

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
(From April, 2018 – March, 2019)



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES



Enlightenment to perfection

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Accredited by NAAC with Grade A

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

P O – NORTH BENGAL UNIVERSITY

DIST-DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL.

PIN -734013

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CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

BACKGROUND OF THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

- 1. Name of the University** : University of North Bengal
- 2. State** : West Bengal.
- 3. Address** : Centre for Women's Studies,
University of North Bengal
Raja Rammohunpur,
P.O- North Bengal University,
Dist. Darjeeling, PIN-734013.
- 4. Date of Establishment** : July, 2000.
- 5. Date of Assignment of Present Phase** : The Centre has been upgraded by the UGC to **Phase- II** as per the letter F.No.7-68/2007 (WS) dated **21st March, 2012**.
- 6. Name of the Director** : Professor Debika Saha, from **10th March,2018** (Honorary)
&
Date from when in position

2. PROFILE OF THE CENTRE

2.1. OBJECTIVES:-

Briefly, the purpose behind the establishment of the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of North Bengal was two-fold, namely

- a. To articulate the situations of women in general and their developmental needs through academic research, teaching programmes with an ultimate policy focus;
- b. To fulfill critical gender needs and to build self-awareness and self-confidence among women in the region, through grass root empowerment activities that would encourage their articulate participation in the institutions of governance.

2.2 FULFILLMENT:-

Since its establishment in 2000, programmes undertaken at CWS have sought to reach out to women of all sections from the North Bengal districts and Sikkim, in order to fulfill these objectives. The core activities undertaken by CWS in framing a regional research programme in Women's Studies are an integral part of the CWS Action Plan. CWS also provides critical

community support services, and networks with Government institutions, women's organizations and NGOs in order to generate Community Action for the fulfillment of regional women's needs.

Keeping the basic objectives in view, the Centre for Women's Studies has endeavored to coordinate multidisciplinary activities that can synergies the expertise into a definite core for Women's Studies pertaining to the North Bengal region. The Centre has also undertaken programmes to extend research and training skills of individual scholars and departments, within and without the University system. Projects and programmes undertaken by the Centre have sought to formulate developmental policies for the betterment and empowerment of the women of this region. To realize and attain the above, the Centre has established an interface of technical, academic and administrative skills throughout the region. Various departments at the University have already established programmes in Women's Studies with a significant research component in addition to their teaching content. The Centre has endeavored to consolidate and strengthen these studies and capabilities under its umbrella.

However, since 2009 during XIth Plan, the Centre has started **Refresher Course on Women's Studies** for University and College teachers, in collaboration with UGC Human Resource Development Centre of the University.

Till date the Centre has successfully completed ten (10) Refresher Courses. University / College teachers from all over the country has been participated in the course.

Further, to generate academic interest amongst the young generation towards Women's Studies and make them aware to gender issues the Centre has started short term **Certificate Courses** on various women's issues along with its regular activities like Research works, Publications, Seminar, Workshop, Sensitization and Awareness programmes on gender issues at various level including the grass root women. The project work initiated at the Centre aids the formulation of gender sensitive development policies and programme for the upliftment and empowerment of women in the region.

However, as per the decision taken at the Advisory Committee Meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, it has been decided that the Centre will start **Short Term Course on Women's Studies for College / University Teachers** from this year. Accordingly it has been implemented from the year 2018-19.

3.0 DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES:-

3.1 TEACHING COURSES

Keeping in mind the criteria laid down by UGC as per XIIth Plan guideline where UGC encourage the teaching courses to build strong academic base institutionally for Women's Studies, the Centre has started **Refresher Courses on Women's Studies** and **Short term Certificate Courses on Women's Issues, Research Methodology for Gender Studies, Geoinformatics & Computer application** during XIIth Plan Period.

In order to disseminate the knowledge as well as to create academic interest on **Women's Studies**, the Centre have taken few new initiative, by means of organizing various kinds of collaborative programme with different institute including government departments

The Centre has organized the following teaching courses in the year 2018-19 (till February, 2019).

A. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME (05 DAYS)

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal has organized the **Orientation Programme on *Combating Violence Against Women and Girls* for College/ University Teachers from August 27-31, 2018**, in collaboration with **National Institute Of Public Co-operation and Child Development Regional Centre, Jawahar Nagar, Guwahati, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India**. Teachers from various Colleges and Universities of entire West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam were attended the course.



**Orientation Programme on *Combating Violence against Women and Girls*
August 27-31, 2018**

Aims and Objectives of the Course

Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to

the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men". Violence against women (VAW) is a global problem that exterminates tortures and hurts them physically, psychologically, sexually and economically every year. It is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violation, denying women and girls' equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental rights. VAW violates several recognized human rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture, equal protection before the law, liberty and security of person, the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, and the right to be heard. It negatively affects women's general wellbeing and prevents them from fully participating as equal partners in national development. Violence not only has negative consequences for women and girls but also their families, community and the country at large.

To effectively deal with the problem of violence against women, and to bridge the gap between public and private sphere, there have been numerous governmental and non- governmental interventions. The government is working towards strengthening the existing legislations through review and amendments, wherever required, and developing institutional mechanisms. It is felt that, sensitizing the college teachers would also act as a preventive strategy for combating violence against women. Keeping the above in view, a five days "***Orientation Programme on Combating Violence Against Women and Girls for College/ University Teachers, August 27-31, 2018*** is being organised at North Bengal University, Darjeeling, West Bengal in collaboration with NIPCCD.

The main objectives of the training are:

1. To develop clear perspective among participants about gender based violence;
2. To provide insight on the policies, existing support services and legal safeguards for women and girls to curb the problem;
3. To build capacities to provide services to survivors of violence including counselling , livelihood and rehabilitation ; and to evolve strategies for combating violence against women and children

The inaugural programme of the course was started at 10.30 am, on 27th August,2018 at Room No 109,Humanities Building, NBU. Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Project Officer, Centre for Women's Studies has started the inaugural programme by welcoming the guests, participants and students. The programme was started with an inaugural song presented by the students of the University. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, NBU jointly with Prof. Soumitra Dey, Director, IQAC, NBU inaugurate the ceremony by lighting the lamp. Prof. Debika Saha, Director, CWS, Ms. K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati along with Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Project Officer, Centre for Women's Studies also join them.

Prof. Debika Saha, Director, CWS, deliver her welcome speech. She welcome all the dignitaries from the University of North Bengal as well as from NIPCCD, Guwahati, participants from various colleges and universities of West Bengal , Sikkim for choosing the Institute to attend the

course and express her best wishes to them. She also welcome Ms. Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati and thanks selecting the Centre to organise the programme. She spoke briefly about the activities of the Centre and importance of organizing such kind of programme. Ms. K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD introduce the theme of the programme and discuss about the objectives. She elaborately explain the activities of the institute and said that such kind of joint programme is very effective for both the institute.

Professor Soumitra Dey, in his inaugural speech express his best wishes to the organizers and welcome this joint effort of both the Centre and NIPCCD and also mention that such kind of programme will be very beneficial for the participants. He also pointed out the fact that the theme of the programme is very much relevant to the present scenario of our society as well as our day to day life. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, University of North Bengal, the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony deliver his speech with a thanks to the organizers for organizing such kind of programme which is need of the hour. He spoke about the existing gender stereotype as well as patriarchal mindset in our society. He rightly pointed out the fact that patriarchy is the reason behind the gender discrimination as well as the female subordination in our society which leads towards the violence against women. We should empower our women so that they can fight against the violence and discrimination that they have to face in their day to day life. Such kind of programmes are very much essential to sensitize and create awareness about gender discrimination among the people of our society.

The programme was ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Beethika Moni Dutta, K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati jointly with Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Project Officer, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU, coordinate the course. During five days, different aspects of the Violence Against Women and how to combat it including legal provisions and government schemes has been discussed. Dr. D. K. Saikia, Regional Director, NIPCCD, Professor Debika Saha, Director, CWS, K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, CWS and faculties from various university departments along with government officials deliver lectures in the course. The Centre also arranged a field visit for the participants and brought them to two (02) NGO's working on issues like trafficking, child marriage, dowry and skill development of Women. This visit help the participants to know the ground realities of violence against women taking place in our society and how women are victimized in their day to day life. The Chairperson of the NGO explain how it works by sharing their field experience and also explain few case studies. Thus, the visit was very effective for the participants to understand the root causes lying behind the problem and find out the strategies to combat the same.

In the valedictory session, Certificate has been distributed to the participants. Dr. D. K. Sarkar, Registrar, NBU and Prof. Debabrata Mitra, professor, department of Commerce and Director, UGC, HRDC, NBU were present in the valedictory programme. (Encl- I)

B. SHORT TERM COURSE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES(07 DAYS)



Short Term Course in Women's Studies

January 10 -17, 2019

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal for the first time organized the **Short Term Course in Women's Studies for College / University Teachers, from 10-17 January, 2019(07 Days)**. Teachers from various Colleges and Universities from entire West Bengal, Assam etc were participated in the programme. 40 teachers from various colleges and universities of entire West Bengal as well as Assam from various discipline were enrolled for the Course.

The inaugural programme of the course was started at 10.30 am, on 10th January,2019. at Room No 109,Humanities Building, NBU. Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies conducted the inaugural programme. The Centre felicitates the dignitaries and start the ceremony by lighting the lamp. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, NBU, Prof. Maitreyee Chaudhury, Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, NBU and Prof. Debika Saha, Director, Centre for Women's Studies were present in the programme.

Prof. Debika Saha, Director, CWS, welcome all the dignitaries and invited guests of the programme. She also welcome the participants from various colleges and universities of West Bengal, Assam etc. and express her best wishes to them. She put focus on the theme of the course and its relevance. Prof. Saha, in her speech mention that Women's Studies is the need of the hour and we should work together for it. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, NBU, deliver the inaugural speech and welcome the participants from various corner of the country. He also mention that such kind of courses in Women's Studies is very much essential for the academicians to bring the issues related to gender in limelight. At the same time we should

ensure a gender friendly environment within the institute by organizing such kind of courses as well as sensitization programmes. He also highlighted the point that such kind of course will help to create an academic interest on Women's Studies among the new generation.

Prof. Maitreyee Chaudhury, Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, NBU, deliver her lecture by welcoming the participants of the course. She also welcome this effort of the Centre for organizing such kind of course for teachers and also mention that it will help them to get an idea about women's studies and its relevance.

At the end of the programme, Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Centre.

Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU, was the Course Coordinator. Entire course has been designed to give an idea about gender issues as well as concept and theories of Women's Studies by covering all the aspects. Issues like legal, social, political, economic etc. have been discussed in the course. Teachers from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, NIPCCD, Guwahati as well as from various university departments delivered lectures during the course.

The valedictory programme was held on 17th January, 2019. Prof. Subires Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, University of North Bengal, Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, University of North Bengal and Professor Debika Saha, Director, Centre for Women's Studies were present in the programme. The programme was started with the facilitation of the guest on the dais. Prof. Subires Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal in his presidential address mentioned that now a day's gender issues are very much relevant to the present scenario of our society. We should make aware our new generation regarding the issues like dowry, female foeticide, trafficking and domestic violence and to find out the remedial strategy to combat it. Accordingly he has mentioned that Women's Studies should be a part of our regular course. Such kind of course may help to create academic interest on women's studies and he welcome this effort of the Centre. He also congratulates the participants for choosing our institute and also request them to disseminate the knowledge that they received during the course to their surroundings. A teacher plays an important role to shape the personality development as well as overall development of a student. Hence, they can act as a role model to sensitize the student mass regarding the gender issues.

Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, University of North Bengal, spoke about the need and importance of the course. (Encl-II)

C. TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON *GENDER AWARENESS AND RECENT TRENDS*(02 DAYS)

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal in collaboration with the Department of History, Surya Sen College, Siliguri organized a Two day workshop on ***Gender Awareness and Recent Trends*** for College / University Teachers and Research Scholars, from **September 12-13, 2018(02 Days)**. Teachers and research scholars from various Colleges and Universities from entire West Bengal were participated in the programme. Teachers from various

colleges and Universities of entire West Bengal were enrolled and participated in the Course. Participants were from different social discipline.



Workshop on *Gender Awareness and Recent Trends*

September 12-13, 2018

Aims and Objectives of the Workshop

Gender Awareness is an understanding that there are socially determined differences between women and men based on learned behavior, which affects access to and control over resources. This awareness needs to be applied through gender analysis into projects, programs and policies.

Gender is a complex variable in social, cultural, religious, economic and political contexts and is different in across time, space and communities. The question of gender needs theoretical clarity. Gender is not a rigid or reified analytic category imposed on human experience, but a fluid one whose meaning emerges in specific social contexts as it is created and recreated through human actions. Through the workshop the basic concepts of Gender, recent development in gender studies and their implications for the practice of social sciences in India will be discussed. The issues related to all forms of violence against women in all spheres of life will also be addressed through this deliberation. The different methodological and theoretical approaches to gender and its relevance to interdisciplinary subjects will also be highlighted.

- * Gender awareness, gender analysis and gender methodology.
- * Explore the nature of gender, developing a deeper sense of its nature, role, and manifestation in society.
- * Interpersonal development, relationship building and reflection.
- * To address the issues related to violence against women.

The inaugural programme of the Workshop was started at 10.30 am, on 12th September, 2018 at the Conference Hall of Surya Sen College. The Centre felicitates the dignitaries and start the ceremony by lighting the lamp. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, NBU, Prof. Mahua Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, Prof Debika Saha, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU, Dr Pranab Kumar Misra, Principal, Surya Sen College were present in the programme.

Dr Pranab Kumar Misra, Principal, Surya Sen College, has started the programme with his welcome speech. Dr. D K Sarkar, Registrar, NBU inaugurate the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp followed by inaugural speech. His thought provoking deliberation on the issues of gender enriched the programme. Prof Debika Saha, Director, Centre for Women's Studies delivered the presidential address. Prof. Mahua Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, the chief guest of the programme delivered her Keynote speech which was really an enriching and informative lecture. The inaugural programme was ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU.

Apart from the participants, teachers, research scholars and students from other colleges were attended the programme and it was really a successful programme. (Encl-III).

C. REFRESHER COURSE (21 DAYS)

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, in collaboration with the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of North Bengal, organized a Refresher Course on **Gender Studies (ID)** from **05.02.2019-25.02.2019**. Teachers from various University departments and Colleges from every corner of the country were attended the course. Due to the growing responses towards the field of Gender Studies, like previous years this year also it receives good responses from all over the country. The Centre for Women's Studies

Teachers (50) from entire country including West Bengal were selected for the Course. They were from various disciplines like Economics, Political Science, History, Sanskrit, English, Law, Sociology, Geography, Bengali etc.

Teachers from the University of North Bengal, Calcutta, JNU, Delhi etc having the expertise in this field acted as resource person and delivered lectures on various issues related to the theme.

3.2 FIELD ACTION

A. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal observe the **International Women's Day** on **8th March, 2019**, in collaboration with the **Department of Mass Communication**, University of North Bengal and **Siliguri Cine Society** at the Seminar Hall, Department of Mass Communication. The theme of the Day : ***Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change.***



International Women's Day on 8th March, 2019

Inaugurate by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Subires Bhattacharyya.

The Centre has observed the day by organizing a **Special Lecture programme followed by Screening of a Film and discussion. Ms Sudeshna Roy**, an eminent Women Film Director in the Tollygunge Film Industry, Kolkata, act as a Resource person at the programme and deliver a lecture on **Representation of Women in Indian Films with Special Reference to Bengali Film Industry**. A **Bengali film** directed by her was screened in the programme followed by discussion.

The inaugural programme was started at 12.00 noon, at the Seminar Hall of the Department of mass Communication, NBU. Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies welcome Prof. Subires Bhattacharyya, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Registrar, Ms Sudeshna Roy, Film Director, Tollygunj, Kolkata, Pradip Nag, Cine Society, Siliguri, Director Siliguri Cine Society, Dr. Indira Lepcha, Director –in-Charge of the Centre along with the teachers, students and research scholars from NBU departments that present in the programme.

The Centre felicitates the dignitaries with flower bouquet. Dr. Indira Lepcha, Director –in-Charge of the Centre welcome the dignitaries on the Dias and off the Dias on behalf of the Centre. She briefly explained the history and importance of the day. Prof. Subires Bhattacharyya, Honourable Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal has inaugurate the programme

officially by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Prof. Bhattacharyya, in his inaugural speech spoke why we should observe the day as well as its importance. He also request the young stars, to create a gender friendly environment in the campus as well as society. He also mentioned the point that inspite of all kinds of measures taken by the government as well as educational institutes, gender discrimination and gender based violence are taken place in our society. Hence, to remove such kinds of stigma from our society we should move together and create a healthy environment for girls and women of our society. Accordingly, Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Registrar, University of North Bengal also delivered an encouraging speech and address the students mass. He also pointed out that we should respect women and should fight against the evil practices of our society like dowry, trafficking etc. Dr. Sarkar, congratulate the Centre to organise such kind of event in this occasion. The inaugural ceremony was ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta.

In the second Ms. Sudeshna Roy, Bengali Film Director delivered her lecture on **Representation of Women in Indian Films with Special Reference to Bengali Film Industry. A Bengali film.** Teachers, scholars and students took part in the discussion. A film directed by Ms. Sudeshna Roy was screened. The film was on single motherhood. Teachers, students all took part in the discussion. Ms Roy also share her experiences and hurdle that she have to face as a film director in the industry. She also spoke about the women empowerment and addresses the students to take active part in the process.

D. SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES

The Centre for Women's Studies has organized a series of special lecture by eminent personalities on various women's issues. The Centre organized the lectures in different departments of the University to strengthen the interdepartmental linkage with Centre.

A. The Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with the Department of Management, University of North Bengal organized a Special Lecture programme on **15th January, 2019** at Seminar Hall of the Department of Management. Prof S N Dhar Head, Department of Management Welcome the speaker K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati. Teachers, Scholars and students attended the programme .

K. Sunita Sheshadri, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati, delivered a lecture on ***Child Rights and policies programmes related to Children and Mechanisms to address Children.*** The lecture was very much informative and students, teachers all took part in the discussion.



Special Lecture by *K. Sunita Sheshadri*, 15th January, 2019

B.. The Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with the Department of History, University of North Bengal organized a Special Lecture programme on **13th February, 2019** at Seminar Hall of the Department of History. Dr Dahlia Bhattacharya, Head, Department of History Welcome the speaker Prof. Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Burdwan. Teachers, Scholars and students attended the programme.



Special Lecture by Prof. Syed Tanveer Nasreen, 13th February, 2019

Prof. Tanveer Nasreen, delivered a lecture on *Bengali Women Writers during 19th Century* where all teachers, research scholars and students took part in the discussion.

E. TWO-DAY UGC SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR

The **Centre for Women's Studies**, University of North Bengal in collaboration with the **Southfield College, Darjeeling** organized a **Two-Day UGC Sponsored National Seminar on Counter cultures of Indian Women: From Myth to Contemporary Representations** on **19th - 20th March, 2019**. The Seminar was held at **Damien Hall, Southfield College, Darjeeling**.

Faculty from University of North Bengal, Colleges of entire North Bengal as well as other states from India i.e. Orissa, IIT Kharagpur, Assam, Sikkim etc. participated in the Seminar. Altogether 75 seminar papers were presented in three parallel sessions throughout two days.



Two-Day UGC Sponsored National Seminar on Counter Cultures of Indian Women: From Myth to Contemporary Representations, 19th -20th March, 2019.

About the Seminar theme and Subthemes-

Concept Note

In recent years with the emergence of a set of theoretical, cultural and political factors, the concepts of gender, womanhood and identity, based on territorial / terrestrial / textual imagination, have been critically examined. This is a world-wide phenomenon that impacts on our understanding of what has been regarded as Feminist Enquiry of knowledge and society.

The image of traditional 'mainstream' Indian woman is the consequence of the patriarchal domination, rendering 'ideal' Indian women as agents of patriarchy and creating constraints in

their attempts to evolve as liberated women of agencies. The stereotyped image has been prescribed by only cherry picking from the 'Great Tradition' that is full of women who were glorified only to be beguiled and utilized. The traditions that are tagged as 'Little' or even the belittled women icons of the 'Great Tradition' need to be revisited to convey a holistic picture of the counter-cultures of Indian Women as ones who have made significant contributions and raised their voices in order to assert their rights. In times like ours when any deviation from the codified 'mainstream' feminine morality is perceived as Western or non-Indian, the plethora of janajati cultures of India as well as the diverse folk traditions of India need to be revisited in order to counter-narrate the dissident femininity as manifested through the alternative treatment of womanhood in these counter-cultures. Moreover, the resistance offered by the women of sexual minority, feminist media and gender activists has to be endorsed in order to fight against the schemas that have been targeted to turn women into mere docile bodies.

In this seminar we want to ask the following questions: How can the alternative models to counter the 'mainstream' morality associated with women be traced by revisiting Subcultures of Feminist Resistance in India? What are the contributions of women in the arena of indigenous knowledge? How do folk traditions offer models of dissidence against taboos and restrictions imposed on women? Is there a genealogy of Indian feminist theology based on the women mystics' contemplation on feminine desire, experience and transcendence? What are the ways by which one can affirm that India has always been inclusive in its attitude towards women of nonconformist sexuality and what are the provisions that one need to provide them in the post Supreme Court verdict related to article 377 of Indian Constitution? What portrayals of empowered women can one come across in contemporary and historical representation of women?

Subthemes

Indian Women and Indignity: Women and indigenous knowledge; Alternative images of Ethnic women in folklore; Indigenous Feminism in Indian Context

Women and Indian Folk traditions: Ethno music, Folkdance, Folk celebrations in rural India as modes of women's empowerment; Feminist Folklores

Indian Feminist Theology: Reconsidering the perspectives of the women Indian mystics and tracing their deviances from the male counterpart.

Indian Women and nonconformist desire and sexuality: The narratives and representations of the non hetero-normative women; women stepping into the 'tabooed' zones and challenging the biased prohibitions of desires and conducts.

Subcultures of Feminist Resistance in India: Re-visiting history, myth, political resistance, educational and socio-cultural reforms, economic enterprises; women and science; women dissenters in Indian intellectual traditions

Representing the Counter-cultures of Indian women: Portrayal of the dissident women in literature, cinema, forms of art and architecture, advertisements, fashion, photography etc.; re-writing of myths and unrecorded history to voice resistance, personal narratives of protest; feminist activism through social media

Indian women and contested geographies: Atypical Women and Public Space; women and their narrative histories related to old-age homes, camps, sanitariums, prisons, red light areas, bars etc. (Encl-IV)

PUBLICATIONS:-

A. JOURNAL

Journal of Women's Studies Vol-IX, 2018(ISSN -2320-3625).

B. BOOK

Reconfiguring the Indian Women: Conceiving theories, theorizing identities (at Press).

5.0 RESOURCES

5.1 MANPOWER

As of 31st March, 2019, the following members constitute the existing manpower at the Centre for Women's Studies:

- i) Honorary Director: Professor Debika Saha.(from 10th March,2018)
- ii) Assistant Professor: Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta (*on contractual basis*)
- iii) Peon: Shri Asit Singha (*on contractual basis*)

5.2 MATERIAL

The Centre occupies 700 sq. ft space in 3 bays in the Humanities building.

The Centre has acquired a LCD projector and laptops to facilitate presentation at seminar and workshops and in future for M. Phil students.

For effective documentation, the centre has acquired a camera which has been useful in the various activities of women in North Bengal.

5.3 DOCUMENTATION

I. Books:- The CWS library presently houses 1379 books on Women's Studies covering different fields of Gender Studies were procured from the UGC fund. Library also has charts and posters on Women related issues and paper cuttings are also preserved for scholars and students who visit the library for viewing and disseminating information.

II. For the preparation of “Gender Atlas of West Bengal/India” on GIS platform Super map GIS software has been procured and women scholars and students of NBU were given training .Now the digital information on women of West Bengal is available with CWS.

III. Study materials for UGC NET Examination for Women’s Studies compiled from different books and internet for the students are kept in the CWS library and many students have been benefited.

(Prof.Debika Saha)

Director

Centre for Women’s Studies