

Two day National Seminar on “Women in Public Administration” during 11 & 12.02.2016

The Programme started with the Invocation and welcome address delivered by Dr.N.Murugeswari, Organizing Secretary of the Seminar. The Registrar of the university had presided over the gathering. In his address he narrated how women are naturally administrators and good managers with reference to household management by mothers. He said that women have foresight and vision. This is important in organizing and support decision making among women. Dr.B.Nalini ,ICSSR Research Fellow,of Madurai Kamaraj University had given a brief narrative of the nexus of women, Administration and Public Administration. She vividly portrayed the gendered socialization which plays a mighty role in the lives of women in all spheres. To deconstruct the myth women should take initiatives to assert and react in the given forum so as to take challenges in diversified situations.

Ms.ManjulaRengarajan in her Keynote address had given an extensive information through her exploratory research of women in leadership places in the public enterprise like the Railways.She said that out of the 13 lakh workers on the southern railways ,only 80000 are women with a trickle of a few at the top positions.

The main reason she said that women put the family first before the careers and are unwilling to be shunted about to various places in the midst of family responsibilities. It now questions why the family responsibility lies only on the shoulders of women alone. She said that it is high time that women participation and reality of women's labour be acknowledged in the labour market. MsManjula had given an indepth view of the dual responsibilities which block

women to achieve. Even the work life balance is totally controlled by the patriarchal and androcentric views of society. Neatly specifying that women should break barriers and voice out ideas and views. The task ahead is herculean but someone somewhere should make a start. This could be achieved only through the eradication of bias and the myopia of the mind. Ms.C.Karthika in her special address had narrated the experiences and how she moved forward in spite of her disability. Nothing is impossible for a woman as she narrated history of women who were in public sphere like ruling the nation. Many historic views of philosophers and thinkers were recalled in a speech giving an impetus to the gathering. Also Prof. N.Manimekali had spoken on how to revisit the social system by identifying the need to break the barriers constructed on women due to class, caste race ethnicity etc. The need of the hour is to collect a critical mass who would be willing to reclassify the need and make it a possibility for women to enter public spheres by equal representation and not as an economic growth indicator. Around 100 participants from various Universities had participated and presented their papers.