



# THIAGARAJAR COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

(Re-Accredited by NAAC with „A++“ Grade)

Ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in NIRF 2023

## WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

139-140, Kamarajar Salai, Madurai-625 009.



Newsletter

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**"Waste Plastics Management"** on 07.06.2022. The Chairperson, Women's Studies Centre, Dr.Uma Kannan graced the occasion with her presence. Dr. R. Vasudevan, "the Plastic Man of India" dispelled myths regarding plastic being a harmful component.

His keynote address revolved round the significance and inevitability of plastic which has become an integral part of human life. He listed out the various ways in which plastic can be transformed to befriend human society and as an example explained the making of his plastic roads, a feat that has fetched him one of the greatest accolades of the Nation – Padmashri Award. He delivered the key note address on the effective use of waste plastics in making roads.

The discussion was extended in an interactive session when the students came out with their stereotypical ideas about plastic. He gave invaluable tips to use waste plastics in an efficient way to avoid pollution. The programme gave awareness in protecting the environment from plastic and to transform the plastic wastes user friendly. Nearly 200 students participated in the programme.

### **Awareness Lecture on "Women Entrepreneurship: Conquering Challenges"**

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organised an awareness lecture on the title "Women Entrepreneurship: Conquering Challenges" on 28.07.2022 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. The resource person, Dr. Mamta Fomra, City President of Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WICCI), Madurai Council, gave an inspirational talk on the avenues open for the students to explore their potential for entrepreneurship. She motivated them to hone their skill sets by impelling them to take a leap of faith into the realm of entrepreneurship. She highlighted the challenges that she faced as a woman and as an entrepreneur

who chose an offbeat path in a traditional society. She also insisted on the significance of marketing and connectivity in this era of social media. Her noble words on women helping out women and building a sisterhood to thrive as an entrepreneur were noteworthy. Around 176 female students from the departments of B.B.A., Commerce, Mathematics and English benefitted from this vital awareness lecture. In the interactive session, the vibrant audience enquired about the prospects available for them as entrepreneurs. The students found the session very engaging and were happy with the speaker's counsel for them to grab their space (opportunities) like an octopus and dare to do things differently with authenticity.

In her welcome address, the Director, Dr. V. Subathra Devi, pointed out that entrepreneurship is a prime tool in bridging the gender gap. She expressed her concern over the fact that only 20% of Indian entrepreneurs were women and motivated the students to become employers who would give career opportunities to others. The Member Secretary, Dr. R. Aruna, introduced the chief guest. Dr. Angeline Chella Rajathi, Assistant Coordinator, WSC, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

### **Awareness Camp on "Anaemia" on 05.08.2022**



The Women Studies Centre, in association with Sorooptimist International, Madurai and Devadoss Multispeciality Hospitals organised an Anaemia Awareness Camp on 05.08.2022. The objective of the camp was to test the girl students' haemoglobin count, identify the ones with deficiency and offer them medical counselling on nutritional diet by doctors from Devadoss Multispeciality Hospitals,





Madurai. 330 students from various departments were the beneficiaries of the programme. The former President of Soroptimist International, Madurai, Dr.Uma Kannan, Chairperson, Women Studies Centre presided over the camp. Dr. Sudha Dheep, a veteran gynaecologist and obstetrician at Taj Hospital enlightened the students on the importance of balanced, iron rich diet and counselled them not to skip their breakfast. She listed out fruits and vegetables that would keep the students fit and healthy. In the interactive session that followed she cleared the doubts of the students and dispelled their misunderstood notions of fast and junk food. Dr.Hema Satish, Managing Director of Devadoss Multispeciality Hospitals, Madurai spoke on the aesthetics of hair and skin care to the students. She highlighted the significance of healthy food, adequate sleep and requisite medical care in maintaining healthy and glowing skin. She enumerated the ways and means to maintain thick and soft hair.



She answered a volley of questions from the students on the use of shampoo, conditioner, hair serum and oil with a touch of delightful humour. Around 50 students with HB count less than 10 were counselled by Dr. Aruna Mutharasi, Pathologist, Rajaji Government Hospital, Madurai. She gave them counselling on proper diet, exercise and lifestyle changes. The camp turned out to be an eye opening session for all the participants.

### **“International Photography Day Celebration” on 19.08.2022**

In commemoration of the World Photography Day on 19.08.2022, Women’s Studies Centre conducted a photography contest for all the students of Thiagarajar College. The theme of the contest was “My Green Campus through My Lens”. Students who had a camera eye clicked photos on the theme and submitted with captions. Mr. S. Lenin, Photographer, Times of India, Madurai and Mr. R. Ashok, Photographer, The Hindu (English), Madurai judged the creative photographs. R. Dhenu Sri, P. Raveena, K. A. Charu Dharshini were awarded first, second and third prizes respectively. The contest enfolded their creative, artistic and innovative skills coupled with technology. The Director Dr. V. Subathra Devi and her team of office bearers organized this programme.



## Legal Awareness Lecture on “Criminal Law Amendments for Women” on 29.08.2022



The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organised a Legal Awareness lecture on Criminal Law Amendments for Women on 29.08.2022. Mr. Samidurai Kuttalam, Criminal Lawyer, High Court of Madras (Madurai Bench) & Standing Counsel for Judicial, drew attention to the various amendments in law from March 2013 onwards in light of the Nationwide protest following the inhuman gang rape of a physiotherapy intern in New Delhi in 2012. He gave a lucid explanation of the various laws of IPC that safeguard and ensure the safety of women. He created an uproar among the students when he mentioned that glaring at a woman can fetch 2 years of rigorous punishment for the miscreant and stalking her would land him in jail for 3 years of rigorous punishment. He cautioned the students about POSCO and the severe punishments for sexual offences. He substantiated his ideas with live case studies. In the interactive session that followed, the students came out with vibrant questions and the speaker enlightened them on various facets of law. The students who posed questions received a memento from the speaker. In her welcome address, the Director of the Centre, Dr. V. Subathra Devi pointed out that around 70% of literates in India are legally illiterate and the objective of the program was to sensitize the young students, both boys and girls, to the legal protection they are given by the Constitution of India.



Dr. B. Aruna, Member Secretary introduced the chief guest. Dr. N. Kalaivani, Assistant Professor of English, delivered the vote of thanks.

## Awareness Lecture on “Menstrual Hygiene and Cervical Cancer” on 16.09.2022

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organised an Awareness Lecture on Menstrual Hygiene and Cervical Cancer on 15.09.2022. Dr. Mythily Pandian, MBBS., DNB (OG), DRM (Germany), PAMC Hospital, Madurai, pointed out that talking about menstruation, the natural cycle, in public is still a taboo in the Indian society. She insisted on a breakthrough awareness of students' social responsibility of proper usage and disposal of sanitary napkins and cloths.

She elaborated on the fast spreading cervical cancer among women folk in India and the various measures to ward off the cancer. She said that vaccination and periodical PapSmear tests can protect them from cervical cancer. She gave useful tips on healthy diet and lifestyle changes for menstrual health management.

In the interactive session that followed, a number of students raised many queries from their personal experience and Dr. Mythily dispelled their doubts with great care and patience. In her welcome address, the Director of the Centre, Dr. V. Subathra Devi pointed out that it is one's duty to take good care of one's body, a wonderful machine designed intricately by God. She added that bleeding without violence is a privilege endowed on women to be part



of creation and hence they should manage their monthly periods hygienically.



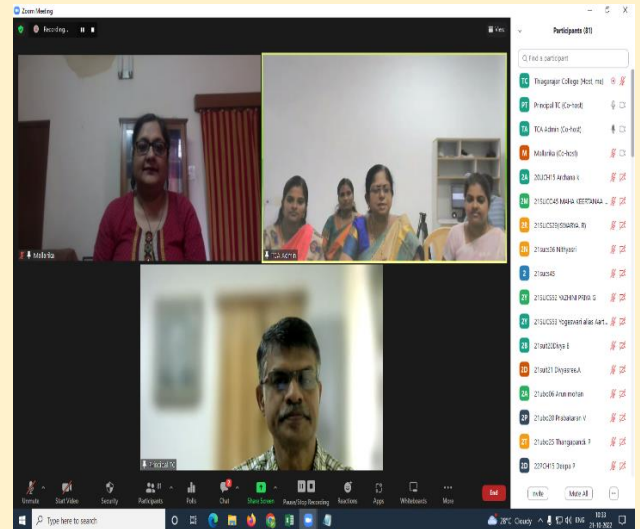
Dr. M. Sathiya, Coordinator, WSC, introduced the chief guest. Dr. R. Aruna, Member Secretary, WSC, delivered the vote of thanks.



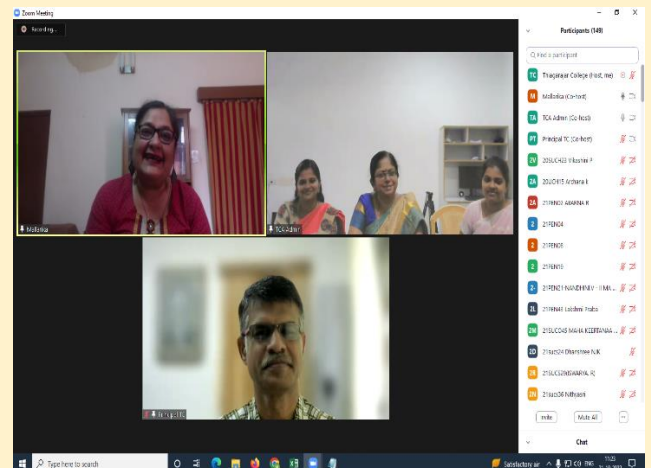
### **National Webinar on “Women’s Movement in India: History and Contemporary Debates” on 21.10.2022**

The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organised a National Webinar on Women's Movement in India: History and Contemporary Debates on 21.10.2022. Dr. Mallarika Sinha Roy, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, addressed a virtual gathering of 150 students, research scholars and faculty members from various states across the nation. With her exemplary credentials as an academician with

international connections, Dr. Mallarika traced the beginnings and evolution of Women's Movements in India.



She drew attention to the revolution against Sati as the starting point of women's demands for their rights that brought them together to forge ahead. She insisted on women's able management of work-life balance. She spoke about the legal protection available for women in India. Her takeaway message for the young students and women participants was that education is the only way for their emancipation.



The Principal, Dr. D. Pandiaraja, in his presidential address pointed out to the objective of Women's Movements in India to provide equal political, economic and social rights and opportunities for women. He appreciated Women's Studies Centre for organizing a national Webinar on very significant theme – the need of the hour.

The Director Dr. V. Subathra Devi, in her welcome note expressed her concern over bridging the big-gap between legal protection for women on papers and the rural women at the grass roots. Ms. Smiruthi. Co-coordinator, WSC, introduced the chief guest. Dr. B. Aruna, Member Secretary, WSC, thanked the gathering.

### **Awareness Lecture on “A Women of Steel” on 10.01.2023**



The Women's Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College organised an Awareness Lecture on A Women of Steel – Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy at 10 am on 11.01.2023. Dr. V. R. Devika, Founder and Managing Trustee of “The Aseema Trust” Chennai, addressed a gathering of 250 students, research scholars and faculty members of our college. With her exemplary credentials as a historian with international connections, Dr. V. R. Devika delivered the whole biography of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy and traced the beginnings and evolution of Devadasi Abolition Bill in India. She discussed the literary works written on Devadasi culture and elaborated on Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy’s relentless efforts in breaking the taboo of the social structure and driving home the injustice associated with the culture to the legislative members of the nation. She drew attention to Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai, which was built with great efforts by Muthulakshmi Reddy. Dr. V. R. Devika motivated the students to be courageous in chasing their dreams, to be self-supportive, academically accomplished and be empathetic in dealing with fellow students.

The Principal, Dr. D. Pandiaraja, in his presidential address pointed out that the female students outnumber the male students in the college and also exhibit exemplary potential in both curricular and co-curricular activities. He congratulated the Women’s Studies Centre for its consistent programmes to sensitize the girl students towards their physical and mental health issues.



The Director Dr. V. Subathra Devi, in her welcome note spoke about the dire need for role models for the young men and women of India, to emulate and evolve. She said, “Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, an icon for womanhood, is one of the best role models for women who aspire for a successful life.

Dr. M. Sathiya, Coordinator, WSC, introduced the chief guest. Dr. B. Aruna, Member Secretary, WSC, thanked the gathering.

### **Women's Day Celebration on 08.03.2023**

Empowering women in the campus and those in the society in suitable ways is one of the objectives of Women’s Studies Centre of Thiagarajar College. All the programmes of the centre focus on the physical and mental wellbeing of the students. The Centre aimed at tapping the potential of the women staff members of the college on International Women’s Day. Hence the centre organized five competitions for all the 152 teaching and non-teaching faculty of the college. The overwhelming participation of the faculty threw light on the multifaceted talents of the faculty who appreciated this as a fine measure to de-stress themselves.





In the valedictory session Dr. Parvathy Venkatraman, former Professor of the Department of English with three decades of teaching experience delivered her International Women's Day message. She spoke about the challenges a woman have to face both at home and in their work place. She humorously shared her own experiences as a young faculty. She gave the faculty a number of useful tips to manage and maintain their balance between home and career. All the faculty members felt highly refreshed at the end of the day.



**A WOMAN IS THE FULL CIRCLE. WITHIN HER IS THE POWER TO  
CREATE, NURTURE AND TRANSFORM.**

**- DIANE MARIECHILD**