

Newsletter

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE THIAGARAJAR COLLEGE

(An Autonomous Institution affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)
(Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)
139-140, Kamarajar Salai, Madurai-625 009



2014-2016 Volume - 3

In This Issue

Meetings

Advisory Committee meeting 04.03.2015
Board of Studies Meeting 17.07.2015
Advisory Committee meeting 09.10.2015

Short term Academic Courses

PG Academic Projects on Women's Studies Training Programmes

Madurai Malli - Capacity Building and Self Employment Opportunities 13.08.14 Emotional Intelligence and Gender Equity 10.09.14 Student Psychology and Emotional Intelligence 24.02.15

Stress Management and Emotional Wellbeing – 14.03.15

Signing of MOU with M.S.Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation – 10.09.15

Inauguration of 'Counselling Support Centre'

12.02.16

Awareness Programmes

Fundamental Rights and Duties and Constitutional Remedies - 13.08.15

Motivational Programmes

Success Stories of Some Women Achievers 04.03.15

Impact of Climate Change on Women's Health-

Creative Painting - a Hobby and an Art - 12.10.15 Adolescent Health - 29.01.16

Non Verbal Communication Skills for Empowering Women – 15.03.16

Women and the Law - 17.03.16

Field Action Projects

A Study on awareness of folic acid intake of pregnant women in Madurai district

Meetings

Advisory Committee Meeting (04.03.2015)



Dr. (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President & Secretary, Thiagarajar, College (Chairperson, Women's Studies Centre) chair the advisory meeting on 04.03.2015

Advisory committee meeting of the Women's Studies Centre for 2014-2015 was held on 04.03.2015. It was resolved to introduce a UG course in B.Sc., Psychology with Gender Studies as allied subject with effect from 2015-2016. It was resolved to evolve the interdisciplinary academic activity with M.S. Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation, Madurai working on mental health and gender related issues.

Board of Studies Meeting (17.07.2015)



Board of Studies Meeting for the B.Sc., Psychology course in Women's Studies Centre on 17.07.2015

·Women's Studies Centre organized the board of studies meeting on 17.07.2015 for the B.Sc., Psychology course for framing the syllabus. The Subject expert Dr.P. Mahendran, Asso. Prof & Head, Department of Psychology, PSG College of arts and Science, Coimbatore, Academic auditor Dr Synthia Mary Mathew, Asso. Prof & Dept. of Social Sciences, Lady Doak College, Madurai, Alumnus Dr. Helen Christina, Asso. Prof in Zoology, Sri Meenakshi college for Women, Madurai and the faculty members in the standing committee of the centre and Psychology faculty members framed the syllabus for the B.Sc., Psychology course.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader – John Quincy Adams."

Advisory Committee Meeting 09.10.2015



Dr. (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President & Secretary, Thiagarajar College (Chairperson, Women's Studies Centre) chair the advisory meeting on 09:10:2015

Advisory committee meeting of the Women's Studies Centre for the year 2015-2016 was held on 09.10.2015. Activities of the centre for the academic year 2014-2015 were discussed. It was resolved to sign a MOU with M.S.Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation, Madurai for the interdisciplinary academic activities of B.Sc., Psychology course.

Short term Academic Courses

The Centre is offering two certificate courses viz.

- 1. Women's Health and fitness
- 2. Life Skills for Women .

from the academic year 2013 – 2014 for the girl students of the college.

"Women, like men, should try to do the impossible and when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others – Amelia Earhart".

Post Graduate Academic Projects on Women's Studies

The centre supports PG student projects on issues related to Women's Studies by providing studentship for the preparation of dissertations. Projects on feminism in literary writing, feministic writers, Women empowerment and socio-political status of women in Tamil Nadu were selected.

PG Students project stipend for the year 2014-2015

S.	Students Name	Academi	Departme	Title of the
No		c Year	nt	Project
1	P. Harinesh	2014-15	II M.A.,	Andal padalgalin
			Tamil	uvamaigal
2.	C. Ganesh Pandi	2014-15	II M.A.	Periyalvar, Andal
Tree!			Tamil	Pakthinilayum,
				uravunilayum
3.	G Sri Maha	2014-15	има.	Feministic Love in
	Lakshmi		English	Pearl S.Buck's
				*Letter From
			TO BE ST	Peking'
4.	K. Amala Reena	2014-15	II M.A.	Womanis Features
			English	in Alice Walker's
				'The Temple of
		EF-1		MyFamiliar'
5.	K.Santhana	2014-15	II M.A.,	A Study on
	Kumar		Economics	Women Workers
				in Lakshmi Mill.
				Coimbatore City
6.	A Vigneshwaran	2014-15	II M.A.	An Analysis of
			Economics	Women
				Empowerment
				Through Micro
				Finance in
			14	Sivagangai
	The Park of the Control of the Contr		1	District
7.	T.Velayutham -	2014-15	II M.A.,	A Study on
		100	Economics	Multiple Work
	THE STREET		15.00	Burden of
W. E				Unorganized
			1 25	Women Workers
		1 5 3 5 5 1	1 1 H	in Madurai City
23710	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	The state of the s		

The following PG students of the Departments of Tamil, English, Economics who worked on a topic related to women's issues for their academic projects were given stipend reimbursing the charges for preparing the dissertations. They were encouraged to publish their work in journals.

PG Students project stipend for the year 2015-2016

S.No.	Students	Acade	Depar	Title of the
	Name	mic	tment	Projects
7		year	7 2 5	
1.	K. Gokila	2015-	Tamil	The History and
	A STATE OF THE STA	2016	1	Worshipping in
				the temple of
				Chellaice
				Amman.
2	A Kalaiselvi	2015-	Tamil	The History and
NI		2016		Significance of
				Women Deities
				the Village of
36 50			The DAY	Thirumal
3.	G. Chithra	2015-	Englis	Perception of
	Devi	2016	h	Motherhood' in
	· San		2	Flora Nwapa's
		MANUE.		EFURU.
4. ,	C. Lakshmi	2015-	Englis	'Plight of
The state of		2016	h	Women' in the
187				select plays of
1000	WILL STED		100	Wole Soyinka
5.	K Kamaraj	2015-	Econo	An Analysis of
150 150		2016	mics	Educational
				Impact on Women in India
1		100 110	**	Women in Indi
6.	M Ananthak	2015-	Econo	Informal Sector
	umar	2016	mies	Market Street Street
100-			1	A Study Reference to
		1		
1				Thiruppuvanan T.K. Sivaganga
100				District
1	N. Comment	2015-	Econo	Women
7.	M	2015-	mics	Entrepreneursh
	Arunadevi	2016	inies	in sungudi sare
		THE REAL PROPERTY.		Making A Stu
1000		T.L.	1 3 43	in Madurai Cit
10000	The state of the s		O CONTRACTOR	an armound Con

Training Programmes

Madurai Malli - Capacity Building and Self Employment Opportunities (13.08.2014)



Dr. S. Kanagasabai, Dean (CD) welcoming the gathering in Madurai Malli Workshop

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College in association with Thiagarajar Crafts Foundation organized a one day workshop on "Madurai Malli Capacity Building & Self – Employment Opportunities" at Thiagarajar College on 13.08.14. Prof. C. Chinnusamy, Dean, Agricultural & Research Institute Madurai, lighted the lamp and delivered the inaugural address. He said as an agro –based country, India stands first in the production of various food products. It has also attained self- sufficiency in the production of flowers.

"A leader is one who knows the way goes the way, and shows the way - John C.Maxwell". Professor, Department of Soils & Environment,
Agricultural College & Research Institute spoke
on the significance of the workshop in
empowering the small scale flower vendors. She
also insisted on organizing similar workshops to
enhance their capacity to earn more for their
livelihood. The Principal, Dr. T. Rajasekar drew
attention to the yeoman service of the Secretary
of the college, Dr. Uma Kannan, to the vendors
of "Malligai" in empowering them with
economic independence.

He said Thiagarajar Crafts Foundation is a charitable organization that functions with a noble mission of identifying, conserving and promoting the traditional riches of our nation. As a body committed to the welfare of the needy, the foundation has taken meaningful measures to bring 'Sungudi' and "Malli" two iconic identities of Madurai to the forefront.

Earlier, Dr. S. Kanagasabai, Dean (CD)
Thiagarajar College, welcomed the gathering and
Dr. N. Asha Devi, Assistant Prof. of Zoology,
delivered the vote of thanks. The programme
trained nearly 100 SHG Women & Students.

One day workshop on "Emotional Intelligence and Gender Equity" (10.09.2014)



Dr. (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President & Secretary, Thiagarajar College addressing the audience in the workshop

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organized a one —day workshop on "Emotional Intelligence and Gender Equity" in which the girl students of the college were oriented towards the techniques that promote emotional intelligence. The director of the centre Dr. Eyini in her welcome speech briefed the activities of the centre aimed towards empowering the girl students of the college. Dr. T. Rajasekar, Principal (i/c) reminded the students of their inherent power and how they could harness it for their progress in life.

Dr. Uma Kannan, Vice - President and Secretary of the college, in her Inaugural address elaborated on the conditions of gender inequality prevailing in various countries of the world. She explained that gender equality is a social condition whereby women and men share equal rights and a rewards and that gender equality can be broadly operationalized by men and women having (1) equitable access and use of resources (2) equitable participation in relationships, the household, the community and political arenas and (3) safety or freedom from violence. She pointed out that gender equality does not imply that women and men are the same, but that they have equal value and should be accorded equal treatment.

She motivated the students to empower themselves with emotional intelligence and other life skills so that they can empower others that are less fortunate.

In the workshop on "Yoga for health and well being" Swami Sachidananda and Mr. Yashpal Singh of Sivananda Ashram and Yoga Centre demonstrated to the students the eight steps of Surya Namaskar and some of the easy—to-practice asanas for the beginners. The Swamiji expounded how yoga can be used to bring harmony between the mind, body and soul and how it can uplift a person to a higher state of consciousness by making them physically fit and mentally alert.

In the second session of the workshop on "Meditation for emotional intelligence", Brahmakumari Rani held the attention of the participants through an interactive mode using short spells of meditation and taught them how to watch and read the mind and to get rid of the waste, negative thoughts by feeding it with positive instructions and inputs. Dr. Subathra devi, Head of the Department of English proposed the vote of thanks:

One day Faculty Development Programme on 'Student Psychology and Emotional Intelligence'



Dr. (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President & Secretary, Thiagarajar College addressing the participants of the FDP on 24 02.15

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organized a one day Faculty Development Programme for the newly recruited faculty members of the college on 24.02.2015.

Dr. M. Eyini, Director of the Centre welcomed the participants and highlighted the need for such

Faculty Development Programmes for the newprofessionals. Dr. T. Rajasekar, Principal of the college talked on the importance of guidance and counseling to be given to the students by the staff members.

Dr. Mrs. Uma Kannan, Vice President and Secretary of the college and the Chairperson of Women's Studies Centre extolled on the ways and means of maintaining student discipline and academic excellence by effective mentoring and counseling.

'Mr. Jim Jesudoss, Executive Director,
Child line Trust and Vidiyal NGO spoke on the
need for maintaining a healthy student -teacher
relationship for efficient class room
communication.

The session was followed by a guest lecture on 'Cyber Crimes' by Mrs. S. Kowsalya, Inspector of Police, Madurai North, Madurai. She delved into the minds of adolescents and cautioned how the external influences and media can affect their mind leading to an increased rate of cyber crimes in as computer literate world.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Helen Christina, Consultant Psychotherapist had an interactive session with the audience. She held the attention of the participants on the methods of developing Emotional Intelligence. The programme benefited 50 faculty members of the college.

One Day Refresher Programme on "Stress

Management and Emotional Wellbeing"



Dr. (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President & Secretary,
Thiagarajar College addressing the audience in the refresher
programme

Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar
College, Madurai Organized a One-day Refresher
Programme on 'Stress Management and Emotional
Wellbeing' for the Faculty members in the rank of
Assistant Professors in Thiagarajar College and
from other colleges in Madurai.

The Programme was presided over by Dr. (Mrs.)Uma Kannan, Vice President& Secretary of Thiagarajar College. She spoke on the Importance of managing stress especially for multitasking women and suggested simple ways to keep one's emotions under control.

Dr.K.Sekar, HOD of Psychiatric Social-Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore conducted the technical session on Stress Management. He spoke on the ways of managing stress at home and in the workplace.

Dr. A. Pragatheswaran conducted the second technical session on "Emotional Well being". He helped the participants to assess their own emotional Well being through a questionnaire and made them to realize that their emotions can be positively handled by slight tweaking of their minds.

Dr.Helen Christina held on Interactive session on emotional wellbeing and on the training methods for controlling and managing emotions. Mrs.A.M.Hema, Head of the Department of Computer Science proposed the vote of thanks.

The Refresher Programme was attended by 131 Staff members including eleven staff from other colleges.

"Never Doubt That a Small
Group of thoughtful
Committed Citizens Can
Change the World.
Margaret Mead"

-3

Signing of MOU with M.S.Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation - 10.09.2015



Dr (Mrs) Uma Kannan, Vice President, Thiagarajar College addressing the audience in the signing of MOU programme

Psychologists are in good demand and fresh graduates have tremendous scope for employment, according to psychiatrist and state Health project) (Mental officer Nodal C.Ramasubramanian. Speaking after signing a memorandum of understanding(MOU) between M.S.Chellamuthu Trust and Research Foundation (MSCTRF) and Thiagarajar College to work together on educating and training students Pursuing B.SC. (Psychology) here on Thursday, he quoted a world Health organization report which predicted that by 2020 a good number of people in India could encounter anxiety and depressionrelated problems.

Expressing concern over shortage of trained doctors and psychologists, he said that the country had just 5,000 psychiatrists, 2,500 psychologists

and 2,000 social workers. With such limited manpower, giving treatment to a large number of people is not possible. Thus, there was a need for more number of students taking up such courses, Which could not only give jobs, but also facilitate cure for patients at an early stage, Dr Ramasubramanian said.

Appealing to the students to prepare themselves to face challenges ahead, he said that in a psychiatric patient case, it was not just the person who suffered, but the family too, unlike other illness where the patient alone had undergo the pain.

College Vice-President and Women's Studies

Centre chairperson Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Kannan said

there is a mutual interest, concern and role to be

played by educational institutions and

establishments engaged in mental healthcare.

Unfortunately, in India, education and awareness

of mental health was abysmal. There must be a

strong support group for parents.

Earlier, Principal M.Eyini Welcomed the gathering, lecturer in Psychology K.Vigneshvaran proposed the vote of thanks.

Inauguration of 'Counselling Support Centre' - 12.02.2016



Dr. C. Rama Subramanian, Founder, M.S. Chellamuthu Trust and Research Foundation addressing the audience in the programme

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College, Madurai organized the Inauguration of "Counselling Support Centre" on 12.02.2016 at 10.00 a.m. Around 200 students from various departments of the college participated in the Programme. Dr.M.Eyini, Principal welcomed the gathering.

The Chief Guest of the programme

Dr.C.Ramasubramanian lighted the lamp and
delivered the inaugural address. In his address he
emphasized the need for psychologist and
explained students how to face inferiority complex.

Moreover he pointed out institutions starting
counselling support centre is a good initiative so
that we can break the inferiority complex of
students through the counsellors.

Dr.D.Helen Christina, Sri Meenakshi Govt. College, Madurai delivered the Special lecture on 'Online and Mobile Counselling'.

Mrs. Ramya Maheswari M.Sc., M.Phil, Assistant Professor& Head, Department of Psychology, Ethiraj College for Women delivered the Special lecture on 'Student Counselling'. After the session the broucher for the counselling support centre was released. Mr.T.Saravanakumar, Lecturer' in psychology proposed the vote of thanks.

Awareness Programmes

"Fundamental Rights and Duties & Constitutional Remedies" (13.08.2015)



Thiru, K.Samidurai, Advocate Madras High Court (Madurai bench) addressing the students in the workshop on 13.08.2015

Women's Studies Centre and Girls
Students' Counselling Cell Jointly Organise an
Awareness Programme in association with.
National Legal Rights Protection Council
(NLPC) on Fundamental Rights and Duties &
Constitutional Remedies. Dr.A.Suganthi

Welcomed the Gathering. Dr.M.Eyini, Principal in her presidential address emphasised the need for developing Students as responsible Citizens and to equip them with knowledge pertaining to the Law.

Thiru. K.Samidurai, Advocate Madras
High Court (Madurai bench) addressed the students
on various problems encountered due to Law
illiteracy. Mrs. Raji Vishwanath, Women's Wing
Director, NLPC, Madurai educated the Students on
internet Security. All the outgoing students were
benefited out of this Programme.

Motivational Programmes

Guest Lecture on "Success Stories of Some Women Achievers" 04.03.2015



Dr.N.Manimegalai,Bharathidasan University gives a guest lecture on "Success Stories of Some Women Achievers"

A guest lecture on "Success Stories of Some Women Achievers" was arranged by Women's Studies Centre on 04.03.2015. The Director of Women's Studies Centre, Dr. M. Eyini, welcomed the gathering.

Director, Women's Studies Centre, Bharathidasan University, Trichy motivated the students by telling them the Success Stories of Some Women Achievers from the lower strata of the society and from the general public. She traced their path of success and detailed how they could emerge as successful women by breaking the glass ceilings over their heads to reach to the traced their skills and to use them efficiently in order to succeed.

She further told that women should try to become entrepreneurs by learning to tackle the problem to be encountered in their business. Further she emphasized that women should learn to protect themselves in difficult situations. The programme was attended by 200 students (boys and girls).

Dr. A.Suganthi, Head of the Department of Chemistry proposed the vote of thanks. The participants were shown videos on workplace sexual harassment, difficulties faced by working women and on gender role reversal in the new millennium.

Guest Lecture on "Impact of Climate Change on Women's Health"



Ms. Mirudula Ramesh, Executive Director, Sundaram Textiles Ltd, delivers a guest lecture on "Impact of Climate Change".

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar
College organized a Guest Lecture on "Impact of
Climate change in Women's Health". Dr. M. Eyini,
Director of the Centre welcomed the participants
and highlighted the need for such Dr. T. Rajasekar,
Principal of the college talked on the importance of
health.

Dr. (Mrs). Uma Kannan Vice President and Secretary of Thiagarajar College presided over the function. She highlighted the head for creating awareness about the impact of environmental hazards and climate change on women's health among women students.

Ms. Mridula Ramesh Convenor, Indian
Women Network Madurai Zone & Executive
Director, Sundaram Textiles Ltd, Madurai
delivered a special address on climate change

after effects of the changes in climate. She initiated her address by posing many questions as; Are we equal? Are we equal at birth? Are you a person who can also make decision? Then she highlighted such unanswered questions by inquiring the students for answers. Such questions were answered with a "No" by the students.

Ms. Mridula Ramesh shared some of the most important impacts of climate changes on women which included Role Vulnerabilities, Care of Children, Care of Household, Collection of Water and Personal safety. These impacts are highly related to each other where during the time of Disaster, to combat with the risk, only the woman plays a vital role in shouldering the responsibility of caring the children. The second most challenging task she mentioned was caring for the household, which includes usage of Chula(wood fuel stoves) causes pollution and leads to health issues such as Asthma, low birth weight babies and premature deaths.

"Do not wait on a leader.... look in the mirror, its you! - Katherine Miracle".

Later she shared one of the most important uncertainties such as drought & drying up of water resources foreing in rural area women to walk longer distance to procure water. Another challenging issue she mentioned was the personal safety of woman as when during the disaster period the productivity gets lower and tends to indirectly affect the health as loss of nutrition occurs and in some cases domestic violence also takes place.

Finally, she suggested few solutions to win over these impacts, which included increasing access to crop finance and insurance for women,

Increase access to training the technological aspects to women, utilization of hand pumps can be utilized in villages and suffering vitamins and nutritional supplements for rural women and children, Better cook stoves can be provided inorder to avoid the heat generated from the carbon and pollution of environment.

She also mentioned that saving water is a major part of protecting ourselves from the climate change impacts. Dr. Subathra devi, Head of the Department of English proposed the vote of thanks

"Creative Painting - A Hobby and an Art" - 12.10.2015



*Creative Painting – A Hobby and an Art'- Demonstration

The Women's Studies Centre of

Thiagarajar College, Madurai organized a Workshop On 'Creative Painting - a Hobby and an Art' 12.10.2016 at 11.30 a.m. Around 100 students from various departments of the college participated in the Programme.

Dr.M.Eyini, Principal introduced the chief guest and welcomed the gathering.

Mr.S.Murugan, Pidilite Industries Ltd.,
Bangalore explained how to paint in sarees and
demonstrated using some painting things.
Dr.N.K.Asha Devi, Department of Zoology
proposed the vote of thanks.



Mrs B Ashifa, Programme officer, Family Planning Association of India, Ellis Nagar addressing the audience in the Guest Lecture on "Adolescent Health"

Centre The Women's Studies Thiagarajar College, Madurai organized a guest lecture on "Adolescent Health" on 29.01.2016 at 10.00 a.m. Around 100 students from various departments of the college participated in the Dr.D. Anbugeetha, Programme. Assistant Professor, Department of Business administration introduced the chief guest and welcomed the gathering. The resource person of the programme Mrs. B. Ashifa, Programme officer, Family Planning Association of India, Ellisnagar, Madurai oriented the girl students on various aspects of adolescent health. She focused on healthy diet, menstrual practices and hygiene, contraceptives, reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted infections. She explained the process of puberty and general health problems faced by the adolescent girls. She discussed the misconceptions

and myths about menstruation held by the society. The students raised several doubts during the interaction session all of which were clarified satisfactorily by the guest speaker.

Prof. K. Praveena, Lecturer in Economics proposed the vote of thanks.

Non Verbal Communication Skills for empowering Women – 15.03.2016



Dr. M. Eyini, Principal, Thiagarajar College addressing the audience in the programme

Women's studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organized a Guest Lecture on "Non Verbal Communication Skills for Empowering Women" on 15.03.2016. In this Programme, Dr.V.Subathra Devi, Head Department of English gave the welcome address and Dr.M.Eyini, Principal Thiagarajar College presided the function. Dr.M.Lawrence, Assistant Professor in English, The American College said that men and women have equal length of hair before 50 years. After getting engaged in

hunting, men felt bad and weak of having long hair.

Women having lengthy and long hair seems to be weak & dull, whereas those who are having short hair seems to be bold. He also said that the face which does not have any reaction or expression will not attract others. One can create positive thought by raising eyebrows while talking. He said that the speaker has to see the face of the listener at least for 6 seconds while talking. Dr.D.Anbugeetha, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration gave the vote of thanks.

Women and the Law - 17.03.2016



Dr. M. Eyini, Principal, Thiagarajar College addressing the audience in the programme

Women's studies Centre of Thiagarajar

College organized a Workshop on "Women and the

Law" on 17.03.2016. In this Programme,

Dr.D.Anbugeetha, Assistant Professor, Department

of Business Administration gave the welcome

address and Dr.M.Evini, Principal Thiagarajar College presided the function. Mrs. S. Anusha, B. Com., B.L., Advocate, Madras High Court(Madurai Bench) briefed programme. Mr. G.R. Swaminathan, Assistant Solicitor General Of India, Madurai Bench, Madras High Court emphasized the rights for Women and explained such law related to the rights. In the next session the moot court demonstation was done by the law college students. Short Film Swashakthi was played. Lecturer, department Mrs.K. Praveena. Economics gave the vote of thanks.

Field Action Projects

A Study on awareness of folic acid intake of pregnant women in Madurai district



Women's Studies Centre Project Assistant "Folic Acid" Project related information collecting from a pregnant woman in a PHC Anuppanadi Ward, Madurai

Knowledge and awareness about the intake of folic acid is a vital component in determining the maternal health of a women, because anemia and low bone density are the

This study has attempted to analyze the awareness about intake of folic acid among pregnant mothers. The pregnant mothers are somewhat aware of the maternal issues, intake of food items and nutritional supplements during pregnancy. Still it is the role of the health professional to educate the pregnant mothers to reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity.

Excerpts from UGC, New Delhi website:

http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8176976 Guideli

nes-for-Gender-Champions.pdf by Ministry of
Human Resource Development

Gender Champion:

Creating positive social norms in educational institutions that value girls and their rights is important to improve the well-being of girls and achieve long-term and sustainable social change.

The Vision of the Gender Champions are:

- (i) They act as responsible leaders who will facilitate an enabling environment within their schools/colleges/academic institutions where girls are treated with dignity and respect.
- (ii) They will strengthen the potential of young girls and boys to advocate for gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice.

Roles and Responsibilities of a Gender Champion

The responsibilities of the Gender Champion will include the following:

- (i). Provide overall guidance to the peer group in integrating /mainstreaming gender in allactivities of the Institution in the form of focused group discussions, debates, poster competitions etc.
- (ii). Engage a variety of stakeholders from the school, college, civil society organizations, women's groups and media in gender mainstreaming activities.
- (iii). Identify gaps in school/college's activities vis-a-vis gender, and make recommendations on how to address these gaps, e.g., observe classrooms to detect bias in interactions
- (iv). Promote Gender Champion Club in their educational institutions and undertake innovative activities, like creating a website or blog on gender equity and regularly writing an equity column on issues on, e.g. untold stories of extraordinary men and women who changed lives of women and girls, about enabling legislations, government schemes or about finding a new Gender Champion in his/her educational institution, or competitions to analyze greeting cards from gender perspective, organize film fest on gender equity etc.

(v). Organize awareness programmes on various gender issues including legislations to influence behaviour change. This could be facilitated through workshops, theme based plays, films, painting competition, etc.

(vi)Organize exposure visits to various public service institutions at the village, block, district and city level (public health centres, hospitals, post offices, banks, police stations, block office, SDM/DM office to facilitate knowledge about gender issues as they affect diverse populations.

(vii). Popularize phone numbers of such services as police helpline, women helpline, hospitals among students.

(viii). Arrange for providing necessary life skill education and information/guidance about existing public services to their fellow students.

(ix). Demonstrate knowledge of important Government schemes, events, legislation, and court rulings which has a major impact on the treatment and experiences of diverse groups.

(x). Document best practices to measure the extent of behavior change and display the same through exhibitions, fests, annual magazines etc.

Selection:

The students shall be selected by the Head of the Institution in consultation with the student representatives as Gender Champions on the basis of their intelligence, decisiveness and honesty, which are absolutely essential qualities of a leader.

Term of the Gender Champion:

The term of the Gender Champion shall initially be for a period of one year and extendable for I or more years as may be decided by the Head of the Institution. The Gender Champion will receive a certificate of appreciation from the Head of the Institution for his/her committed efforts on successful completion of activities towards promoting gender equality.

Contact

Dr. M.Eyini,

Director, Women's Studies Centre

Thiagarajar College

Madurai - 625 009, Tamil Nadu

Phone: 0452 - 2312875

E-mail:wsc.tcarts@yahoo.com

Website: www.tcarts.in

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

Thiagarajar College (Autonomous) 139-140, Kamarajar Salai Madurai – 625 009, Tamil Nadu Phone: 0452 – 2312875

E-mail: wsc.tcarts@yahoo.com

			Book Post			
		TES.	7		3	
		3	Park.		1	
	1100					
N. Aller				NE CONTRACTOR	Z.	