



# Women's Studies Centre

(Supported 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.

2022 - 2023

*From the Editor.....*

### Editor's note

It's my great pleasure to pen the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of HCC Women's Studies Centre Newsletter. The feedback received from various sources, motivates me to compile this Newsletter. To begin with the activities of Women Studies Center started with the students of WSC of Holy Cross College Tiruchirappalli, participating in Gender Fest and winning many prizes in the competitions conducted by the Department of WSC Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. Gender Champion Club conducted various activities for students as well as public. Our sincere gratitude to the Management, Principal, Heads of all the departments, Task Force Committee Members, well-wishers. My sincere thanks to the students supporters for their enormous help to carry out various activities

### Teaching

#### a) Foundation Course on Gender Studies Course

The Centre has been offering Gender Studies Foundation Course for II UG students (except students of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology) of our 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. They write two internal tests for 50 marks and an external exam for 50 marks. A total of 1597 students benefited from the course in this academic year.

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

Certificate Course in Women and Law was conducted from 4 to 15 July 2022 for the students of II UG, III UG and II PG students in Holy Cross College. The Class Strength was 32. The duration of the course is 30 hours. Students should attend a minimum of 26 hours to acquire a certificate. Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC taught about the need for legal awareness, purpose and expected outcome of the course in the beginning. Advocates

namely Ms.S.Gomathi, Ms.J.Sudha, Ms.N. Sathya and Mr.S.Arockianathan handled the classes which covered the entire portion of gender laws, women specific laws and the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The students also visited Tiruchirappalli District Court as part of Certificate Course in Women and Law on 14 July 2022 and observed the court proceedings of various courts.

#### c) Certificate Course in Gender and Development

The Centre has been offering 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. Teaching methods used in the course were case study discussions, movie screening and cookies .display, group discussions, interactive sessions and power point presentations. A total of 12 students enrolled in the Certificate course and seven students appeared for the exam with centum results.

### Training

#### • Internship (Batch I)

A group of 8 students of III B.A English namely Ms.F. Merezja, Ms.J. Jenifer, Ms.J. Jerlin Mary Pinheiro, Ms.T. Navinnisha, Ms.A. Virgin Apoorva, Ms.S. Jerisha, Ms.G. Medona and Ms.M. Sneha, underwent their Internship training for 30 hours at Women's Studies Centre from 01/08/2022 to 27/10/2022. They did the following work: attended an Orientation programme in WSC, objectives and activities of Legal Aid Clinic and its uses, watched a movie as well on Gender cookies about gender Inequalities faced by women in the society, worked for World Breastfeeding Week, National Nutrition Week, fun Wheel Competition, awareness campaign about nutritive values among students in the school watched a movie called 'The Great Indian Kitchen' and documentation work.





### • Internship (Batch II)

As part of internship training of 30 hours, Ms.Rethani.S.R(Reg. No.U20EL046) and Ms.ShreeHarinee.E(Reg. No.U20EL053) of III B.A English 'A', HCC participated in the activities at Women's Studies Centre, HCC in the even semester from 20 December 2022 to 19 January 2023. The activities were celebration of International Human Solidarity Day, National Youth Day activities of Legal Aid Clinic, stock checking, and Collected news articles about women and general issues. This internship helped them to know about the activities of Women's Studies Centre and Legal Aid Clinic. It also helped to know various issues faced by women in society. They learned to write awareness scripts for radio programmes and communicate the content to a wide range of audience.

### • Internship (Batch III)

As part of internship training, a group of students from III B.A Economics Ms.InfantNivesha.C (Reg. No. U20EC019), Ms.Jeeva.C (Reg. No. U20EC019), Ms.Logeshwari (Reg. No. U20EC019), Ms.Priydsdharshini .K (Reg. No. U20EC019) and Ms.PushpaDarthi.P (Reg. No. U20EC019) did an internship for 30 hours in the even semester from 24 February 2023 to 3 March 2023. They did learning and also rendered service to students as well as to the community. They learned the basic gender related concepts and articles on women's rights, Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Special marriage act 1954 and Muslim Marriages 1981, Collected and documented the images of successful women in many fields and they also participated and co-ordinated 'Gender fest competitions' conducted by Department of Women's

Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. They learned to organize 'Equity Space Exhibition' as part of centennial expo. The internship nurtured social service mind and self-satisfaction among the internship trainees.

## Research

### ▪ Proposals Applied

National Conference on Women's Contribution in Freedom Struggle and Gender Equality for Sustainable Development and Social Justice to ICSSR, Hyderabad

## Field Action

### □ World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week 2022 was observed from 1 to 7 August 2022 with the theme of the year "Step Up For Breastfeeding: Educate and Support," to educate and spread awareness about the importance of breastfeeding among youngsters and mothers.

On the first day of celebration i.e 1 August 2022, a PowerPoint presentation was displayed on the LED wall at Holy Cross College throughout the week to disseminate the importance and benefits of breastfeeding. On 2 August 2022, various posters related to world breastfeeding week were displayed at the College campus to impart knowledge about the breastfeeding week. On 3 August 2022, a street play which depicted the importance of breastfeeding and good nutrition for women for their health and happy life was performed in front of Mother Sophy's Block and another was performed at the College hostel ground. The internship trainees performed the street play effectively and audience opined that the street play was useful and performed well.

Safe Motherhood leaflets and posters were distributed and placed at slums, villages and in city limit for Lactating Mothers and public on 4 August 2022. Programme on Importance of Breastfeeding was conducted on 5 August 2022 at Shanthi hall from 2.30 p.m. for the benefit of Administrative staff and Married Students of HCC. The resource person Dr.T.R.R. Krishna, M.B.B.S.,M.D.,(Paediatrics), Dip. in Allergy & Asthma, Consultant Paediatrician, Sugam Clinic, Teppakulam, Tiruchirappalli started with a quote 'Breast milk is the first milk for infants'. He insisted that mothers should give breast milk for a period of one year which is well and good. If they are not healthy atleast 6 months breast milk is necessary for infants to fight against diseases and lead a healthy life. He also explained about do's and don'ts during



breast feeding. To support Economically Weaker Women, distribution of Milk Powder for Lactating women took place on 6 August 2022 at Alagiamanavalapuram, Kopurapatti villages at Manachanallur block, Tiruchirappalli. A programme at Holy Cross Community Radio was prepared and recorded. It was relayed at Holy Cross Community Radio on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

### ❑ National Nutrition Week Celebration

The Women's Studies Centre(WSC) of Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Tiruchirappalli celebrated National Nutrition Week from 1 September 2022 to 7 September 2022. On 1 September 2022, a webinar was conducted on the topic 'Healthy Eating Habits'. Ms.S. Ashma Banu, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Jamal Mohammad College(Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli spoke about the various kinds of nutritious foods that are tasty as well as healthy. 72 participants through google meet and 889 (as on 7 September 2022) through HCCflamingo youtube channel participated from outside the college.

On 2 September 2022, an on campus painting competition was conducted for 16 administrative staff of the college namely 'Painting Health' at HCC. The judge of the event Dr.J. Margaret Suganthi, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication & Dean, School of Media Studies and Fashion Design, Holy Cross College (Autonomous) selected the winners.

On 3 September 2022 an on campus 'Fun Fruit Wheel' competition was conducted for the inside hostellers of HCC in front of Mother Sophy's block. Ms.A.R. Anees Tharicha, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shrimathi Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchirappalli judged the competition and selected 3 prize winners out of 207 participants.

On 4 September 2022, a Radio Programme was aired through the Holy Cross College Community Radio from 4 p.m. to 4.40 p.m. for the benefit of local community and slum dwellers. On 5 September 2022, a 'Nutrition Awareness Program cum Competition' was conducted for the students of Sri Yadhukula Sangam Middle School, Trichy. Dr.R.Saraswathi Co-ordinator of Women's Studies Centre and the Internship Students of HCC spoke about the nutritive values of various fruits and vegetables for 53 students and conducted memory games for 16 students (Female: 9, Male: 7) students and gave prizes.

On 6 September 2022 a 'Nutri Riddle' competition was conducted for 16 members Teaching staff of the college at the Women's Studies Centre, HCC. Dr.S.

MohanaPriya, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli selected 3 prize winners. On the same day an online quiz competition was conducted for 653 students which consisted of Under Graduate(UG) and Post Graduate(PG) students of HCC on the topic 'Healthy Eating for Women', from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30p.m. Three students who scored the top three marks were selected for prize.

On 7 September 2022, an on campus 'Hidden Health' competition was held for the male administrative staff and the male students of HCC. Dr.A. Josephine Prabha, Assistant Professor Department of Physics and Associate Dean of Academics-Sciences, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was the judge. 20 students participated out of which 3 prize winners were selected. On the same day 'Prize Distribution Programme' was held in Computer Science Seminar Hall in Mother Claudine Block from 2.30p.m. to 3.30p.m. Dr.Sr. Christina Bridget, Principal, HCC gave the Presidential address and appreciated all the winners and organizers. She also distributed the prizes to the prize winners.

### ❑ Study Circle on Gender Equality

Internship students who belonged to III B.A English participated in the study circle on 29 September 2022 from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30p.m. Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC displayed the videos related to gender sensitization and raised questions about gender inequalities which are prevalent in our society. They also came to know about lot of gender based inequality data such as sex ratio, literacy rate, property ownership and so on. The role of gender mainstreaming process across different disciplines and sectors were discussed. A total of seven students participated in the study circle.

### ❑ Study Circle on Legal Aid Clinic and Internal Complaints Committee

Study circle was conducted on 4 November 2022 at Holy Cross College for the students of Gender Champion Club. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC explained about role of Legal Aid Clinic at the college in terms of creating awareness on basic legal rights of women at class rooms, gave advice at one to one contact at Legal Aid Clinic and for those who could not pay advocate's fee and court fee to approach for free legal advocate. She also informed about the role of Internal Complaints Committee in prohibiting sexual harassment of women at workplace.



## ❑ International Human Solidarity Day

Women's Studies Centre observed International Human Solidarity Day on 20 December 2022 at Holy Cross College. Posters on Human Solidarity were displayed at various places at College. 20 posters were displayed for the benefit of students near the college entrance. Some posters were placed permanently for the benefit of students on walls. The purpose and importance of observing Human solidarity day were informed to staff and students through intercom by Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC. 5500 students were benefited out of it.

## ❑ National Youth Day

In order to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process, Women's Studies Centre celebrated National Youth day on 12 January 2023 by giving a programme through Holy Cross Community Radio. Ms.InfantNivesha, III B.A Economics, HCC spoke at the purpose and history of National Youth day and a speech on the topic 'Power Youth' was delivered by Ms.Shanmathi, III B.A Economics, HCC. It was relayed at 4.30p.m. for the audience of slum dwellers and urban people who reside in and around the College premises.

## ❑ National Girl Child Day

National Girl Child Day was observed to raise awareness about the rights of a girls on 24 January 2023, Women's Studies Centre displayed a PowerPoint file at LED wall for the benefit of students from 9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. and 12.30p.m. - 1.30 p.m. The Centre also relayed a programme at HCC Community Radio from 4.30 p.m.- 5 p.m. on the importance of National Girl Child day. Nearby slums and city dwellers benefited from the programme.

## ❑ National Voters' Day Celebration 2023

Women's Studies Centre celebrated National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25 January 2023 at Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli. As part of awareness creation, power point on the importance of National Voters Day was displayed on the LED wall for students. 18 posters were displayed in the College premises for youth.

Ms.Prabha, Legal Aid Advocate spoke to the first year Under Graduate students on the present year's theme for NVD which is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' programme. She enlightened them on the main purpose of the NVD celebration to encourage them to participate in the electoral process, especially for the new voters. When an Indian Citizen turns 18, he



or she can enroll as a voter. Also, the Election Commission revises the electoral rolls every five years and before an election also.

As part of Dissemination of Information, posters related to importance of voters' day were displayed at LED wall and hard copy posters were placed at various blocks in the College premises.



## ❑ Film Show

To educate the students on the importance of women's contribution in family and negative effects of patriarchal system, gender Cookies was played followed by discussions. The cookies helped the students to differentiate sex and gender and they could understand the purpose of gender equity initiatives. 'The Great Indian Kitchen' film was screened on 25 January 2023 at Computer Science Seminar hall, HCC. The film showed how the women suffer as servants and how patriarchy affects even the educated women. The viewers shared that the film was helpful to understand the sufferings of women managers and gender norms in the society.

## ❑ Exhibition on Equity Space

'Exhibition on Equity Space' was organized by Women's Studies Centre to create awareness about gender equity among school students, college students and public. It was held in the Women's Studies Centre. Posters related to human rights day, gender equality, power of women, Sex vs Gender, sustainable human development goals, importance of nutrition for women and children, world breast feeding week, prohibition of child marriage, women safety mechanisms, stop violence against women and list of





laws for women. A drawing on this year's women's day theme 'Digit ALL, Innovation and technology for gender equality' was also

placed. Visitors were requested to fill up feedback and those who were interested penned their subjection to harassment. A Handy on Gender Champion Club was also placed at the exhibition. 1241 persons visited the Equity space exhibition. 14 students shared harassment details which they faced in their life. 83 visitors shared their views.

## ❑ International Women's Day Celebration

In Commemoration of the Centennial Year Celebration, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli celebrated the International Women's day on 10.03.2023. The distinguished chief guest Smt.



K. Sumathi Advocate was honoured by the Secretary Rev.(Sr).Dr.Anne Xavier, Rev.(Sr.) Dr.A.Christina Bridget, Principal and Rev.(Sr.) Dr. Isabella Rajakumari, Vice-Principal, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. The chief guest Smt. K. Sumathi Advocate motivated the students and insisted that only education is important in a student's life and explained it with living examples. To appreciate the achievement of successful women in different fields, the college honoured 100 women achievers from different fields for their committed service to society which was followed by the cultural programme. The event was coordinated and organized by the Women's studies Centre, Departments of Biochemistry, Economics and Library and Information Science, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli.

## Information Dissemination

Dissemination of information was done at different levels. Students placed posters at various places in the college on helpline, voters' day, girl child protection.

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

### ❖ Library

0 The Women's Studies Centre has been maintaining a library, issuing books to scholars and staff. Gender and women related books are very useful to the scholars.

### ❖ Documentation of Newspaper Clippings

The Centre is continuously documenting newspaper clippings pertaining to women achievers, women's issues and challenges at the national and global levels.

### ❖ Documentation of articles

The Centre also documented different articles which are related to women and gender from various journals.

### ❖ Documentation and Dissemination of Documentary films

The Centre houses sexual harassment and sanitation related videos as part of awareness creation.

### ❖ Notice Board

As part of Information dissemination, the centre displayed important content at the WSC notice board namely Zero Tolerance to sexual harassment at work Place, Sexual Harassment of women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, forms of sexual harassment at workplace, Child Line 1098, Women empowerment, save girl child-good touch and bad touch, women helpline, women related laws, issues related to gender equality, details regarding Certificate Course in Gender and Development, activities of Legal Aid Clinic and general information.

### ❖ WhatsApp Group – Women Managers

This group is active in sharing much content with teaching staff of the College. Programmes, webinars and conferences organized by other colleges are being shared in the group. Success stories, images on gender mainstreaming initiatives and women related news were disseminated through this group.



## ❖ Website

The Centre's vision, mission, objectives, wings and recent activities are displayed on the college website [www.hcctrichy.ac.in](http://www.hcctrichy.ac.in).

## ❖ Newsletter

The activities of the WSC are disseminated through its newsletter every year. The current year (2022 – 2023) 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 2022 – 23 are recorded in the annual College magazine called Holy Rood; A copy of the magazine is available in WSC.

## Advocacy

### Functioning of Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)

Legal Aid Clinic has been functioning in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Tiruchirappalli since January 2013 without any fee from beneficiaries on all Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Legal Aid Advocates provides legal awareness to students at their classrooms, give advice to solve their personal legal problems and forward petitions to District Legal Services Authority to run the case without fee for the development of economically weaker section people. The Advocate has been assisted by a Para Legal Volunteer Dr.R.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC. Totally 411 persons benefited from the legal awareness and 78 persons got guidance to solve their personal problems. Six case were referred to District Legal Services Authority for Free legal Service.

### Legal Aid Campaign

To impart knowledge about the activities of Legal Aid Clinic and motivate the students to receive advice from the advocate, the concerned WSC



representatives conducted an awareness campaign at their departments for all class students from January 2023 onwards.

## Present Cases

### Case 1

Ms.A is a student at a College. She stayed in a hostel. After she returned from the bathing room, She came to know that her mobile was taken by someone. The case was referred to Legal Aid Clinic. The online complaint was registered by Dr.R.Saraswathi, Para Legal Volunteer but police were unable to find it.

### Case 2

A woman is working in a college as a Lab Assistant. She belonged to economically weaker section. She has two female children and one male child. Due to poverty her husband wanted to go abroad to earn money. Therefore, she borrowed a lot of money on her name from various persons and sent her husband to a foreign country but he earned less money abroad and sent that money to his sisters. So, she was forced to pay almost all her salary for interest. Even after he returned from abroad, he did not give her any money. She was misled because of wrong guidance by many persons. Now the case has been filed in court and the case number is **DVC no. 18/23** at Additional Mahila court. Legal Aid Advocate has been nominated to file and run her case free of cost. DLSA plays a major role in her life now in getting justice.

### Case 3

She is working in a college as a sweeper from her childhood. Her husband was an alcoholic and left her abandoned due to an affair with another woman. She struggled a lot to bring up her daughter and son. Both are married now. The online petition for house allotment was registered through the Collector's office staff and that office staff alone can see the status. The PLV contacted the concerned office and requested them to process the complaint for house. Few days back she received a call from taluk office to submit her ration card and Aadhar card copy and she did on the same day. She is hopeful get a house allotment from Slum Clearance Board.





#### Case 4

She is working as an administrative staff at Blossom Special School. She loved her relative and got married with the acceptance of her mother, after much struggle. She has a son 6 years old. Her husband is an alcoholic and beat her very hard. All her jewelry were sold out. She has no mental peace and is not financially sound. After much struggle, she has decided to divorce her husband to take proper care of her son. Divorce case has been filed through the Legal Aid Clinic of Holy Cross College at District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli. Case No.LA 526/23.

#### Case 5

She is working as an administrative staff at Holy Cross College since 2020 and her mother in law passed away 14 months ago. She thought that her sister –in-laws got the death certificate for her mother- in -law so they didn't apply. Her Husband approached the taluk office for death certificate. They said since the death occurred long ago it was not possible to issue the same and only the Srirangam taluk office can issue it. The PLV said since it's happened more than 12 months ago she need to approach the District Collector's office only. The PLV has written the covering letter and informed him to attach the necessary evidences to apply. But when she went there, they refused to accept the request letter. At last she has informed to give a petition at District Collector's office on Monday. The PLV has written and given the letter also to her.

#### Case 6

A woman is in need of oldage pension. She is a single and elderly woman. She does not have anyone to support her. She works and stays in nuns convent at Tiruchirappalli. The PLV guided her to avail the same. The PLV asked her to come with residential proof to apply for the same.

#### Law College Student's Observation Visit

Ms.KarunyaMuralidharan, Law student, studying in fifth year BBA.,LL.B., in St.Joseph's College of Law, Bengaluru did internship at District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli. She came to Legal Aid Clinic at Holy Cross College on 6 May 2023 for an observation Visit. MsR.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Legal Aid Clinic and PLV explained the activities in detail. The law student also asked about the other activities related to law . The PLV said she offers a Certificate Course in Women and Law for the students which has 30 hours duration and classes are handled by Advocates and PLV. The PLV also shared some of the illustrious success stories.

#### Observation Visit by Gender Champion Club Students

Gender Champion Club students made an observation visit to government departments, District



Court, DLSA, VAO office and Taluk office on different dates to get to know the legal requirements for various legal documents in practical.

#### Legal Pamphlets to WSC Reps

As part of awareness creations, women related and general laws pamphlets were distributed to the Women's Studies Centre Representatives on 11



January 2023 at Women's Studies Centre. They were so eager in reading the laws and to inform the needy persons.

#### Referral

One of our aided staff's mother-in-law is almost bed ridden. She has to sign in a power of Attorney in which 30 persons had already signed. She was so tensed as to how could she carry the sick mother - in - law to court or to the advocates office. She approached



the PLV for an advocate to accomplish the same. She belongs to the creamy layer. Therefore, the PLV referred an advocate for the same. She felt so satisfied.

### Advice/guidance

- One of our administrative staff's daughter likes to study B.A.LLB Honours at Ambedkar University in the academic year 2023-24. She does not know how to apply. The PLV guided her to apply and got some suggestions from Law professors and shared it for her betterment.
- There was a mistake in one of the staff's Aadhar card. The PLV guided her to approach the Head post office with originals to make necessary correction.
- She worked as a Lab Assistant at Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli and got retired in 2012. Her second daughter's Intellectual Quotient (IQ) is low. After betrothal, they rejected the groom for marriage. So, the girl was kidnapped and was married in Pondicherry. Due to torture, the bride escaped from Chennai and reached her mother's house at Tiruchirappalli. Now the mother wanted her daughter to remarry without getting a divorce. The Legal Aid Clinic emphasized to approach an advocate to get divorce legally before remarriage.
- A female 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 eventually reached her mother's house with her two children who could not bear it. Her husband filed for divorce in court. At present, case is in Madurai court. Her husband has been asked to give Rs.10,000/- monthly for their children's survival and she is hopeful to get justice at court.
- One female staff got divorce from her husband through Ex Parte decree. She had a fear that the opposite party may file a set aside Ex parte decree in the court. The PLV guided her that since she got divorce there is no issue in getting remarried provided she has to register her marriage as soon as possible.

### Success Stories

#### ➤ House Ownership

In continuation to the efforts taken to get a house from Slum Clearance Board, a reply letter was received from Slum Clearance Board to District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Tiruchirappalli stating that Ms.E'sname(L.A No.775/20) **will have to be confirmed by the committee constituted by the Court.** After several years of struggle and a strong

support from Legal Aid Clinic of Holy Cross College and District Legal Services Authority, she was able to receive the certificate and approach various government office, corporation office, slum clearance board with the help of PLV to get her housing right at the same place. She has received an order that she is eligible for a house.

#### ➤ Property Right to Woman

Ms.C (L.A No.338/21) the mother of an office staff at Holy Cross College, approached the Legal Aid Clinic to get her share from ancestral property as her brother is enjoying all the property benefits, he is supposed to give her. The petitioner is trying to find survey number to file a case for the property. At last, the relatives understood that she would win the property dispute if she filed a case. So, they gave a share in the property wholeheartedly.

### WSC Representatives

The first meeting with WSC representatives was conducted on 28 July 2022 at Women's Studies Centre from 1 p.m to 1.40 p.m. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-



ordinator, WSC explained the aims and objectives, milestones and its wings. Roles and responsibilities of the WSC Representatives were informed in detail. The WSC Co-ordinator also informed them to carry out Level II: Soft Skill Development classes. She motivated the students to serve the students of their department and nation wholeheartedly.

The subsequent meetings were conducted on 2 August 2022, 3 August 2022, 4 August 2022, 18 August 2022, 20 October 2022 regarding world breast feeding week, National Nutrition Week, legal aid clinic and certificate course in women and law respectively. Likewise many meetings were conducted at WSC to collect students' names for participating in competitions, film shows, Gender Fest, and so on.

### Women Empowerment Ministers

This year three Student Council Members (SCMs) namely Ms.J.R.Ishwarya, III B.A.History,



Ms.ShamaMuhi, III B.Sc. Rehabilitation Science and Ms.S. Kaviya, III B.Com CA have opted to serve as Women Empowerment Ministers at Women's Studies Centre, HCC. They support WSC while planning for events, communication to students and on need. They attended an orientation session on Gender equality on the first day and legal aid clinic activities, which were handled by Dr.Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC.

### Salesian College Students' Visit

A total of 9 students visited Holy Cross College on 28 & 29 August 2022. Those students visited Women's Studies Centre on 29 August 2022 at 3.20 p.m. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Studies Centre, HCC explained about the activities of the Centre, Legal Aid Clinic and Gender Champion Club. They observed the activity posters and leaflets posted at WSC. They felt happy as well as they opined that the activities are very useful.

### Any other

### Gender Champion Club

Gender Champion Club strengthen the potential of young people to advocate for gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice. The club consist of 77 students from I UG and II UG classes under Service Oriented Course which comes under curriculum at our College. Election of the office bearers of the Gender Champion Club for the academic year 2022-2023 was held on 30 August 2022. Ms.K. Christina Sherin, II BBA 'A' was the president and Ms.J. Angelin Sujitha, II B.Com.'A' was the Secretary. The present year (2022-23) activities are as follows:



#### a) The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

The Gender Champion Club of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, organized a

meeting on Awareness on **The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** on 4<sup>th</sup> May2022 in Holy Cross College Campus. The key-note speaker Ms.S. Gomathi, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli highlighted the crimes against women and how the young generation can take safety measures to avoid problems. The Advocate explained the legal system of the constitution as it plays an irreplaceable role in women's safety and The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

#### b) Lecture on Laws for Women

The 'Programme on Laws for Women' was held on 7 September 2022. Ms.S.Rubiya, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli gave a lecture on the topic 'Laws for



Women'. The lecture primarily focused on equality for all irrespective of their sex and special laws for the benefit of women. She explained some rights like right to maintenance, right to equal pay, right against domestic violence, rights at workplace, right against dowry which is meant for women empowerment.

#### c) Orientation on Gender Champion Club

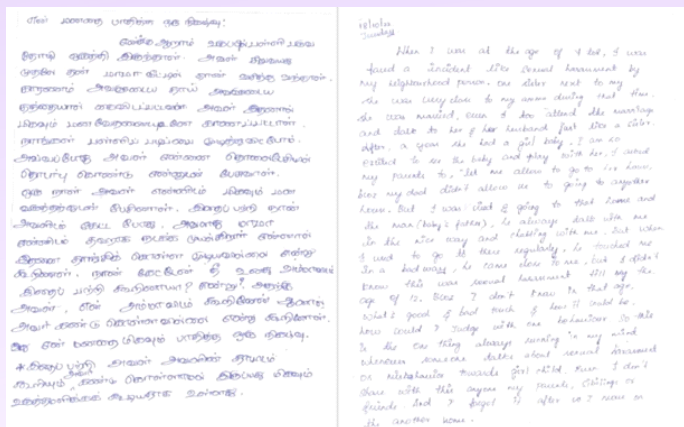
The meeting was held on 11 October 2022. Dr.R. Saraswathi, Coordinator, Women's Studies Centre, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli gave an orientation on the topic 'Gender Champion Club'. She explained in detail about roles and responsibilities of gender champion club. She described the potential of youth to advocate for gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice. She motivated the students to make the youth gender sensitive and create positive social norms that value humanity.

#### d) Activity on Sexual Harassment and Women Safety

The gender champion club organized an open up session on the sexual harassment during childhood and adolescence to make the students aware about the psychological impact of the trauma. Ms.B. Steffi







Sagaya Mary, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Holy Cross College(Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli asked the students to pen down their traumatic experiences without revealing their identity. The activity enabled them to get relieved of their pent up feelings. The feedback of the session was overwhelming as the students got a medium to express them and get freedom from the pain of holding on to a traumatic feeling. This activity gave the students the hope to get healed from the trauma of sexual harassment and they were enlightened about the legal help available through the gender champion club forum.

#### e) The Status of Women through Ages

The weekly Gender Champion Club meeting took place on 12 January 2023 between 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. The resource person of the day Ms.M. Maria Merlin, Assistant Professor of English, Holy Cross



College, Trichy spoke on the topic 'The Status of Women through Ages'. She first had an ice breaking session by asking about their experiences of being a woman, the difficulties, discriminations and the inequalities they face. She sketched the history of women in India through the ages and how the status of women has not been constant but has been changing due to religious variance. She also made a list of social evils such as Sati, child marriage, polygamy etc. that prevailed during those times and social reformers who brought out a great change in the lives of women.

#### f) Gender Equality & Women Empowerment

The weekly Gender Champion Club meeting took place on 21 January 2023 at Room No. 115, Mother Claudine Block. The resource person of the day Dr.S.



Karuthan, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, National College (Autonomous), Trichy started the session by stating how the representation of 'good' women in Tamil literature is so misleading. Good women in literature such as Sita and Kanagi were glorified when they did something to prove that they did nothing wrong. The speaker also gave examples where women were the major factor for many men to choose their path towards their passion. He cited the example of Thomas Alva Edison's mother who motivated Edison and the story of Rosaburg. He further stated how people looking at the higher society claim women have gained enough freedom without looking at the other side of women who are still waiting for their drunkard husband to return home with the responsibility of feeding their kids burdening them.

#### g) National Girl Child Day

The National Girl Child Day was celebrated on 24 January every year across India. In order celebrate this day and to create an awareness among girl children, the Gender Champion Club took an initiative to go to





three different schools and illustrate how there are lot of injustices still happening to female kids. The members of the club namely, Nalayani, Vishnupriya, Tina Jasmine and Kirthika of I B.A. English visited SM Higher Secondary School, Woraiyur; Fathima Middle School, Puthur and Holy Cross Girls' Higher Secondary School, Singarathope on 24 January 2023. They put forth before the students facts on how the percentage on women has been degrading to the percentage of men since 1901. This activity had one motive in mind and that was to create an awareness to all the girls and boys to respect and value girl children. In India only sixty five percent of women know to read and write while the others have no idea to do so. Stating this statistics, the students were made to realize how important their education is to them. As girls, everyone in the country faces a lot of challenges and their total ratio to men has also been less in all aspects. But education is the only weapon to change all their mishaps. Handbands with quotes were distributed to students in those schools.

## b) National Voter's Day

In commemoration of the National Voters Day which was celebrated on 25 January every year, the Gender Champion Club took a small step to spread awareness and insisted the importance of voting. The Club members in an attempt to encourage the first time voters arranged wrist bands with motivational quotes about one's vote. The activity was initiated by the Principal of Holy Cross College, Dr. (Sr.) A. Christina Bridget. She inaugurated it by tying the wristbands for the members of the club and also gave a short assuring speech on the importance of a vote. She further encouraged the students to get to know about the various political parties and widen their knowledge about politics. She said that only by this way, one can

have a clear idea for whom to vote. Then the club members distributed the wristbands to the first year undergraduate students in the college who are the first



time voters. This activity was a step to make the first time voters realize the importance of their vote and to encourage them to cast their votes without fail. It was also distributed to the general public who are also first time voters in and around the member's house.

## i) Programme on Gender and Family

Programme on Gender and Family was conducted on 30 January 2023. The resource person of the day Mrs. Yasodai H, Family Counsellor at SOC SEAD began the session by asking a simple question 'What is family?'. She explained the difficulties one faces after marriage at in-laws house. Educated people suffer to







maintain a healthy family relationship. Gender roles and other discrimination have been present for centuries and will definitely take some time to change. She cited real life incidents of two couples. With the example of these real life incidents, Ms. Yasodai brought to light how minor problems transform into huge issues and how huge threats are minimized and portrayed. She also stated that because of negligence many school Children undergo unwanted pregnancies. She concluded her session by saying that Family Counseling is not about just uniting the couple but also separating them when the situation demands it.

#### j) Programme on Women's Safety

Ms.P. Azeem, Inspector of Police, Anti Child Trafficking Unit, Tiruchirappalli City delivered a talk on 'Women's Safety' on 23 February 2023 at Room No115, Mother Claudine Block, Holy Cross College. She mentioned various safety measures undertaken by police department and explained about various helplines for public. She also shared her experience with women who faced lot of violence and injustice in the society due to lack of education and legal awareness. The students were very much interested to interact with her during the session.

#### Details of Student Participation

##### ❖ Gender Fest Competition Participation and Prizes

A group of 37 students participated in the 'Gender Fest' competitions conducted by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai, Tiruchirappalli on 28 February 2023. They received prizes in the following competitions on 10 March 2023 at Bharathidasan University, Palkalaiperur, Tiruchirappalli. They received the following prizes such as Mime – III Prize, Skit - I Prize, Group Song - II Prize, Elocution (Tamil) - II Prize, Essay (Tamil) - III Prize, Essay (English) - I Prize, Poem writing (English) - III Prize and Drawing - I Prize.

#### Accomplishments:

❖ Offered Bharathidasan University approved Certificate Course in Gender and Development

- ❖ Offered Certificate Course in Women and Law
- ❖ Legal Aid Clinic functioned in association with District Legal Services Authority, Tiruchirappalli
- ❖ Observation visit by Law College student to Legal Aid Clinic
- ❖ Offered a course on Gender studies for II UG students
- ❖ Observed National Nutrition Month
- ❖ Observed World Breast Feeding 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
- ❖ Certificate course and Gender Champion Club students won many prizes in 'Gender Fest Competitions'

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