

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

(From April, 2019 – March, 2020)



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES



‘समानो मन्त्र समिति समानी’

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Accredited by NAAC with Grade A

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

P O – NORTH BENGAL UNIVERSITY

DIST-DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL.

PIN -734013



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

(From April 2019-March,2020)

**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL**

1.0. 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** : The Centre has been upgraded by the UGC to
Phase- II as **Present Phase** per the letter
F.No.7-68/2007 (WS) dated **21st March, 2012**.
- 6. Name of the Director** : Professor Zinia Mitra

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 twelve (12) 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

A. REFRESHER COURSE

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, in collaboration with the UGC Academic Staff College, organized a Refresher Course in **Women's Studies (ID), Theme-Women in Development, from January 2-15, 2020**. 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 Women's Studies, like previous years this year also it receives more than 200 applications from all over the country.

However, as per norms 50 no of teachers of different colleges and universities from all over India 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, Jadavpur University, University of Calcutta etc having the expertise in this field acted as resource person and delivered lectures on various issues related to the theme.

B. WORKSHOP

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, organized *a series of Workshop on Gender Awareness, Theme- Ab Samjhauta Nahin , for University/College students from 18th -22nd November,2019 in collaboration with ITC Centre, Vivel, 36-37, Russel St., Park Street, Kolkata.*

The Centre has organized 5 workshops for students in different colleges of North Bengal along with North Bengal University. The workshops were held at South Field College, Darjeeling, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, Siliguri College, Siliguri, KGT College, Bagdogra, Siliguri, and at North Bengal University respectively.

About the Workshop

The Principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women.

Gender inequality in India is a multifaceted issue that concerns men and women. Discrimination affects many aspects in the lives of women from career development and progress to mental health disorders. Being born in the Indian society one has to face gender discrimination at all levels. At household level-females are confined to the household chores, raising children and looking after families, irrespective of her education degrees or her job profile. In spite of having laws on rape, dowry and adultery have women's safety at heart; these highly discriminatory practices are still taking place at an alarming rate, affecting the lives of many today.

Hence, in order to create a gender friendly atmosphere in our society we should make aware the students about the Gender issues as well as their rights. The workshop is a joint effort of the **Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal** and ITC Vivel. The Programme will be held at **Six (06)** colleges of North Bengal and at the **University of North Bengal**.

About the Workshop

ITC Vivel as part of its brand philosophy of *Ab Samjhauta Nahin* (No more compromises) introduced 'Know Your Rights' at a college/university level across India, with the objective to change the collective consciousness of the youth through an increased perceptiveness on gender-sensitive issues; enabling gender-responsive actions at a personal level and building confidence through the knowledge of rights.

This programme is a part of CSR project of Vivel focusing the youth audience and empowering them with legal knowledge about their rights.

Objectives of the Course-

1. Defining the need to know one's rights and an introduction detailing Fundamental

- rights and the concept of gender equality.
2. Equality – At Work and at Home which details the legal rights and framework for sexual harassment, POCSO, Domestic Violence, Divorce, Alimony and Inheritance
 3. Cyber safety which includes cyber stalking, bullying and how the law deals with it.
 4. The module, in addition, will help define the Rights one should know regarding the Police and the definition of Consent as provided by law

Duration

One day workshop.

Resource person

The session comprises of a Trainer from Vivel addressing the students.

Participants

Minimum 100 students.

South field College





St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling





Siliguri College, Siliguri



Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling





Siliguri College-





C. Special Lecture–

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



Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, ACL, NBU, Prof. Filip Ivanovic, Montenegro, Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Registrar, NBU & Prof. Debika Saha, Director, CWS,NBU(From Left)

The Centre for Women's Studies organized a *Special Lecture Programme* on 10th & 11th February, 2020 by *Prof. Filip Ivanovic, Faculty of Culture and Tourism, University of Danja Gorica, Montenegro*. Prof. Filip is presently associated with the Culture and Tourism Department, University of Danja Gorica, Montenegro as a faculty. He is Executive Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, Podgorica, Montenegro, Editor –in – Chief of *Akropolis : Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Expert for Accreditation of Study Programs and Reaccreditation of Higher Education Institutions, Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education of Montenegro etc.

A. The first day of the *Special Lecture Programme* was started with the *Inaugural Ceremony* on 10th February, 2020 at 11.00 noon, at the Room No. 109, Humanities Building, NBU. *Prof. Filip Ivanovic, Faculty of Culture and Tourism, University of Danja Gorica, Montenegro, Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee*, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, NBU, *Dr Dilip Kumar Sarkar*, Registrar, NBU and *Prof. Debika Saha*, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU were grace the occasion.



Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies started the programme with warm welcome to the Special guest *Prof. Filip Ivanovic, Montenegro* and other distinguished guests present in the inaugural programme. On behalf of the University Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, NBU and *Dr Dilip Kumar Sarkar*, Registrar, NBU jointly welcome *Prof. Filip Ivanovic* and express their heartiest thanks to Prof. Ivanovic for his visit to the University. *Prof. Debika Saha*, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, delivered the Welcome Speech on behalf of the Centre and welcome all the dignitaries on the dais and off the dais and participants to the programme. She also introduced Prof. Filip Ivanovic and express her gratitude to Prof Filip for his valuable visit to the University.

Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, NBU, in her speech briefly explain about the activities of the Centre for Women's Studies and its importance to achieve the goal of the Centre as per the criteria laid down by the UGC Guidelines. She told that being an oldest Centre in this region it act as a nodal Centre among the other Centers of the Universities and Colleges of North Bengal. Apart from the Institutions, it extends its activities to the grass root people as well as work with other Government and Non-Governmental institutions, NGOs etc.

Dr Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Registrar, NBU in his speech expresses his thanks to the Centre, to organise such kind of International programme with limited resources. He also told that such kind of Programme will provide a good exposure to our students and they can share their knowledge with the resource person. Dr. Sarkar requests the Director to continue such kind of activities for the benefit of the students.

Teachers and officers from various University departments and branches, Research Scholars and Students were present in the programme. Prof. Fillip delivered his lecture on ***Diotima and the Secret of Love and Beauty***.

About the Lecture-

Diotima and the Secret of Love and Beauty

The lecture discussed the philosophical role of the character of Diotima in Plato's *Symposium*, a dialogue dedicated to the concept of love. As the story goes, all attendants of the banquet recount their views on Eros, god of love. When the time comes for Socrates to tell his story, he decides not to speak in his own words, but to report on his encounter with a mysterious woman, named Diotima, who was a priestess, and who instructed Socrates in the matters of love. This is the manner in which famous Plato's doctrine of love is expounded. Diotima explains to Socrates that Eros is neither mortal nor immortal, neither god nor human, but is intermediary between gods and humans. Eros works through a "ladder" - from a particular body, through all bodies, then souls, then laws and knowledge, to finally end in love for love itself. True love is, in fact, love for the beautiful in itself, the form of beauty, which brings forth true virtue to become friend of God and immortal. The emphasis of the lecture was, however, on the very intention of Plato to have a woman give the proper definition of the conversation's subject. Unlike in other dialogues, it is not Socrates who "wins" the argument, but it is Diotima, a woman who was actually smarter than Socrates - he admits that it was her who taught him the true nature of love and he decides just to quote her words. Thus Plato's introduction of Diotima's speech (only as reported, of course, since he could place her at the banquet, reserved for men only) represents a revolutionary move which affirms women's intellectual abilities and even exalts them over Socrates', against the usual view of women in antiquity.

The lecture was very much informative and all the participants took active part in the discussion.

The programme was ended with the Vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta, CWS.

B. The second day of the Programme was held at the Department of History on 11th February, 2020. The programme was at 11.30 am at the Seminar Hall, department of History. Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Head, Department of History welcome Prof. Filip Ivanovic and Prof. Debika Saha, Director, Centre for Women's Studies preside over the session.



Prof. Ivanovic delivered a lecture on *Ancient Philosophy and Early Christianity*.



About the Lecture-

Ancient Philosophy and Early Christianity

Abstract: The main aim of this lecture was to show the connections between ancient Greek philosophy and early Christian theology, as well as to emphasize the high appreciation of philosophy in some of the most prominent Christian writers. As a matter of fact, already the Biblical story talks about the journey of St Paul to Athens and his conversations with Athenian philosophers on hill Areopagus, the place where the Athenian high court held its sessions. St Paul elaborately used Athenian piety to promote Christianity, and ably pointed out that one of the shrines beneath Acropolis had an inscription "To the Unknown God" - St Paul proclaimed that he was there to reveal that God. The lecture proceeds by quoting and interpreting statements of some of the most important Christian thinkers, such as Clement of Alexandria, Maximus the Confessor, and others who claimed that philosophy and its "tools" were important for understanding Christian truths. Such view of philosophy continued throughout medieval Byzantium, and beyond, and can be even see in many churches where frescos of Plato, Aristotle and other philosophers can be found. Finally, the main idea of the lecture was to show continuity between different religious and intellectual streams ("pagan" philosophy and Christian religion), and to highlight the importance of understanding of philosophy and religion in order to correctly comprehend contemporary world as well.

4. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

A. TWO-DAY UGC SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

The Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal organized a Two-day *International Seminar on 'Marital Relations: Society and Literature'* on **March 5-6, 2020** in collaboration with the Department of Bengali, Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Malbazar, with the funding from the UGC.

Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, and former director Centre for Women's Studies, NBU has inaugurated the seminar. The inaugural programme was started with the welcome speech delivered by **Professor Nandita Mukherjee**, TIC , PMS College, Malbazar. **Professor Debika Saha**, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, NBU welcome all the dignitaries and participants from different parts of the country as well as from other country and also briefly introduced the theme of the Seminar. **Professor Ankush Bhatta**, retired Professor, department of Bengali, NBU also eminent personality in the field of literature delivered the **Key Note Speech**.



Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law delivering the Inaugural Speech in the International Seminar

The **International Seminar** was graced by the valuable presence of **Professor Rajiv Mandal** from **Dhaka Jagannath University, Dhaka , Bangladesh**, **Professor Laila Ferdous** of **Rabindra University, Dhaka, Bangladesh**, **Dr Nandita Dhawan**, **Director, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata**, **Ms Kaberi Roy Chaudhury**, eminent writer from **Kolkata** and **Professor Maitreyee Chowdhury**, **Centre for Himalayan Studies, NBU**, **Dr Nikhilesh Roy**, **Head and Professor of the Department of Bengali, University of North Bengal**.

More than 60 research papers were presented on various issues related to the theme in Bengali, Hindi, English and Nepali language. Teachers, research scholars and students from all over the country as well as from Bangladesh were actively participated in the seminar.



Two-day *International Seminar on 'Marital Relations: Society and Literature'* on March 5-6, 2020



5. PUBLICATIONS:-

5.1 JOURNAL

Journal of Women's Studies Vol-X, 2019(ISSN -2320-3625).

5.2 BOOK

Reconfiguring the Indian Women: Conceiving theories, theorizing identities.

6.0 RESOURCES

6.1 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,2018-1st October,2020)
- ii) Assistant Professor: Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta .
- iii) Peon: Shri Asit Singha .

6.2 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.

For effective documentation, the centre has acquired camera which has been useful in the various activities of women in North Bengal including the project work undertaken by the Centre in different time.

6.3 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.

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 benefitted.

(Dr. Zinia Mitra)

Director

Centre for Women's Studies

University of North Bengal

(Dr. Subires Bhattacharyya)

Vice Chancellor



University of North Bengal

Books published by CWS –

1. Dhar, Samirendra Nath, 2005: Micro Finance for Women. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi.
2. Roy, Sanjay Kr, 2005: Tribes: Education and Gender Question. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi.
3. Mandal, Amal, 2005: Women Workers: In Brick Factory. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi
4. Mondal, Sekh Rahim, 2005 : Muslim Women: Role and Status. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi
5. Ghosh, Raghunath 2005: Facets of Feminism. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi
6. Baruya, Ananya 2005: Belief in Witch: Witch Killing in Dooars. Northern Book Centre, New Delhi.
7. Roy Mukherjee, Sanchari. 2007: Indian Women: Broken Words, Distant Dreams, Edited volume published by Levant Books, Kolkata,
8. Roy, Sanjay Kr. 2007: Work Participation of Tribal Women and Marginalisation: The cases of North Bengal, Levant Books, kolkata.
9. Bagchi, Anita. 2007: Social Situations of Women in North Bengal through the ages: Ancient And early Medieval Period. Levant Books, kolkata.
10. Bagchi, Anita. 2009: Changing Faces of Indian Women, Edited volume & Sanjay Kr. Roy published by Levant Books, Kolkata.
11. Chakraborty Ranjita 2009: Women's Empowerment and Gender Securities: A & Maitreyee Choudhury South Asian Perspective, Edited volume published by Levant Books, Kolkata
12. Ray Datta, Sudakshina. 2009: Women in the Changing World: Global & Sanchari Roy Mukherjee Experiences and Challanges, Edited volume published by Levant Books, Kolkata
13. Bagchi, Anita. 2010: Women Empowerment and Her Story: An Agemic Vision, published by Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal
14. Ghosh, Maya 2011: Towards Engendering Development, published by Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal



<p>Contact persons : Dr Pankaj Kumar Sarkar, Convener Cell : 9872389251</p> <p>Dr Beethika Moni Dutta, Joint Convener Cell : 9614852024</p> <p>Dr Tapati Saha, HOD, Dept of Bengali Cell : 9434467727</p>  	<p>Chief Patron Dr. Subira Bhattacharyya Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal</p> <p>Patron Nandita Mukherjee Teacher-in-charge Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya</p> <p>Chief Advisor Prof. Geetika Saha Director, Centre for Women's Studies University of North Bengal</p> <p>Organising Secretary Biswan Saha President, Governing Body Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya</p> <p>Convener Dr. Pankaj Kumar Sarkar Asst. Professor, Deptt. of Bengali Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya</p> <p>Joint Convener Dr. Beethika Moni Dutta Asst. Professor Centre for Women Studies University of North Bengal</p> <p>Members : Dr. Tapati Saha, Dr. Chandan Khan, Subhojit Khosroobah, Basudeb Paul, Dr. Seshadri Prasad Bose, Rajesh Kishore Agarwal, Dr. Ranika Thapa, Dr. Jaya Adhikary, Dr. Dibyendu Dasgupta, Sarjib Singha, Dr. Suboehana Das, Dr. Ritu Rai</p> 	<p>CWS</p> <p>UGC University Grant Commission</p> <p>UGC Sponsored International Seminar</p> <p>Conjugal Life in Literature and Society</p> <p>Seminar 19th & 20th December 2019</p> <p>Venue : Conference Room, PMS Mahavidyalaya</p> <p>Organized by: Department of Bengali, Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Malbazar, Jalpaiguri</p> <p><i>In collaboration with</i> Centre for Women's Studies University of North Bengal</p> 
---	---	--

<p>Conjugal relationship is the most important in multidimensional character of our Men-Women bond with the passage of time, not only in individual and formation plane, this relationships have undergone a sea change imparting on every aspects of our social life. Literature, bring mirror of our society, reflects these complexities with no exception.</p> <p>With the expansion of education and economic independence among women folk, they become more conscious of their rights, duties and obligations via-n-vis men folk. And naturally traditional concept of the men-women relationship and male domination received a severe jolt produces multifarious problems.</p> <p>Keeping this in view, Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalaya in association with Women Study Centre, N.B.U., where organised a two day international seminar to be held on 19th and 20th December, 2019 at Parimal Mitra Smirity Mahavidyalaya Conference hall, Malbazar, Siliguri</p> <p>You are cordially invited to participate and deliver in this seminar to make it a success.</p> 	<p>SUBTHEMES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evolution of Conjugal Relationship. 2. Conjugal Relationship : Problems and Prospects. 3. Dilemmas of Women in Conjugal Relationship. 4. Conjugal Relationship and Legal Provisions. 5. Consumerism and its effects on Conjugal Life. <p>Last date of abstract (Multilingual) submission: 22nd November, 2019 (Word limit- 150-200 words)</p> <p>Last date of full paper submission: 10th December, 2019</p> <p>(Abstract should be typed in Unicode Fonts) [like Avro or any open type fonts]</p> <p>Selected papers will be Published from National/International publication</p> 	<p>Important dates :</p> <p>Last date for Submission of Abstract 22nd November, 2019</p> <p>Last Date of Submission of Full paper 10th December, 2019</p> <p>Registration Fee for the Participants :</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Faculty</td> <td>:</td> <td>1000 INR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research Scholars</td> <td>:</td> <td>800 INR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Students & Others</td> <td>:</td> <td>500 INR</td> </tr> </table> <p>Registration Fee should be paid in this Account Number</p> <p>35786123508, SBI, Mal Branch, IFSC Code : SBIN002084</p> <p>The organizers will provide lunch and refreshment to the participants. However, T.A and accommodation cannot be provided</p> 	Faculty	:	1000 INR	Research Scholars	:	800 INR	Students & Others	:	500 INR
Faculty	:	1000 INR									
Research Scholars	:	800 INR									
Students & Others	:	500 INR									

