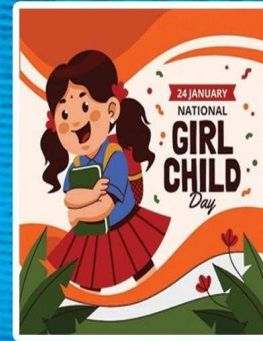


Proceedings of the
National Conference (Hybrid Mode)
on

“The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and
Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World”

24th January 2024



Organized by

Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC)

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University

Nationally Accredited (4th Cycle) with A++ Grade (CGPA3.75/4) by NAAC

College with Potential for Excellence

Tiruchirappalli - 620002.

In Collaboration with

Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

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College With Potential for Excellence , Tiruchirappalli - 620002

Tamil Nadu, India



One - Day

National Conference (Hybrid Mode)

On

**“The Evolving Landscape : Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl
Child in a Dynamic World”**

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Tiruchirappalli - 620002

In Collaboration with

Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi.

Venue: Our Lady's Hall

Time: 9.00 am

INAUGURATION

(24th January 2024, 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.)

Programme:

Prayer and Lighting the lamp

Welcome Address: **Dr. Sr. Rajakumari, P**
Principal
Holy Cross College (Autonomous)
Tiruchirappalli

Theme Introduction: **Dr. N. Manimekalai**
Director
Centre for Women's Development Studies
New Delhi

Inaugural Address : **Ms. S. Jothimani**
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Lok Sabha (Karur Constituency)

Felicitations : **Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier**
Secretary
Holy Cross College (Autonomous)
Tiruchirappalli

Prof. Indrani Mazumdar
Former Faculty
Centre for Women's Development Studies

Keynote Address : **Dr. R. Vidyasagar**
Former UNICEF Child Protection
Specialist, Chennai

Vote of Thanks: **Dr. Horne Iona Averal**
IQAC Co-ordinator
Holy Cross College (Autonomous)
Tiruchirappalli

Tea Break : 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Plenary Session I:

10:30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Resource Person:

Prof. Indrani Mazumdar

Former Faculty, Centre for Women's Development Studies
Presently on Consultancy Contract with
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
New Delhi

Topic:

Migrant Girls at textiles and garment Work

11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Marappachi presents Ulluram (A Solo Performance on Child Sexual Abuse)

Direction: Ms. A. Mangai

Former Associate Professor of English
Stella Maris College, Chennai

Plenary Session II: (Online Mode)

11.30 a.m. - 12.10 p.m.

Resource Person:

Prof. Polly Vauqueline

Professor Department of Women's Studies
Gauhati University, Assam

Topic:

Girls in North East Region: prospects about vulnerabilities

Plenary Session III: (Online Mode)

12.15 p.m. - 12.40 p.m.

Resource Person:

Dr. Nandini Ghosh

Assistant Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

Topic:

Disabled girls and their vulnerabilities

Plenary Session III: (Online Mode)

12.50 p.m. - 1.20 p.m.

Resource Person:

Ms. Sobha Koshy

Former Chair Person

State Commission for Protection of Child Rights , Kerala

Topic:

Exploring the challenges and possibilities for the girl child in the evolving digital world

Parallel Session:

Oral Paper Presentation

Lunch Break: 1.20 p.m.- 2.00 p.m.

Panel Discussion :

2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Chair Person :

Dr. S. Suba

Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies
Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli – 620 024

Topic:

Revisiting of the Culture Stereotypes on Girl Child

The Panelist:

1. **Ms. T. Jayanthi Rani**

Advocate, Tiruchirappalli

Former Member, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Topic: *Prevention of Child Marriage*

2. **Dr. J. O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo**

Associate Professor, Department of Social work

Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli

Topic: *Mental and Emotional Health needs for girls*

3. **Ms. U. Nirmala Rani**

Advocate / Social Activist, Tiruchirappalli

Topic: *Secondary Victimization of girl child-rape victims*

Tea Break : 3.30 – 4.00 pm

VALEDICTION

4.00- 5.00 pm

Prayer

Welcome Address:

Dr. P. Prisheela

Co-ordinator

Women's Studies Centre

Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli

Valedictory Address:

Ms. M. Nithya

District Social Welfare Officer

Collectorate Campus, Tiruchirappalli

Report & Summary:

Ms. B. Steffi Sagaya Mary

Assistant Professor of English

Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli

Certificate Distribution:

Dr. Sr. Rajakumari, P

Principal

Holy Cross College(Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli

Vote of Thanks:

Dr. N. Manimekalai

Director,

Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

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Dr. Senthamil Selvi, A.

Dr. Darsana, S.B.

Dr. Sasikala, G.

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Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod

Holy Cross Provincialate, Puthur, Tiruchirappalli - 620 017, Tamil Nadu
Phone : (0431) 2771724 e-mail: sccprovincialatetry@gmail.com



Applauding the admirable initiative led by Dr. Sr. P. Rajakumari, Principal of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, and acknowledging the indispensable contribution of Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier, Secretary, along with the dedicated team for orchestrating the One-Day National Conference in Hybrid Mode on the theme "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World," on January 24, 2024 in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi. This transformative conference not only delves into crucial aspects of the girl child's journey but also serves as a beacon of hope for their upliftment.

As I contemplate the upcoming conversations and presentations that will take place during the conference, I acknowledge the significance and potential impact of these discussions. It implies taking a moment to think about and appreciate the content, insights and information that will be shared during the conference, anticipating that these discussions will bring valuable perspectives and contribute to a deeper understanding of the issues related to the girl child in today's dynamic world.

Let us recognize the profound impact that events like these can have on the lives of every girl child. It is essential that each girl is given the opportunity to be part of such enlightening experiences, providing encouragement for every step she takes in the walk of life. May she feel the embrace of empowerment and recognize herself as God's most precious creation. May this conference be a stepping stone towards a future where every girl is celebrated, supported and inspired. May God's blessings be upon every girl on this Universe!

Sr. Lourdu

Sr. Lourdu Adaikalasamy

Provincial Superior
Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
Holy Cross Provincialate, Puthur,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 017.



Holy Cross College (Autonomous)

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University
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College with Potential for Excellence
Tiruchirappalli - 620 002, Tamilnadu, India.



Dear Esteemed Guests, Scholars and Participants, On behalf of Holy Cross College, it is an honour to extend warm felicitations to each one of you on the occasion of the National Girl Child Day. As the Secretary of Holy Cross College, I am delighted to welcome you to our esteemed institution for the One - Day National Conference in Hybrid Mode, organized in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi. The theme of the conference, "The Evolving Landscape : Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World, "underscores our collective commitment to understanding and addressing the nuanced issues faced by the girl child in today's rapidly changing environment. We are privileged to have the support of the Women's Studies Centre, funded by UGC, which has been instrumental in championing women's empowerment and gender equality. This collaboration exemplifies our dedication to fostering meaningful dialogue and academic exploration. As we gather to delve into the myriad possibilities and challenges that shape the trajectory of the girl child, let us collectively strive to create a world where every girl can flourish, unfettered by societal constraints. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all participants and speakers for contributing their expertise and insights to this important discourse. Wishing everyone a day of enlightening discussions and fruitful exchanges.

Warm regards,

Dr. SrANNE XAVIER
Secretary

Phone : 0431-2700637 Fax : 0431-2713312 E-mail : office@hcctrichy.ac.in Website : www.hcctrichy.ac.in



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Principal's Message

Greetings to Dignitaries, Esteemed guests, Faculty, Scholars and Participants,

It is with great joy and pride that I extend my warmest felicitations for the National Conference on “The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World,” organized by the Women’s Studies Centre (funded by UGC), Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi.

On this auspicious occasion of National Girl Child Day, let us reflect on the profound words from the Holy Bible “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” (Psalm 139:13-14). These verses remind us of the divine nature of every child, especially the girl child, who is fearfully and wonderfully made by our Creator.

This National Conference serves as a vital platform for dialogue and exploration, bringing together experts, academics and advocates, dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of the girl child. Our collaboration with Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi, adds a national perspective to our local efforts, making this event truly special.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. N. Manimekalai, Director, Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi, for gracing this occasion with her esteemed presence. A special note of appreciation goes to Hon’ble Ms. S. Jothimani, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, (Karur Constituency), for delivering the inaugural address, setting the tone for a day of insightful discussions.

The distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. R. Vidyasagar, along with a galaxy of resource persons, including Prof. Indrani Mazumdar, Dr. A. Mangai, Prof. Polly Vauquiline, Dr. Nandini Ghosh, Ms. Shoba Koshy, Dr. S. Suba, Ms. T. Jayanthi Rani, Dr. J.O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo and Ms. U. Nirmala Rani, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the conference, enriching our understanding of the challenges and possibilities for the girl child in today’s dynamic world.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the organizing committee, faculty members and students who have worked tirelessly to make this National Conference a reality. Your dedication and commitment to promoting gender equality and the rights of the girl child are truly commendable.

May this Conference serve as a catalyst for positive change, paving the way for a world where every girl is celebrated, empowered and provided with equal opportunities to fulfil her God-given potential.

May God’s grace be with us all.

Sr. Rajakumari.P.
Principal



Message

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Holy Cross College for organizing the enlightening event that explores the theme of "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World", especially on the Girl Child Day on 24th January 2024.

The significance of today's event lies in its commitment to shedding light on the multifaceted issues that affect the lives of our girl children. The very existence of this conference underscores the importance of fostering dialogue and finding sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by our young girls in an ever-changing world. I commend the college for dedicating this day not only to celebrate the potential and resilience of our girl children but also to address critical issues that demand our immediate attention.

As we deliberate on the theme, it is imperative that we confront the stark realities that plague the lives of our girl children. Issues such as girl child abuse, cyber crimes targeting girls, the low female labor force participation rate, child labor, and the challenges faced by migrant girls paint a somber picture of their vulnerabilities. The collective responsibility lies in identifying these issues, understanding their root causes, and working collaboratively to create an nurturing environment that empowers our girls to thrive.

In the current scenario, our nation grapples with the harsh truth that girls often face disproportionate challenges compared to their male counterparts. However, the prospects for change are within our grasp. It is heartening to witness the commitment of institutions like Holy Cross College in creating awareness and providing a platform for discourse. The engagement of students in this conference, through presentations and interactions, showcases the potential of our youth to lead the charge in reshaping the destiny of the girl child in India.

In the coming years, let us collectively pledge to continue this dialogue, foster inclusivity, and pave the way for a future where our girl children are not only protected from harm but are also provided with ample opportunities to excel in every sphere of life.

I extend my gratitude to Holy Cross College for their dedicated efforts in organising this event and bringing together resource persons, students, and the community to contribute to this important cause. May this conference be a stepping stone toward a more equitable and empowering future for our girl children.

Ms. S. Jothimani
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Lok Sabha (Karur Constituency)



Message

It gives immense pleasure to write a message on National Girl Child Day 2024 where Holy Cross College, Tiruchirapalli, and the Centre for Women's Development Studies New Delhi will jointly be organizing a National Conference "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a dynamic World" on the National Girl Child Day 24.01.2024 as declared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India in 2008 to create public awareness on the significance of the girl child in the society.

It is to celebrate on the one hand the potential, strength, the contribution of girl children and to highlight the prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, and inequities that girl children face in society and provide a better platform for the girl children to participate in all the activities in the private and public spaces equally like boys and eliminate the discrimination on education, nutrition, health, socialization, sanctions and restrictions etc. which result in secondary status of the girls and women in the society. One of the twelve critical issues underlined in the Beijing World Conference for Women in 1995 was the Girl Child and later Government of India also included the same in the National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001.

Girl child issues still getting unresolved as there are more than a dozen schemes to save, educate, and protect the girl child right from the fetus. Discrimination starts from the womb and thanks to technology is further contributing to genocide. Even if spared birth, discrimination continues all through the life cycle in subtle forms, depending on the class background, say low nutrition- anemic, poor reporting of their health, choosing to government schools, vernacular language, preventing them from participating in sports, dropping out of school stage, imposing household duties, child labor, early marriage, early childbirth, maternal mortality, lack of encouragement to participate in sports, etc. Poverty and hunger households, single parents, and migrant parents send their wards to the labor market, where the young and innocent girls experience several hardships and exploitation foregoing their childhood rights and attending school. Dropout of girls in the universalization of education and right to

education context has been observed which further results in early marriage, where several incidences of death, violence, and other issues reported. The digital era, internet, and social media access bring additional issues like cyber violence, stalking, voyeurism, etc where innocent girls are being abused and trapped. There are numerous prospects open in the current context for girls to participate, develop, and contribute but at the same time, objectification persists, their bodies have often been targeted, and associated vulnerability continues. It is to interrogate such issues, focus on the positive attitude towards girls and the strategies to be implemented to recognize girls as human resources and the need to enhance their potential to equally contribute to the empowerment of the society. There are children panchayats where the girls take the leadership roles. We witnessed, an Indian young activist Kangujam, from Manipur who has already spoken in 21 countries on climate change, giving the world a glimpse of her resolve as she urged global leaders to "act now against climate change". at the COP25 climate conference. Girls join globally and engage in creating awareness, serving as change makers, and transforming society. I am optimistic that engaging girls in the context of India's demographic dividend of the largest youth population would certainly ensure gender equality, which they will perform in partnership with boys. I wish the National conference a success and deliberate upon the key issues to provide a platform for girls to participate and contribute to development.

N. Manimekalai

Dr. N. Manimekalai

Director

Centre for Women's Development Studies

New Delhi



R. Vidyasagar

Former Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF,
244, Kamalam Nagar, 3rd Street, Thirumullaivayil, Chennai – 600 062.
Mobile: 91 9840599406

Message

The Gender Snapshot Report 2023 of SDGs underscores the urgent need for concrete efforts to accelerate progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment by 2030. The report calls for an integrated and holistic approach, greater collaboration among stakeholders, sustained funding, and policy actions to address gender disparities and empower women and girls worldwide. The report emphasizes that failure to prioritize gender equality now could jeopardize the entire 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

India is still far behind achieving the goals for sustainable development towards gender equality. Though India has achieved better results in terms of reaching elementary education to most girls, access to secondary education is still a challenge and many girls are out of school in their adolescent age. Factors behind this being early marriages, need for joining the labor force, lack of emotional well being for children (especially girls) and lack of protection for girl children especially in their teens.

In this context I am happy that a National Conference on “The evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World” on 24th January 2024, is being organized by Women Study Centre of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi. I congratulate the organizers for organizing this important conference in this context. I hope the conference will discuss the important challenges for the girl children in India and particularly in Tamil Nadu and evolve policy possibilities to address the same.

Yours Sincerely

(R. Vidyasagar)



Dr. J.O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo

Associate Professor

Department of Social Work

Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli.

Email Id: jerydaanand@bdu.ac.in Mobile No: 9443922703

Message

It is indeed an honour to pen a note about the One-Day National Conference (Hybrid Mode) on “ The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World” to be held on 24th January 2024. I am much delighted to write in various capacities namely as an alumna of this prestigious Institution three decades before. As one of the panellist to share my views on “Mental and Emotional Health Needs for girls” which is the dire need of the hour in the fast moving world. As a Social Worker and a Mental Health consultant, I would strongly recommend the promotion of Mental health in all ages of mankind and particularly with children and special mention about girls who feelings and emotions are not given an opportunity to be expressed and these suppressed emotions evolve as mental health issue as they grow older. Finally, as a mother of two daughters, I am delighted to share my experiences in bringing them up in this era.

I believe that this National Conference will throw lots of deliberations and discussions to explore all possibilities and challenges of a girl child in a dynamic world and will showcase the innovative and effective interventions to deal with the challenges of a girl child. I appreciate the Organisers for their innovative thoughts and efforts.

Best Wishes

Dr. J.O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo



Message

I congratulate the Centre for Women Studies, Holy Cross College, Trichy for organising the one day National conference on "Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World" in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi.

'Right to live' is a fundamental right enshrined in the Indian Constitution to every human being. But a girl child has been denied even the right to be born. Starting from female foeticide, a girl child is subjected to various forms of gender based violence namely sexual abuse sexual assault, domestic violence, etc. The victim / survivor who is subjected to these kinds of primary victimization has to suffer secondary victimization when she approaches the stakeholders of Criminal Justice System to get justice. The rape myths imbibed in the minds of the stakeholders prevent them from viewing the sufferings of the victim / survivor from gender / Constitutional lens of equality. This discourages the women to report the violence itself.

Education is one of the tools for women empowerment but the sexual harassment happening in educational institutions acts as an obstacle in achieving women's equality.

Under circumstances the subject matter of the National Conference is very relevant. I hope the message of the conference will reach each and every girls students who are attending the conference and also to others

Ms. U. Nirmala Rani

Advocate/Social Activist, Tiruchirappalli



Message

I want to congratulate Women's Studies Centre at Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, affiliated to Bharathidasan University for organizing this One-Day National Conference (Hybrid Mode) on “The Evolving Landscape : Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World.”

The theme is especially relevant as this is being held on the National Girl Child Day on 24th January 2024. I hope the conference will create awareness among college students about the challenges that women and girls face in accessing education, especially higher education.

The discrimination faced by all girls is increased for all girls who exist at the intersections of caste, class, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, ability and region. For me the theme itself brings to mind so many discriminations that girls with disabilities have to face in live, from social deprivation to poor access to education, lack of proper nutrition and threat of abuse, including sexual abuse.

Wishing the organizers a huge success for this programme.

Warm wishes

Nandini Ghosh

Nandini Ghosh

Institute of Development Studies Kolkata



T. Jayanthi Rani, B.Sc., B.L.

Advocate,

Former Member, Tamilnadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

C-2 R K Apartments, C-107, 7th Cross N E E, Sasthri Road, Thillai Nagar, Tiruchy - 620 018

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It is with great pleasure and immense joy I write this note applauding the initiative by Women's Studies Centre of Holy Cross College in collaboration with Centre for Women's Studies, New Delhi to hold a National Conference on " The Evolving Landscape : Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World".

It is really a wonderful plethora of very essential topics for the Academic Sessions focussing on the ground realities of the vulnerabilities of girl children ranging from textile and garment industry, disabled girls, status of girls in North East Region, revisiting culture stereotypes, thoughts on preventing child marriage, their mental and emotional health and on revictimisation of abused children.

I am certainly impressed by the tireless efforts of the conveners of the conference in making it a grand success.

I hope the participants will grab this wonderful opportunity to explore, hear and learn about the existing status of girl children and their vulnerabilities. Also this Conference will be an eye-opener for the delegates and participants on the Basic CHILD RIGHTS namely Right to Survival, Development, Protection and Participation as declared by UNCRC.

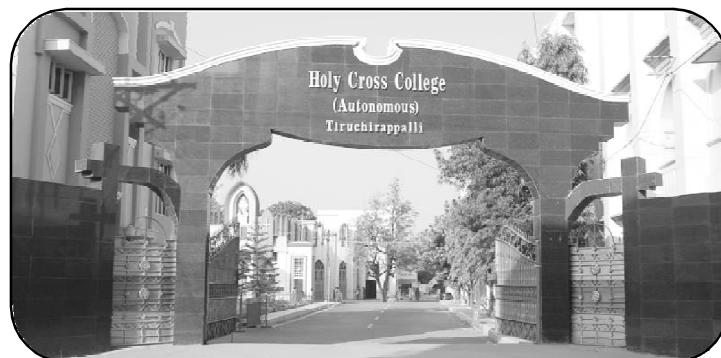
I feel honoured to be part of this National Conference and contribute my thought in a small way.

I wish the Conference a great grand success.

For Children, With Children, Always Children

• பழ... வ ழுவ... பழ... வ ழுவ... பழ... வ ழுவ

T.JAYANTHIRANI



ABOUT THE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE (HCC)

Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, is a renowned Arts and Science College for Women with a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1923. Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, the college has been a pioneer in women's education for 100 years. It's administered by the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Tiruchirappalli Province. In recognition of its services to the cause of women's education, for several decades, the College was granted autonomous status in 1987 by the Bharathidasan University. It was accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2020 (4th Cycle) with A++ with CGPA Score of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale. The college was recognised by UGC as 'college with Potential for Excellence' in October 2011 and the CPE status has been extended till 2022.

As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) by MHRD, the college secured 40th rank in 2023 out of 2746 participating Colleges. The college received the NPTEL-SWAYAM Local Chapter Star award and placed among the top 100 Colleges for 7 consecutive semesters.

ABOUT WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE (WSC)

Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC) Holy Cross College, founded in 2010, focuses on empowering disadvantaged women and girls through teaching, research, advocacy and collaboration with various organizations. It receives regular funding from the University Grants Commission. The women studies centre conducted certificate courses for more than 170 students. It conducts legal awareness programme for 1919 persons.

ABOUT CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CWDS)

CWDS was established in April 1980 by a group of men and women tasked with preparing the first comprehensive public report on the status of women in India, titled "Towards Equality" (Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, Government of India).

Subsequently, the group was associated with the Women's Studies program of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The ICSSR Advisory Committee on Women's Studies recommended the establishment of an autonomous institute with a wider mandate and resources to build on the knowledge generated towards expanding research and advocacy. Upon acceptance of this proposal by ICSSR, CWDS began functioning with a small grant from the Vikram Sarabhai Foundation under the leadership of Prof. J.P. Naik. Dr. Vina Mazumdar and Dr. Phulrenu Guha were respectively, the Centre's first Director and Chairperson.

Upon the recommendation of a visiting committee appointed by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (1984-85) CWDS began receiving an annual maintenance grant from the ICSSR and was subsequently recognized as an autonomous research institution supported by ICSSR.

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

The National Girl Child Day, observed annually on 24th January, assesses the challenges faced by girls in various spheres. Despite progress, issues like discrimination, unemployment and gender-based violence persist. A National Conference is planned to discuss the "Girl Child" theme, inviting stakeholders across academia, research, administration, development organizations and more.

The theme of the conference is the "The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl Child in a Dynamic World". It covers diverse sub-themes, including education, sports, climate change initiatives, socio-economic barriers, discriminatory practices and government initiatives.

SUB-THEMES

- v Girl children's participation in Sports-Issues and challenges
- v Socio-economic, cultural and psychological barriers to the development of girl children
- v Girl Children and unpaid domestic and care takers work and household economy
- v Girl Children in Rural, Urban and Tribal areas- Opportunities and threats
- v Declining Female sex ratio and gender inequality
- v Harmful traditional practices against girl children
- v Discriminatory practices against girl children in the society
- v Condition of girl children from marginalised and socially excluded communities
- v Child marriages, teenage pregnancies and health of girl children
- v Objectification, child sexual abuse, violence against girl children including cyber violence

- v Digital world and social media and their impact on girl children
- v Access to scientific information on growing up and menstrual hygiene
- v Sexual harassment- kidnapping, trafficking for begging and sex work
- v Government initiatives, programmes and interventions for girl children
- v Case studies of initiatives of development to eliminate the barriers girls and prevent violence
- v Girl children in conflict and war
- v Girl Children in Historical perspectives-unsung heroines
- v Girl Child Abuse in Print and Electronic Media and Cinema
- v Girl children in unorganised sector

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Patron

Dr. Sr. Rajakumari, P.
Principal, Holy Cross College (Autonomous)
Tiruchirappalli - 620 002.

Co-Patron

Dr. N. Manimekalai
Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

Convener

Dr. Horne Iona Averal
IQAC Co-ordinator, Associate Professor of Zoology
Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli - 620 002.

Organizing Secretary

Dr. P. Prisheela
Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre (funded by UGC)
Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli - 620 002.

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Dr W. Rita	Dean of Research
Dr. Leena, H.M	Dean of Mathematical Computation Sciences
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Dr. Anitha, D	Asst. Prof. of Social Work
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Dr. Stella Bharathy, M	Asst. Prof. of Chemistry
Dr. Bansura Banu, K	Asst. Prof. of Physics
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Dr. Cheryl Antonette Dumenil	Asst. Prof. of English
Dr. Rosy Lidia, S.I	Asst. Prof. of English
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