# CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA GENDER EQUITY PROMOTION PROGRAMMES REPORT ( 2017 – 2021)

#### Action plan 2017

- 1) Personality Development programme
- 2) Felicitation of Women achievers

#### Department of Malayalam: Penma Women's Club

#### **Felicitation & Training Programme**

Date: 30 March 2017

Resource person: Smt. M.V Ambujakshi, Theyyam artist, Mr.CK Mahesh, Human Resource

Trainer

Vice chancellor Prof. (Dr.) G Gopakumar honoured the renowned Theyyam artist Smt. M.V Ambujakshi on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017. M.V Ambujakshi shared her vivid experiences as a Theyyam artist to the students and teachers with flamboyant enthusiasm.

On the same day, Mr.CK Mahesh, Human Resource Trainer & Civil Police Officer took a class on personality development.

#### Action plan 2018

- 1) Launching of Centre for Women's Studies
- 2) Sensitization for Students & Staff on Laws related to Women
- 3) Women and Literature
- 4) Awareness programme Women Law
- 5) Talk Gender Equality

#### Department of Malayalam: Penma Women's Club

Women's Day Celebration

Date: 7 March 2018

Resource person: Dr. M Lakshmi Kumari, Scientist, Microbiology Institute, Russia

Dr. M Lakshmi Kumari, Scientist of Microbiology Institute, Russia and Director of Vivekananda Mission inaugurated the women's day programme on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 and she spoke on the importance of women empowerment in society. Dr. T Anitha Kumari, Dean and Professor of Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University and Jyothi Panoor, Poet and teacher attended the meeting and interacted with the students.

#### **Department of Hindi & Comparative Literature**

National Seminar on 'Voices of Women in Hindi Literature'

Date: 8 - 9 March 2018

Resource Persons: Smt. Chitra Mudgal, Geetashri and Jayasree Roy

Department of Hindi, Central University of Kerala, organized National Seminar on 'Voices of Women in Hindi Literature' on 8 - 9 March 2018. Inaugurating the Seminar, Prof. (Dr.) G Gopa Kumar, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, mentioned that 67% of the students in University are girls and only through education women can be socially, mentally and economically independent. Renowned Hindi writer Smt. Chitra Mudgal was the keynote speaker in the Seminar. Writer & Journalist Geetashri and Writer Jayasree Roy were the resource persons in the Seminar.



'Stri Panchayat', a round table discussion was conducted in the National Seminar on 'Voices of Women in Hindi Literature' on 9 March 2018. Prof. Sudha Balakrishnan chaired the session and Dr. Supriya P was the moderator in the Session. Renowned writer Chitra Mudgal, Journalist Geetashri, Writer Jayasree Roy, Prof. Thankamani Amma, Prof. Shanti Nair were the participants in the discussion on the current status of women in society.



Round table discussion

#### Inauguration

Date: 25 April 2018

Guests: Ms. Sushma Sahu (Member, National Commission for Women), Dr. Urmila Devi

(Joint Secretary of UGC)

The Centre for Women's Studies was launched under the School of Humanities on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. National Commission for Women (New Delhi) member Ms. Sushma Sahu was the Chief Guest for the function. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) G Gopa Kumar Chaired the Inaugural Function. Joint Secretary of UGC, Dr. Urmila Devi was the Guest of Honour. Felicitation address was delivered by Dr. Swapna S Nair, Presiding Officer of GSCASH, Central University of Kerala, **Periya** Panchayat President Smt. Sharada Nair, National President of Bharatiya Stree Shakti Dr K S Jayashree, District Women Protection Officer from Kasaragod Smt. P Sulaja and Kasaragod Women Cell, Inspector of Police Smt. Nirmala C V.





Inaugural Address by Ms. Sushma Sahu, Member, National Commission of Women, New Delhi

## National Level competitive test on 'Laws related to Women' sponsored by National Commission for Women

Date: 5 December 2018 No. of participants: 75

The Centre for Women Studies, Central University of Kerala, conducted a competitive test sponsored by the **National Commission for Women** for generating awareness about legal rights of women and for ensuring that all sections of society are fully conversant with the law and contribute effectively. The Competitive Test on **Laws Related to Women** was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 2:30 pm in Room No: 213 of the Sindhu Block. It was conducted for the undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Central University of Kerala. The test comprised 75 multiple-choice questions with no negative marking. More than 80 students had registered for the event of which 75 participated.

The prize distribution ceremony took place on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018, at 11:00am in the Seminar Hall of the Sindhu Block. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Kerala, Prof. (Dr.) G. Gopakumar gave away the awards.



Prize distribution by Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) G Gopakumar

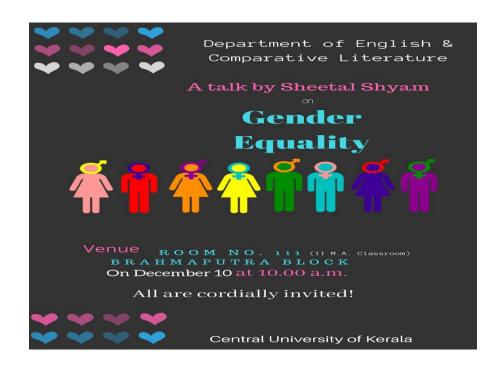
#### **Department of English & Comparative Literature**

**Talk on Gender Equality** 

Date: 10 December 2018

Resource Person: Sheetal Shyam, Kerala-based transgender activist

As part of the observance of International Human Rights Day, the Department of English & Comparative Literature organized a lecture on Gender Equality on 10 December 2018. Ms. Sheetal Shyam, Kerala-based transgender activist, was the resource person. She spoke of the struggles and hardships the gender diverse people face in our society given the entrenched prejudices about the LGBTQI community and recounted her own experience of combating familial and societal taboos in her days of growing up. Apart from the Department community, faculty, students and research scholars from other Departments of the University attended the programme. There was an engaging interactive session, following the talk by the resource person. Dr Asha S, Assistant Professor in the Department, was the faculty Co-ordinator of the programme.

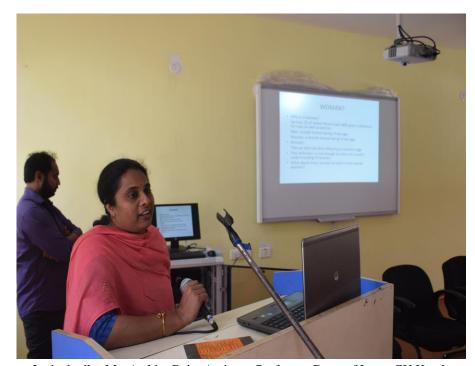


#### Invited talk on Empowerment of Women in India: A Legal Perspective

Date: 18 December 2018

Resource Person: Ms. Aathira Raju, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Law, CUK

An invited talk on "Empowerment of Women in India: A Legal Perspective." by Ms. Aathira Raju, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Law, Thiruvalla Campus, Central University of Kerala was conducted on 18 December 2018. Ms. Athira detailed on the different laws related to women and discussed on the implementation of it. The programme was attended by faculty members, research scholars and students from various domain.



Invited talk - Ms. Aathira Raju, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Law, CU Kerala.

#### **Action Plan 2019**

- 1) Sensitization on role of Women and Environment
- 2) Women Empowerment programmes
- 3) Training programs/Workshops for students
- 4) Awareness programme on Women Rights
- 5) Celebration of Women's Day

#### **Department of Public Administration & Policy Studies**

One-day training programme on 'Rights of Women'

Date: 22 February 2019

Resource persons: Dr. Rekha Pande, Director, Centre for Womens' Studies, University of Hyderabad, Dr. Sajad Ibrahim, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Kerala, Dr. Rheinhart Phillip, Department of International Relations and Politics, CUK, Dr. Praveen G.S, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Ernakulam

The Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies of Central University of Kerala conducted a One Day training programme on 'Rights of Women', sponsored by National Human Rights Commission on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. Dr. M.R. Biju, Head of the Department, gave the welcome address and imparted a glimpse of his immense knowledge on human rights. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Rekha Pande, Director, Centre for Womens' Studies, University of Hyderabad. In her inaugural address she explained the history of discrimination against women in particular. She mentioned that women's rights are human rights but there is a difference between what is there in theory and what is there in reality. There were four sessions.

The first session titled, 'Introduction to Human Rights', was handled by Dr. Sajad Ibrahim, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Kerala. The second session was handled by Dr. Rheinhart Phillip, Department of International Relations and Politics, Central University of Kerala on the topic 'UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 and its Optional Protocols'. The third session on the topic 'Violence against Women' and was taken by Dr. Rekha Pande. She was focusing on Gender Violence and its cost. The fourth and final session was on the topic 'Reproductive and Maternal Health; Nutritional Deficiencies among Women' handled by Dr. Praveen G.S (Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Ernakulam) and it was regarding health issues of women. The Convenor of the programme, Dr. Ashalekshmi B.S, Assistant Professor delivered the vote of thanks.



#### National seminar on 'Women & the Environment'

Date: 18 -19 March 2019 No. of participants: 100

Resource persons: Dr. Neelima Deshmukh, Mr Manu K, Dr Anitha A B, Dr Vipinkumar V P, Dr K G Thara, Dr Iris Koileo, Dr Sreejith Varma R, Dr Shalini M, Dr Abey George, Dr Anitha Ravishankar.

The Centre for Women's Studies, Central University of Kerala, organized its first National Seminar on 'Women and the Environment' on 18 and 19 March 2019 with the support of **National Commission for Women.** Inaugurating the Seminar, Prof. (Dr.) G Gopakumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, observed that women, while being the worst victims of natural disasters, also serve as vital agents of environmental conservation and sustenance.



Inauguration by Honourable Vice Chancellor of CU Kerala, Prof. G. Gopa Kumar

Dr Mohan A K, Head, Department of Social Work, Central University of Kerala, presided over the function. He voiced the need to save the environment through the participation of women. Dr. Neelima Deshmukh, Former Professor and Head, PG Department of Public Administration & Local Government, Director of Centre for Women's studies & Development at RTM Nagpur University, delivered the keynote address.



Keynote Address by Dr. Neelima Deshmukh, Former Director of Centre for Women's studies & Development at RTM Nagpur University

The Seminar was organized in six technical sessions, focusing on diverse dimensions of the relationship between women and the environment, including Women in Conservation of Nature, Women and Disaster Management, Eco-Feminist Concerns in Literature and Films and Women and Sustainable Development.

Mr Manu K (Secretary, HasiruHejje, a green school initiative of Mysore Amateur Naturalist), Dr Anitha A B (Executive Director, Centre for Water resources development and Management, Calicut, Kerala), Dr Vipinkumar V P (Principal Scientist, Socio-Economic & Technology Transfer division, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi), Dr K G Thara (Former Professor & Head, Disaster Management Centre, Thiruvananthapuram), Dr Iris Koileo (Retd. Associate Professor & Head, Department of Malayalam and Mass Communication, St Xavier's College, Thiruvananthapuram), Dr Sreejith Varma R (Assistant Professor, Department of English, School of Social Sciences & languages, VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu), Dr Shalini M (Assistant professor, Department of English & Comparative Literature, School of Languages & Comparative Literature, Central University of Kerala ), Dr Abey George (Director, Social Audit, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Social Audit Society, Govt. of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram), Dr Anitha Ravishankar ( Director, Centre for Women's Studies & Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Mangalore University) were the Resource persons in various technical sessions.

Valedictory Session was presided by Dr. K Jayaprasad, Pro Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kerala. Valedictory Address was delivered by Smt. Leelakumari Amma, Environmental Activist from Kasaragod.

#### **National Girl Child Day**

Special lecture on 'Women Empowerment: Emerging Trends and Challenges'

Date: 24 January 2019

Resource person: Prof. Molly Kuruvilla, Department of Women's Studies, University of

Calicut.

Centre for Women's Studies at Central University of Kerala conducted a Special Lecture on National Girl Child Day, 24 January 2019. The topic of lecture was "Women Empowerment: Emerging Trends and Challenges". Prof. MOLY KURUVILLA, Professor in Department of Women's Studies at University of Calicut was the Resource Person. Prof. Kuruvilla discussed on the various challenges faced by the girl child in our society. She discussed a few techniques to be followed by each girl/women to be empowered. The lecture was followed by an active interaction between the resource person and the faculty members and students.

Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator of Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the gathering. Prof. Molly Kuruvilla was felicitated by Prof. Sudha Balakrishnan, Head of the Dept. of Hindi & Comparative Literature, CUK. Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, member of the Advisory Committee of Centre for Women's Studies delivered the Vote of Thanks.



Dr. MOLY KURUVILLA, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Calicut

# National Service Scheme Unit 2 & Central University Library National Girl Child Day – Book Donation Drive

Date: 2 February 2019

National Service Scheme, Unit - 2 of Central University of Kerala, in collaboration with Central University Library initiated a book donation drive in our campus to praise National Girl Child Day. All the books received from the donors were handed over to the students of Government High School, Kalliot, Periye on Saturday the **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019** by the honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. G. Gopa Kumar. The Vice Chancellor insisted on the importance of higher education of Girl children and hence every girl child should be educated to gain the self-respect in the society. He also mentioned the role of Central University of Kerala in enlightening the people of Kerala – especially Kasaragod district. Dr. Rajendra Pilankatta, and Dr. S. Anbazhagi, Programme Officer, NSS Unit-2 felicitated the function.



**International Women's Day Celebration, 2019** 

Date: 8 March 2019

Resource persons: Smt. Leela Kumari Amma, Smt. Kanimol and Ms. Priya Sivadas

The Centre for Women's Studies of Central University of Kerala in collaboration with the 'Penma' Womens Club in the Department of Malayalam of Central university of Kerala celebrated the International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March. To mark the celebration of Womanhood on this day Environmental Activist Smt. Leela Kumari Amma, Eminent Malayalam Poetess Smt. Kanimol and Personality Development Trainer Ms. Priya Sivadas were felicitated. They shared their experiences and reality of life with the student community and academicians motivating them.



Inauguration of International Women's Day Celebration – Honorable Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kerala Prof. (Dr. ) G GOPAKUMAR



Guest of Honour - Smt LEELAKUMARI AMMA, Environmental Activist from Kasaragod

#### **Training Programme on Personality Development**

Date: 8 March 2019

Resource person: Priya Sivadas, Founder – Mentor, Training and Consultations, Cochin

A personality Development Training programme on 'How to Build Better Life and Career' was conducted by Priya Sivadas, Founder – Mentor from Training for U, Training and Consultations Cochin in the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The session was actively participated by research scholars and students from various domain. Ms. Priya indulged the participants in various activities and guided them to be positive and believe in themselves. The young participants interacted with the resource person after the session.



Priya Sivadas, Founder – Mentor from Training for U, Training and Consultations Cochin

#### **Department of Public Health & Community Medicine**

Public Lecture on "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights"

One-day workshop on "Concepts and Methodological approaches to researching health inequities and intersectionality"

Date: 29th and 30th August 2019

No. of participants: 100

Resource person: Prof. (Dr.) Sundari Ravindran, Retired Professor at Achutha Menon Centre for Health Sciences Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum.

Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Central University of Kerala organized a Public Lecture on "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights" and a One-day workshop on "Concepts and Methodological approaches to researching health inequities and intersectionality" on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The resource person was Prof. (Dr.) Sundari Ravindran, retired professor at Achutha Menon Centre for Health Sciences Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum.

The ideas of how gender norms interfere with the realization of individual's sexual and reproductive rights were discussed. The one-day workshop was conducted for MPH students of Department of Public Health and Community Medicine as part of the course health inequities. Several key concepts revolving around health inequity, intersectionality, and methodological approaches in understanding them were discussed. The conduct of the workshop was facilitated by Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine. The workshop and the public lecture provided the participants with a broad picture of understanding the inequities in health care service delivery and access through gender lens and equipped them with the methodological tools for undertaking public health research in this area. The public lecture was attended by over 100 participants with students and faculty from various departments actively participating.



#### **Department of Biochemistry**

#### **Workshop on Reproductive Health**

Date: 22- 09 -19

No. of participants: 70

Resource person: Dr. Chandni Gupta, Associate Professor of Anatomy at Kasturba Medical

College, Manipal.

Department of Biochemistry organized a workshop on Reproductive Health. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Thejaswini V, Assistant professor, department of BCMB, CUK. Dr. G. Gopa Kumar, vice chancellor gave an inaugural speech, followed by address by resource person, Dr. Chandni Gupta, Associate professor of anatomy, KMC Manipal and Dr. Arathy R Nair, medical officer, CUK. Dr. Chandni gave a presentation about the inception of Team 3D and its vision of spreading awareness about sexual health and cervical cancer which is the most common cause of cancer and cancer-related deaths in women in India. Following this, the workshop commenced. The delegates were divided into 3 groups and each group was allotted a topic that was related to reproductive health and volunteers played the role of mentors in explaining the respective topics to the students, solving their doubts at the same time. The topics were: Vaginal Discharge, HPV, Ectopic Pregnancy. Each group put together a short skit/ role-play to depict the topic which they had been taught by their mentors. This process served to give a brief overview of their topic to the other two groups, who had been taught different topics. After each skit, Dr. Chandni discussed the topic in depth for the whole group, making sure that everyone had a clear idea of the topics and no misconceptions. She also shared common clinical situations with anonymous cases and anecdotes on the importance of awareness, prevention, early detection and cure. Best actors/actresses from each group were selected based on public poll and rewarded. The program ended with felicitations by Dr. D Govinda Rao, Dean, School of biological Sciences, CUK and a vote of thanks by Dr. Sameer Kumar V.B, assistant professor, department of BCMB, CUK.



#### Public lecture on 'youth and emotional well-being'

Date: 1 October 2019

Resource person: Dr. C K Sreepriya

A Public Lecture on 'Youth and Emotional Well – being' was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Dr. Supriya P Coordinator of the Centre for Women's Studies at CUK welcomed the Guests. The Registrar of Central University of Kerala Dr. A Radhakrishnan Nair delivered the Presidential Address. Psychiatric Social Worker from Govt. Mental Health Centre, Kozhikode Dr. C K Sreepriya was the resource person. Dr. C K Sreepriya emphasised on the necessity of wellness among the youth. The Youth are in the creative and productive stage of their life. The importance of emotional well being of the youth is to be underscored as it indirectly contributes to the development of the society. Mridul C Mrinal, student representative from the Department of English & Comparative Literature at CUK proposed vote of Thanks.



Dr. C K Sreepriya addressing the students on 'Youth and emotional well-being

#### National workshop on 'Human trafficking: a threat to human rights'

Date: 12 DECEMBER 2019

Resource persons: Ms Priti Patkar, Dr. P Vinod Bhattathiripad

A National workshop on Human Trafficking was conducted in relation to Human Rights Day, on 12th December 2019. The workshop was inaugurated by prominent social activist Ms Priti Patkar. Ms Priti, Founder and Director of 'Prerna', an organisation to Protect children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, centred in Mumbai, delivered a thought provoking session on Human Traficking: A threat to Humanity. Cyber forensic consultant Dr. P Vinod Bhattathiripad delivered a sesion on 'Cyber evidence in trafficking and the existing policies on standard of care of survivors.



Ms. Priti Patkar, Founder & Director 'Prerna'



Cyber forensic consultant Dr. P Vinod Bhattathiripad

#### Department of Malayalam: Penma Women's Club

#### **National Seminar on Women Empowerment**

Date: 18 – 19 December 2019

Resource person: Dr.P Geetha, Retired professor, Government Sanskrit College, Pattambi.

A national seminar on women's empowerment was held on December 18<sup>th</sup> ,19<sup>th</sup> 2019. Dr. K Jayaprasad Pro-Vice chancellor of Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod inaugurated the National Seminar. Dr.P Geetha, Retired professor of Government Sanskrit college Pattambi delivered the main talk on 'Sthripaksha sameepanagal charithravum Samakalavum'. Various women from various fields delivered talks and provided deep insights into the same.



#### **Action Plan 2020**

- 1) Awareness programme Women and Health
- 2) Women's Day Celebration
- 3) Empowerment of Youth on mental wellbeing
- 4) Inauguration of IEEE Women in Engineering Group
- 5) Webinars Covid & Gender Dynamics
- 6) Initiatives for Women friendly Campus

#### **Department of Computer Science**

**Talk on Common Health Issues of Adolescent Females** 

Date: 05 March 2020 No. of Participants: 26

Resource Person: Dr. Arathy R Nair, Medical Officer, CUK

An interactive session on "Common Health Issues of Adolescent Females" has been conducted on 5th March 2020, at Central University of Kerala, as a part of Women's week and Women's day celebration. Dr. Thasleema T M, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, delivered the welcome speech. The resource person Dr. Arathy R Nair gave a very informative and useful speech about the Common Health Issues of Adolescent Females. She discussed mainly three topics: menstrual cycle and irregularities, iron deficiency and vaginal discharge. The entire session was an interactive session and the speaker answered many queries raised by the participants. Shabina Bhaskar, Research Scholar, Department of Computer Science, proposed vote of thanks.



Round Table Conference on 'Health and Nutrition in the context of Women Empowerment'

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Resource persons: Dr. Srini V. Kaveri, Dr. Geeta Rai, Dr. Asha B. Pillai, Prof. Satheesh C Raghavan, Dr. Bhavani S Shankar, Dr. Adarsh, Dr. Neelofar Illiaskutty, Dr. Amina T. P., Dr. Elezebeth Mathews

As part of observing International Women's Day 2020, Centre for Women's Studies conducted a Round Table Conference on 'Health and Nutrition in the context of Women Empowerment,' on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Prof. (Dr.) K.R Thankappan, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, CU Kerala was the Chairperson of the Conference. Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, CU Kerala, welcomed the gathering. Dr. A. Radhakrishnan Nair, Registrar, CU Kerala in his inaugural address raised some crucial questions as to whether, women are able to take decisions for their family and for their personal matters. The Expert Members in the Round Table include Dr. Srini V. Kaveri, Director of Research, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, Dr. Geeta Rai, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. Asha B. Pillai, Batchelor Children's Research Institute, University of Miami Health System, USA, Prof. Satheesh C Raghavan, IISC Bengaluru, Dr. Bhavani S Shankar, BARC Mumbai, Dr. Adarsh, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgical Oncology, Malabar Cancer Centre, Thalassery, Dr. NeelofarIlliaskutty, Chief Technical Officer, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, Dr. Amina T. P., Dist. TB Officer, Dr. Elezebeth Mathews, Assistant Professor & Head, Dept. of Public Health & Community Medicine, CU Kerala.





Dr. Adarsh, Assistant Professor from Department of Surgical Oncology, Malabar Cancer Centre, Thalassery on 'Cervical Cancer: Prevention and Management'

# Centre for Women's Studies & Penma Club, Department of Malayalam International Women's Day Celebration, 2020

Date: 9 March 2020

Resource person: Kottiamma, Mangalakalli artist and Smt. Sanitha Anoop, Journalist

The Centre for Women's Studies of Central University of Kerala in collaboration with The 'Penma' Womens Club in the Department of Malayalam of Central university of Kerala celebrated the International Women's Day 2020 on 9<sup>th</sup> March. To mark the celebration of Womanhood on this day

Kottiamma, a Mangalakalli artist from Gothra community of Kasaragod and Women Enterpreneur Smt. Sanitha Anoop were felicitated.



Inauguration of International Women's Day by Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. G. Gopa Kumar

#### Centre for Women's Studies & Bharatiya Stree Shakti

National webinar on 'Covid 19 and its gender dynamics'

Date: 21 July 2020 No. of participants: 120

Resource persons: Prof. N. Manimekalai, Head of Women's Studies, Bharatidasan University

and Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe, Vice President of Bharatiya Stree Shakti

A National Webinar was organized by the Centre for Women's Studies at Central University of Kerala in collaboration with Bharatiya Stree Shakti, on the topic 'Covid 19 and its gender dynamics' on 21 July 2020. Prof. N. Manimekalai, Director and Head of Women's Studies, Bharatidasan University and Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe, Vice President of Bharatiya Stree Shakti were the two eminent speakers in the Webinar.

Prof. Manimekali took the first session and discussed about how COVID-19 has affected man, women, children, LGBTQ community, health workers including impact on economy and industries of the country. She enlightened how the impact of COVID-19 is different in degree and magnitude upon different people of the society. In the second half session Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe elaborated the role of Shi Zhengli-'Bat women' and Minali Dakhave Bhonsle-Creator of India's first corona testing kit, in health system, the difference of the effect of pandemic upon men and women, job loss, domestic violence and women safety. She mentioned the female leading countries and their success story in the control of COVID19 comparing to male leading countries. She encouraged every woman to drive her own life, and to increase the involvement of women in policy making committees, governing bodies, parliamentary members, and research. The webinar was continued with question & answer round, following which the webinar was concluded by vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Chitra Manisseri.



Smt. Navana Sahasrabuddhe

Prof. N. Manimekalai

#### **Department of Public Health & Community Medicine**

Webinar on "The Conjunction of Two Pandemics: Gender Inequality and COVID 19"

Date: 22nd July 2020 No. of participants: 92

Resource person: Mr. Mohammad Naciri (UN Women)

A webinar on "The Conjunction of Two Pandemics: Gender Inequality and COVID 19" was organised by the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Central University of Kerala on Wednesday, 22nd July 2020. Speaker of the Webinar was Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director for the Arab States and Asia Pacific regions for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The webinar gave the audience the insight into gender inequality issues happened during COVID-19 focusing on women and migrant women workers in various aspects including health, economy and social security. Especially in the health sector where females dominate in all areas the sector i.e. medical, supportive and administration increased. The incidence of issues includes women's physiologic and physical vulnerability to COVID infection, loss of income and poverty, unfair advances made on migrant female workers like to underpay, overwork, overtime and as sexual crimes during the pandemic which makes it worse for women during the pandemic. The second half of the webinar was allocated for the discussion and questions from the audience. The audience raised questions on research, the prevalence of gender inequality and WHO strategies on addressing women issues during. He responded by emphasising the importance of addressing and monitoring the issues from the grass-root level than the centralised approach. The session mirrored the picture of world's gender inequality during the pandemic and concluded with a note of hope for a better tomorrow and an equal world. The webinar was attended by 92 members. The event was convened by Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev.

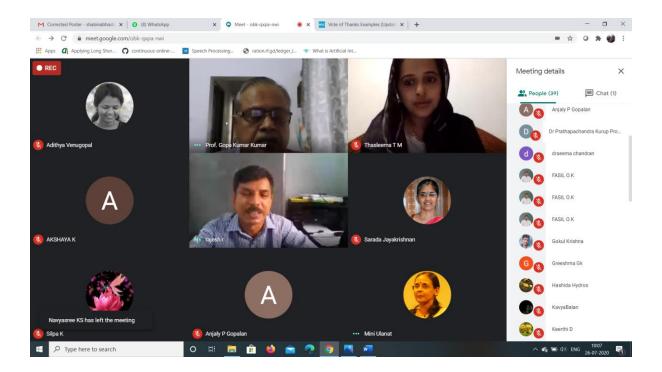


#### **Department of Computer Science**

## Inauguration of IEEE Women in Engineering Group started in Central University of Kerala

Date: 26 July 2020

IEEE Women in Engineering Group of Central University of Kerala has officially inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof.Dr.G. Gopakumar on 26-7-2020. IEEE Kerala Section, Chair, Ms. Sarada Jayakrishnan has given a keynote address on the activities of IEEE Kerala section. IEEE WIE Chair, Dr.Mini Ulanat has delivered a speech on opportunities and activities of IEEE women in Engineering group. The head of the department of computer science, Dr.R.Rajesh has given speech on the importance of IEEE. Assistant professor Dr.Thasleema TM has delivered the welcome speech. Mr. Fasil O K, IEEE Student Branch Chair, CUK presented the Central University IEEE group activities report. Mrs. Shabina Bhaskar, IEEE WIE Chair, CUK proposed vote of thanks.



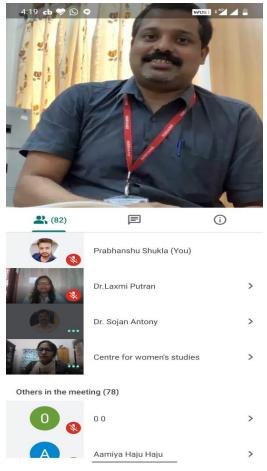
#### Centre for Women's Studies \* Student Counselling Centre, CUK

National webinar on 'Self Care Matters in Mental Health'

**Date: 3 August 2020**No. of participants: 82

Resource person: Dr. Sojan Antony, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS Bangalore.

A National Webinar was organized by Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with Students Counselling Centre at CU Kerala on 'Self care matters in Mental Health' on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020. Dr. Laxmi, Coordinator of the Students Counselling Centre & Assistant Professor in the Department of Social work at Central University of Kerala welcomed the Guests and introduced the resource person. Dr. Sojan Antony, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS Bangalore was the resource person. The participants were research scholars, faculty members and students from various domain. Dr. Sojan explained the issues and challenges faced by the younger generation during the pandemic and how to cope up with it. He discussed on many techniques of keeping oneself in balance and to be positive. At the end of the session students engaged in active interaction with Dr. Sojan Antony who cleared all the doubts and queries of the participants. There wewere a total of 82 participants.



Dr. Sojan Antony

#### **International Webinar Series on Women and Development**

**Inaugural Session & Lecture 1** 

Date: 16 December 2020

No. of participants:

Resource person: Dr Eleanor Gordon, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International

Development, Monash University, Australia.

The Centre for Women's Studies, Central University of Kerala, in collaboration with the E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, is organising an International Webinar series on Women and Development, extending from December 2020 to April 2021. Inaugurating the webinar series on 16 December 2020, Prof H Venkateswarlu, Vice Chancellor, CU Kerala, observed that micro level field studies are to be undertaken along with theoretical research to realise the dream of sustainable and qualitative development of women. Dr Eleanor Gordon, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Development, Monash University, Australia, delivered the inaugural lecture of the series on the topic 'Women in Conflict and Peace Building'. Dr. Gordon in her lecture underscored how gender mainstreaming in peace negotiations should involve responsiveness to women's needs, rather than a token representation of women. Prof. R Indira, Former President, Indian Sociological Society & Former Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Mysore, delivered the keynote address. She offered a historical and conceptual analysis of women and development in the Indian context. Dr Muraleedharan Nambiar, Controller of Examinations, currently in charge of the Registrar, and Prof. M R Biju, Chairperson, Advisory Committee, Centre for Women's Studies, gave the felicitations. Prof. Muhammadunni Alias Musthafa, Director, E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, delivered the Presidential address. Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, delivered the welcome address. Ms Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Member, Advisory Committee, Centre for Women's Studies, proposed the vote of thanks. Around 100 participants from universities across the country and abroad attended the event.



#### Initiative for Women friendly Campus Campus Development Committee November 2020

A Sub Committee for making the Campus Women friendly was constituted under the Campus Development Committee in November 2020. In the first phase, Women recreation rooms accessible to all students, staff and faculty members in every alternate teaching blocks and hostels will be started. It will be air-conditioned furnished rooms with sofas, water dispenser, Centre table, Newspaper stand and treadmills. Sanitary pads vending Machine will be installed in all academic blocks and hostels.

#### **Action Plan 2021**

- 1) Launching of Creche in University
- 2) Women and development programme
- 3) Research Study sponsored by National Commission for Women
- 4) Women Empowerment programmes
- 5) Awareness programmes Women and Environment, Women and Technology, POSH Act, Menstrual Hygiene
- 6) Feminism in Literature
- 7) Women's Day Celebration motivation lectures, felicitations

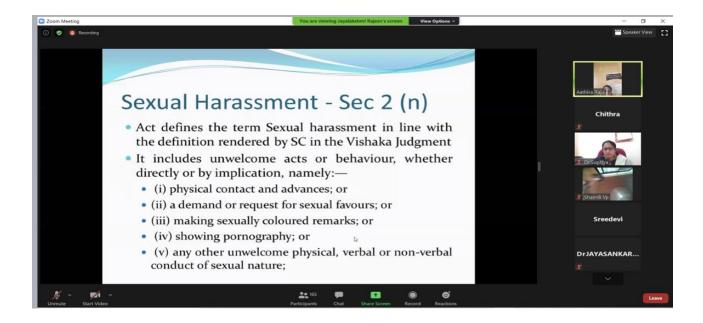
#### Department of Law, CUK & Centre for Women's Studies

Awareness programme- Sexual harassment at workplace : awareness and safeguards

Date: 12 January 2021 No. of participants: 165

Resource persons: Dr. Lekshmi G R, Assistant Professor, Government Law College, Ernakulam and Ms. Athira Raju, Assistant Professor in the Department of law, CU Kerala

Central University of Kerala, Centre for Women's Studies & Department of Law, conducted a Webinar on Sexual Harassment at Workplace: Awareness & Safeguards on 12 January 2021 at 3 pm. Dr. Jayasanker K I, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Law, CU Kerala, presided over the meeting and spoke about the importance of the topic. Dr. R Aswati Nair, Presiding Officer of Internal Complaints Committee at Central University of Kerala and Adv. Maneesha, Legal Assistant, Central University of Kerala, felicitated the function. Ms. Athira Raju, Assistant Professor in the Department of law, CU Kerala and Dr. Lekshmi GR, Assistant Professor, Government Law College, Ernakulam, were the resource persons of the event. Ms. Athira Raju explained the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013 in detail. She explained the definition of harassment & workplace; complaint committee, redressal mechanism, conciliation, and interim relief. Dr. Lekshmi talked about the Judicial Pronouncements related to the act. She illustrated the relevant clauses of the Act citing individual cases. The webinar was a great success in providing information and clarifying the doubts of the participants. Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator of the Centre for Women's Studies, CU Kerala and Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Member, Advisory Committee of the Centre for Women's Studies, CU Kerala, played a major role in coordinating and moderating the event.



**International Webinar Series on Women and Development - Lecture 2** 

Women's Contribution in the Economy: Scope and Challenges

Date: 14 January 2021 No. of participants:

Resource person: Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Former Professor of Advanced Centre for Women's

Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The second lecture of the International webinar series on Women and Development, organized by the Centre for women's studies in collaboration with the E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education was held on14th January 2021. Dr.Vibhuti Patel, Former Professor of Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai gave an excellent talk on 'Women's contribution in the economy: Scope and challenges'. The lecture was very informative and Prof. Vibhuti Patel discussed on different aspects of the topic in detail such as visibility of gender statistics and indicators, financial allocation for gender equality, gender responsive participatory budgeting, gender main streaming in different programmes of the state and non-state ventures etc. Prof. Patel also discussed the importance of women participation in small scale industries like fisheries, handloom etc. She pointed out that special care should be given for women's safety at working place since many incidents of sexual harassment occur. The need for the involvement of women in programmes/schemes like Skill India, Make in India, Startup India, Atma Nirbhar India were also discussed in the talk.



# International Webinar Series on Women and Development - Lecture 3 Issues of elderly women in India

Date: 28 January 2021 No. of participants:

Resource person: Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Professor at the Centre for Development Studies,

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The third lecture of the International webinar series on Women and Development, organized by the Centre for women's studies in collaboration with the E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education was held on 28th January 2021. Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala gave an excellent talk on 'Issues of elderly women in India'.

The lecture was very informative and Prof. Irudaya deliberated on almost every aspect of gender issues particularly in the context of elderly women. That included right from their skewed number in leadership roles for varying reasons to issues of caregiving and neglect in old age. Adding to their woes is the present pandemic that is posing difficulties in accessing health resources. As it is with the situation of women across different age groups, the issues of elderly women are also diversified with women across all social set up and financial background equally affected. For that matter no commonality can be drawn when it comes to issues of elderly women and thus cannot be bracketed together. Despite the constitutional right to a dignified life and freedom from discrimination, almost daily, we hear of cases of neglect and discrimination amongst elderly women. These matters have to be studied in detail and appropriate policies needs to be put forth, especially under the present situation when the demography of the ageing population is on the rise.



#### Research Study Proposal by National Commission for Women, New Delhi

Title of Project: 'Women Mental Health - Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health: A study on Common Mental Disorders among Women in Kerala, India'

Principal Investigator: Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Public Health and Community Medicine, CU Kerala

Co - Principal Investigator: Dr. Laxmi, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Social Work, CUK Nodal Officer: Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, CUK

The Centre for Women's Studies sanctioned an amount of Rs. 14,23,400/- (Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand and Four Hundred) for a Research Study on the subject 'Women Mental Health - Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health : A study on Common Mental Disorders among Women in Kerala, India' by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi in January 2021.

The Monitoring Committee comprises of the Principal Investigator, Co - Principal Investigator and the Nodal Officer. Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Public Health and Community Medicine at Central University of Kerala is the Principal Investigator. Dr. Laxmi, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Social Work at CU Kerala is the CO-Principal Investigator. Dr. Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies will be the Nodal Officer.

# Department of Malayalam: Penma Women's Club Talk on Feminism in Malayalam Novels.

Date: 1 February 2021

Resource person: Dr. Khadeeja Mumtaz, Novelist



#### **Department of English & Comparative Literature**

Talk on Women, Technology and Development

Date: 11 February 2021 No. of participants: 75

Resource Person: Vidhu Vincent, Film Director & Media Person

The Department of English & Comparative Literature organised a talk by Ms. Vidhu Vincent, an award winning film maker and journalist from Kerala on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as part of the Department Lecture Series. Her talk titled "Women, Technology, and Development" focused on the new spaces created by technological advancements in the field of media and the position of women within this. Ms. Jaincy John, research scholar of the department, welcomed the gathering, and Dr. Shalini, the faculty coordinator of the programme introduced the speaker. Dr. Joseph Koyippally, Head of the Department too addressed the gathering. Along with the Department community, research scholars, students, and faculty members from other departments as well as other universities attended the programme and participated in the discussion. Ms. Sreekala. KB gave the vote of thanks. The programme had about 75 participants.



The Department of English & Comparative Literature Central University of Kerala invites you all for a talk on



#### WOMEN, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

**By** *Ms. Vidhu Vincent* (Film director & Media Person)

11 February 2021 | 3 PM Platform: Google Meet



#### **Department of Public Administration & Policy Studies**

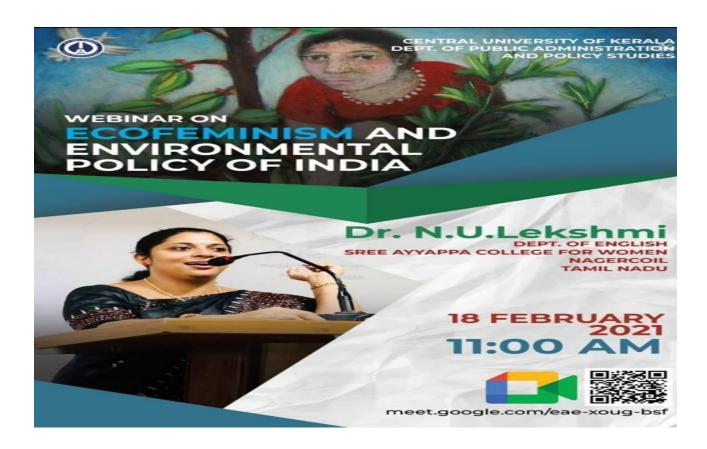
National Webinar on Ecofeminism and Environmental Policies of India

Date: 18th February 2021 No. of participants: 63

Resource person: Dr N.U Lekshmi

The department of Public Administration and Policy Studies has organized a national webinar on Ecofeminism and Environmental Policies of India on 18th February 2021. Dr N.U Lekshmi, Professor, Department of English, Sree Ayyappa College for women, Nagercoil was the resource person. In her lecture, she has touched upon the intrinsic connection between women and nature. She has given a comprehensive picture of feminism and ecofeminism. She has also observed that the exclusion of women both within their houses and at a policy level further pushes their issues into oblivion. She stressed the fact that policies in India remark women as either saviour or as victims. Dr Lekshmi's lecture was followed by an active discussion.

Dr Devi Parvathy, Assistant Professor of the Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies has delivered the welcome address. Ms Shruthi Vijayakrishnan, research scholar of the Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies has proposed the vote of thanks. Around 63 participants comprise faculty members, research scholars and students have attended the event.



#### International Webinar Series on Women and Development - Lecture 4 Sexual and reproductive health challenges of women in Kerala

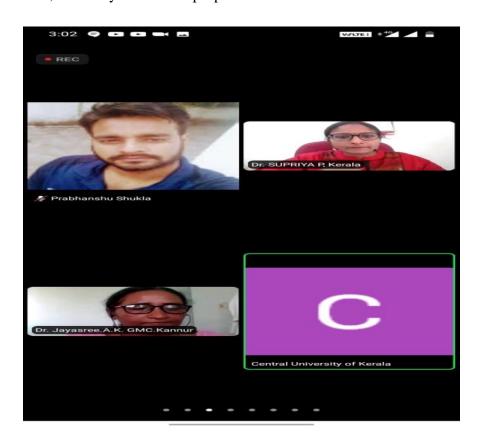
Date: 24 February 2021 No. of participants: 60

Resource person: Dr. AK Jayasree, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine,

Government Medical College, Pariyaram, Kannur, Kerala

The fourth lecture of the International Webinar Series on Women and Development was conducted on the topic "Sexual and reproductive health challenges of women in Kerala'. The Centre for Women's Studies and E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, Central University of Kerala, organized the webinar. Dr. AK Jayasree, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Pariyaram, Kannur delivered the lecture. Dr Jayasree described her observations related to the topic from the field and reported that nearly one in seven women in Kerala has unmet need family planning and number of unwanted pregnancies are increasing among younger women due to their lack of decision making capacity related to temporary methods of contraception. She also mentioned that female sterilization is still very high and men are hesitant to do vasectomy even though it is a simple surgical procedure. Dr Jayasree concluded by emphasizing the importance of improving the decision making of women in matters related to their own body.

About 60 participants representing students, teachers, NGOs and civil society attended the webinar. Dr Supriya P, Coordinator, CWS welcomed the gathering and Ms. Jayalakshmi Rajeev, Member, Advisory committee proposed the vote of thanks.



#### **INAUGURATION OF CRECHE**

Date: 8 March 2021

The Central University of Kerala has decided to start a creche for its employees and research scholars. A committee is formed for the same. The committee identified Old Library Block, Payaswini Hall as its temporary location and started working on it. The Creche has been inaugurated by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. H Venkateswarulu on March 8, 2021. The creche area is divided into Breast- Feeding Room, Office Room, Play Area-cum Activity Room, Wash Room and Sleeping Room. Thematic painting has also been done. Purchase of toys and other necessary items has been done. A team from Reproductive and Child Health; Health Department, Govt. of Kerala; Dr. Muralidhara Nalluraya A (District RCH Officer, DMO Kerala Health Service), Dr. Abhilash (Paediatrician, District Hospital), and Ms. Sharada (RIMS Assistant, DMO (H), and Kasaragod) visited the creche on 13-04-2021. The team has made suggestions to ensure the safety and security of kids as and when it will be opened.



# Women at CUK with the Vice Chancellor Women's Day celebration

Date: 8 March 2021

An interaction of women employees and students at Central University of Kerala with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor was convened as part of International Women's day celebrations, 2021. Vice Chancellor, Prof. H Venketeshwarlu greeted all the employees with women's day wishes and promised that he will initiate the steps required to make the campus womenfriendly. He added that 50 bicycles will be purchased for girls' hostels to facilitate in-campus transportation. Each building will have comfort rooms for women and it will be established in 7 out of 14 blocks in the first phase. Responding to another demand from students, VC said every ladies toilet in every block would have sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators to burn the used pads.



**International Webinar Series on Women and Development - Lecture 5** 

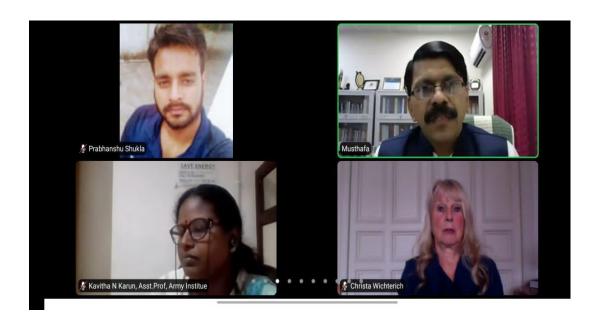
Gender in Globalization: Inclusions and Paradoxes

Date: 8 March 2021 No. of participants:

Resource person: Dr. Christa Wichterich, Guest Professor for Gender Politics, University of

Kassel, Germany

The Centre for Women's Studies, Central University of Kerala, in collaboration with the E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, organized a lecture by Dr. Christa Wichterich on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2021. The lecture was the fifth in the International Webinar Series on 'Women and Development' the Centre has been organizing since December 2020. Dr. Christa Wichterich, Guest Professor for Gender Politics, International Centre for Development and Decent Work, University of Kassel, Germany, spoke on Gender in Globalization: Inclusions and Paradoxes. She explained the various aspects of globalisation responsible for unequal work conditions for women, such as global value chain, land grabbing, global care chain/drain, feminization of labour, feminization of migration, and reproductive tourism and underlined the need for the democratization of global economy. Prof KP, Suresh. Dean, Academic, Dr Supriya P, Co-ordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, Dr Muhammadunni alias Musthafa, Director, E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, and Dr. P. C. Prasanna Kumar, Member, Advisory Committee of Centre for Women's Studies, spoke on the occasion. As many as 86 participants joined from across the country.



#### **Department of Management Studies**

Special Lecture on "Times We Thought Beyond Gender"

Date: 8 March 2021 No. of participants: 99

Resource Person: Smt. Aparna Viswananthan

The Department of Management Studies celebrated *International women's day on March* 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. As a part of celebration, the department organized a special lecture on the topic 'Times We Thought Beyond Gender' by Smt. Aparna Viswananthan, Managing Director, Zocio India LLP, Bangalore. The goal of the program was to uphold Women's achievements, recognize challenges and also to encourage a gender equal world.

Prof. Dr V Balachandran delivered the welcome address. The program was officially inaugurated by Prof. Dr. V Balachandran, Dean, School of Business Studies. Smt. Aparna Viswananthan commenced the talk by explaining her own success story. She spoke about the failures and flaws that she has been faced throughout her journey. She advised the women to empower themselves without waiting for any external agency to help them. She also said that the thought process of women should change and each woman should respect other women. Throughout her talk she encouraged students to think big and to respect all irrespective of their gender. Followed by the special lecture there was an interaction session where all the students and other faculty members actively participated and sought answers to their queries. Various cultural programme was organized after the lecture. The program was conducted through Google Meet and a total of 99 participants were present for session.



(Established by the Parliament of India under The Central Universities Act, 2009) Department of Management Studies, school of Business Studies is organising specialization, but an entrepreneur by A Special Talk on

'Times we thought beyond gender'

Smt.Aparna Viswanathan Founder and Managing Director, "Zocio"

On March 8th 2021. 10.30 a.m -11.30 a.m

Join us on: https://meet.google.com/onv-tpgu-eax

Aparna Viswanathan, a journalist by decision is an educationist and founder of Zocio. She had secured second rank in Women Entrepreneurship Program from IIM Bangalore. She is one among the eight most inspiring stories of women entrepreneurship in the book titled 'Women Who Ventured'. was one of the finalists for the 'She News award 2019' and was adjudged as one of the five change makers of Kamataka by Limca Book of Records and Chaipaani, a media collective jointly.

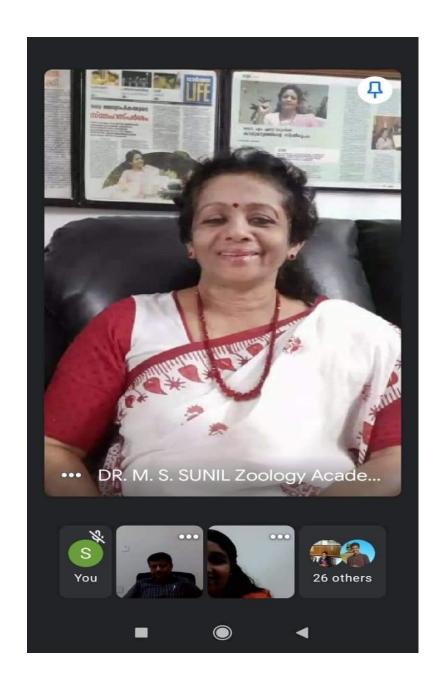
#### Department of Malayalam: Penma Women's Club

Talk – Women: Writing, experience and narration

Date: 8 March 2021

Resource person: Dr. M S Sunil, Social activist, K Rekha, Write

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Dr. M S Sunil, Social activist and Narishakthi Puraskar winner talked about women's participation in social activity and their experience as a social activist. K Rekha famous short story writer conducted a talk on women: writing, experience and narration.



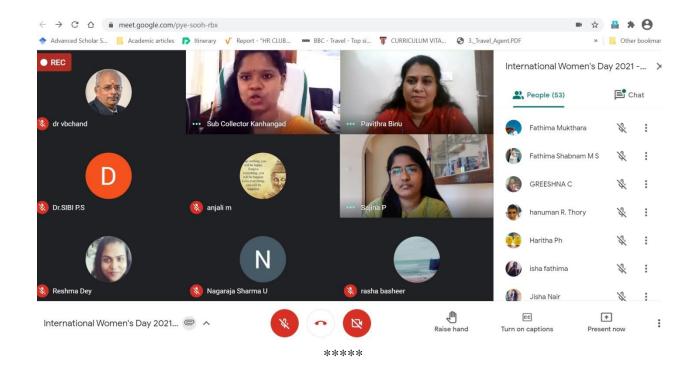
#### **Department of Tourism Studies**

#### International Women's day celebration on the theme 'Voyage for Change'

Date: 9 March 2021

Resource Person: D. R. Meghashree IAS, Sub Collector, Kanhangad, Ms. Sajna Ali, Founder, Appoopanthaadi Women's group and Ms. Sandya Haridas, Assistant Director, India Tourism

Department of Tourism Studies, School of Business Studies, Central University of Kerala celebrated International Women's day 2021 on the theme 'Voyage for Change' on 9th March 2021 through online platform Google meet. The Chief Guest D. R. Meghashree IAS, Sub Collector & Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kanhangad, Kerala inaugurated the function. Welcome speech was delivered by Mrs. Reshma Sadheep Kumar Dey, Faculty, Dept. of Tourism Studies. Prof. Dr. V. Balachandran, Dean, School of Business Studies and Head of Dept. of Tourism Studies presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. The Keynote speaker was Ms. Sandhya Haridas, Asst. Director, India Tourism, Cochin. The Guest of Honour of the program was Dr. Sibi PS., Asst. Professor, Dept. of Tourism Studies, Pondicherry University. Special Address was delivered by Ms. Sajna Ali, Founder, Appoopanthaadi Women's group and Ms. Sandya Haridas, Assistant Director, India Tourism, Govt. of India. Faculties and students actively participated in the Interactive session and the programme concluded by Vote of thanks by Ms. Isha Fathima, First-year Student, MBA Tourism & Travel Management.



# **International Webinar Series on Women and Development - Lecture 6** Empowerment of Women with Disability

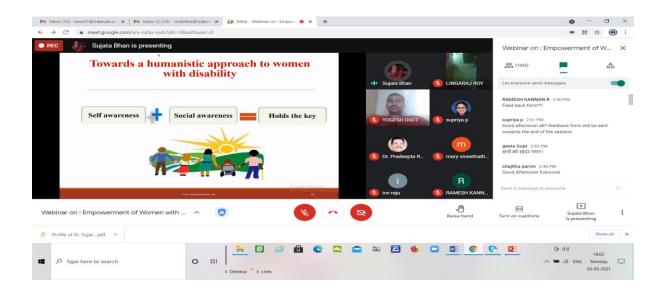
Date: 3 May 2021

No. of participants: 144

Resource person: Prof. Sujata Bhan, Professor and Head of Department of Special Education,

SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.

The sixth lecture of the International Webinar Series on 'Women and Development' was conducted on the topic "Empowerment of Women with Disability". The Centre for Women's Studies and E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education at Central University of Kerala, organized the webinar. Prof. Sujata Bhan, Professor and Head of Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai delivered the lecture. Prof. Bhan, emphasized the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom by women with disabilities. She discussed in detail on the rights of the women with disability and their protection against different forms of violence existing in our society. She detailed on three important conventions, ie, convention on the rights of the child, convention on elimination of discrimination against women and convention on rights of people with disabilities. The barriers which come on the way between women with disabilities and justice were also pointed by Prof. Bhan. Prof. Bhan motivated the participants by mentioning the successful stories of women personalities with disabilities. She explained the importance of self-motivation along with the support from family and society. The role of media to uplift the group was also discussed in the session. About 144 participants representing students, teachers, NGOs and civil society attended the webinar. Dr Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the gathering and Dr. Chithra Manisseri, Member, Advisory committee of Centre for Women's Studies proposed the vote of thanks. Prof. Mohamedunni Alias Musthafa was present in the webinar and Dr. Mary Vineetha Thomas, Member, ESreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education acted as moderator for the session.



#### **International Webinar Series on Women and Development**

Valedictory Session & Lecture 7 - Gender and Rhetoric of Family Law reforms in India

Date: 14 May 2021 No. of participants: 113

Resource person: Dr. Chitra Sinha, Centre for Gender Research at Uppsala University, Sweden

The **Valedictory Session and lecture 7** of the International Webinar Series organized by the Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with the E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education at Central University of Kerala was conducted on 14 May 2021.

Dr Supriya P, Co-ordinator, Centre for Women's Studies, delivered the welcome address. Prof. MN Muhammadunni Alias Musthafa, Director, E Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education, delivered the Presidential address. Prof. K P Suresh, Dean Academics at Central University of Kerala delivered the Valedictory address.

The Resource person **Dr. Chitra Sinha** from Centre for Gender Research at Uppsala University, Sweden spoke on the topic - 'Gender and Rhetoric of Family Law Reforms in India'. In her very engaging session, Dr. Sinha spoke vastly on the Hindu Code Bill debates, tracing the emergence of the Hindu law codes while providing insights into the types of marriages, provision for divorce, inheritance as well as the legal backing provided to monogamy. The curiously diverse responses that the codes elicited were looked into while observing that the bill was largely symbolic though it hinted at evolving gender consciousness and social perceptions.

Dr. Laxmi, Joint Director of E-Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education and Dr. Mary Vineetha Thomas, Member of Executive Committee of E-Sreedharan Centre for Life Skills Education coordinated the Webinar. Aparna Raghunathan, Student representative form the Dept. of English presented the Report of the Webinar from Lecture 1-7. A total of 113 participants from Institutions and Universities across the country and abroad have attended the Webinar.



National Webinar on "Women's Safety: Ethico-Legal Dimensions"

Date: 25 May 2021 No. of participants: 150

Resource persons: Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Dr B Sandhya, Additional Director General of Kerala Police and Adv. Teena Cherian from High Court of Kerala.

Centre for Women's Studies, Central University organized a National Webinar on "Women's Safety: Ethico-Legal Dimensions" on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. The webinar was arranged with three eminent Speakers - Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Dr B Sandhya, Additional Director General of Kerala Police and Adv. Teena Cherian from High Court of Kerala. The webinar was well attended by more than 150 participants, students, research scholars and teachers from various colleges and universities across India. Dr Supriya P, Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies proposed the welcome address.

Smt Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women emphasized on the need to extend various policies of women's safety to the women from the most marginalized sections of society. Dr B Sandhya opined that we must encourage women to report crimes. She reminded that women police officers should be appreciated for their work and they should be our heroes. She also explained in detail various initiatives like *Mithra* and *Prashanthi* by the Police Department in the state for the safety and security of women from all the sections of the society. Adv. Teena Cherian from High Court of Kerala took an elaborative session on the constitutional and legal provisions for ensuring women's equality and safety. She pointed out that the reasons for the shocking statistics of crime against women in India are the patriarchal mind set of the people, objectification of women, dowry system, delay in investigation and punishment, use of alcohol, lack of awareness and lack of infra-structure and women's safety mechanism.



#### Department of Social Work & CUK NSS Unit 1 Awareness programme on Menstruation and Menstrual Hygiene – 'Breaking the Bloody Taboo'

Date: 7 August 2021

Resource person: Ms Babitha PS, Co-Founder of Sustainable Menstruation Kerala Collective.

The Google meet session on Menstruation and Menstrual hygiene - breaking the Bloody Taboo, began at 6 pm. The resource person was Ms Babitha PS, Co-Founder of Sustainable Menstruation Kerala Collective. She is also the Project consultant at Women and Gender Constituency as part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC. Ms Babitha spoke about the importance of awareness of menstruation and how necessary menstrual hygiene is. She asked the attendees to share their menarche experiences and explained about different rituals and myths around them. She also talked about menstrual absorbents and its effects on the environment. The resource person made the attendees aware of the importance of having non-Menstruators in the discussion. She shared her experience of practising "free period", having periods without using any menstrual absorbents or products. After the class we had an interactive session, attendees asked their doubts and the resource person clarified them.

