

National Seminar on “Gender and Social Barriers for Women Scientists and Technocrats- Challenges and Concerns” Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University on 27 & 28 02.17



The Two day National Seminar on Gender and Social Barriers of Women Scientists and Technocrats –Strategies and Concerns started with the Invocation and Bharathidasan Song. The Welcome Address was presided over by Prof.N.Manimekalai who welcomed the gathering and summarized the objectives of the seminar which highlighted the need to incorporate gender in the various STEM fields.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by Prof.Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchy. Dr.Mini said that she overcame obstacles by putting a systematic approach, learning to say NO when needed and to forgive and forget. The support system is very essential which could be sought when there is mentors who could play a major role in the overall development of the individual. She stressed not to claim any special or preferential treatment for women. One needs to set goals and positions will fall into place. She concluded saying Be Positive, Be Visible and Be Bold. The presidential address was delivered by Dr.Gopinath Ganapathy, Member-Syndicate, Chair and Professor in the Department of Computer Science, Bharathidasan University. Prof. Gopinath said that the IT field is mainly male dominated and the Human resource field is female as many male technocrats are lazy and grab all political positions whereas women on the other hand are sincere and duty conscious. The male has so far maneuvered to the top positions by remote controlling women most of the time. He also said that religion plays a major role in suppressing women as slaves or upholding them as Goddesses. The mechanism for gender equality lies in empowerment and education. One could

transform the world if male and female work on par with each other. He gave a narration of how digital age has cut cross gender barriers and also at the same time cyber crime has become a widespread menace, where he said that 67% of the female accounts on social media are attacked and many women are subjected to digital torture. Cyber spacing has become a junk stuff where digital power has the need of protection. To counter these acts it is proposed to bring about a Cyber Cell and an academic programme on cyber forensics together with the university of Madras. To create a critical mass, it is essential to bring about women into the field of Science and Technology.



The Special Address was rendered by Dr.Rita John and Dr.Hemalatha. In her speech, Dr.Rita John had said that women should not expect any kind of favour from anyone but rather with the conviction that age does not define talent to bring that talent into perspective and thereby implement the same with zeal. It is the women which should be able to multi-task alongside works and involve the family into the working perspective. There is no question of superiority or inferiority but attitude which will reflect in the altitude of success. Dr.K.Hemalatha said that the Seminar was rightly conducted as it coincides with the National Science Day (ie) the commemoration of the Raman Effect. The theme for this year is Science for Differently abled. Dr.Hemalatha said that there is no preferential treatment for women but only as a level playing ground with men in terms of support systems. To this end the Government of India has launched various women oriented programmes and sexual harassment cells and various other

schemes by UNESCO to overcome issues and to create good rapport building so as to reach the unreached and to discover all that is needed for humanity.