

One day Training of Trainers Workshop for the Gender Champion Club and Legal awareness to Students of affiliated colleges, jointly with Jamal Mohammed College, Tiruchirapalli 20.09.17



Gender Sensitization has been in the talk since 1995 – No change said Dr. Annie Vijaya. SP Southern Railways, Tiruchirapalli in the Training of Trainers Programme organized by the Gender Champion Club Members of colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University, organized jointly by the Department of Women's Studies, and Gender Club of Jamal Mohammed College, Tiruchirapalli at Jamal Mohammed College. Dr. Annie Vijaya in her interaction held that the society is moving backwards where the gender sensitization which stated in 1995 for all police officials have been continuing till today without any notable change being realized. The youth and the students are to be sensitive towards the issues so that gender equality is a reachable goal she added.

Prof. N.Manimekalai Director and Head, Department of Women's Studies, explained the UGC's direction to initiate Gender Champion Clubs in Colleges and Universities to promote Gender

Equality among the students, by conducting different activities. There is a need to question the existing patriarchal norms where there is family patriarchy, caste patriarchy, capitalist patriarchy, religious patriarchy etc which form the base for the male centric thinking being promoted through various social institutions including family, state, law, media, epic, caste, religion, literature, culture, etc. The gender socialization and the related gender discrimination manifests into violence in the society which must be understood and the younger generation need to take the responsibility to re-socialize the future generation right from childhood on gender equality and to respect both the sexes each other. The focus should be that the gender roles changing must be accompanied by acceptance of changing gender values, where it should no longer be a child should associate his or her father reading paper and mother looking after kitchen

The gender champions must understand the intersections of gender with all these institutions and understand the role of social institutions in reinforcing the stereotypes and promote unequal power relationship between men and women, among caste, class, religion etc, and sustain the multiple inequalities in the society.

Dr. Suba in her interaction thoroughly highlighted all the social institutions and touched on the need for scientific questioning of the impositions by various institutions. She urged the gender champions to be real champions by inculcating critical thinking and review their own perceptions on gender, and other forms of inequalities in the society. The inequalities in the society are organized and the subordinated, suppressed and oppressed group have historically been suffering for which the reservation has been accorded. She cautioned the champions to not to misunderstand reservation as the concession offered to the oppressed, but as a compensation for the disadvantaged section who were devoid of equal opportunities. So equality can be achieved only by extending equal opportunities she argued. She gave intense study of knowledge about women's studies, women's suppression their role in the society, social justice, also the ways to achieve the individuality by knowledge through her idealistic expression of words...

. Mr. William John Bosco, Associate Prof and Head, Department of English, EVR College attacked how language rules everyone's life and indirectly subordinate women and the marginalized. He taught rare collection of words and their etymology regarding Gender studies

also answered the questions claimed by the students.. He added that being a male, and teacher, feels ashamed to see the gender inequalities prevailing and sustaining in the society . The gender discrimination being promoted in media, in advertisement, etc were highlighted and motivated the students to acknowledge the kind of inherent weaknesses of the inequitable social system and the need for every individual to work towards the same. He screened the gender stereotypical expectations, the objectification of women in both new and old songs, movies, where the women's 'mind' has never been a focus but only the body. He did highlight the class and caste perspectives being exposed in the advertisement

At the end, students were enacted a skit about the topic which was well appreciated by everyone depicting the kind of gender discrimination prevailing in the society

The kind of activities which could be taken up by the Gender Champion clubs were also discussed.

The suggested activities of Gender Champion Clubs to promote Gender Equality

- Start Gender Champion Clubs in colleges with 30 to 40 students with boys, girls and Transgenders by filling up of the forms available on the UGC web site with the willingness of the students.
- Spread awareness about the absence of gender equality
- Create sensitivity among the students more than awareness
- Each member who spreads is should first be sensitized
- Question the absence of women in forum of men
- Rejecting media that has any content anti-women, anti social, antihuman
- Train the champions to interact with the responsible elders to not to push female entities of any age into undesirable situations or relationships
- Inculcate and sensitize the champions to have the courage to implement what is being talked in one's own homes and not to mind getting bad names for doing right things

` It was further discussed that the activities can be divided into short and long term programmes where the students can meet weekly or monthly, drawing representatives from across disciplines,

gender, region, years of study etc to be inclusive and democratic. Weekly study circles to discuss that current topics of interest, inviting experts to organize gender programmes, review the films or TV serials, write their views to media, read a book or article and interact , produce documentary films, using social media as alternative media keeping it as reactive space not just forwarding what is received but to put forth arguments etc.

More than 10 students and two teachers voluntarily shared their feedback and some of them read their own eloquent poems also. The gender champion co-ordiantors will meet on 28th Sept 2017 to finalize the kind of activities they will be doing.

The principal of the Jamal Mohammed College, the Staff Advisors of the Gender Club of Boys wing Dr. Nagoorgani and girls wing Dr. Kairunnisa, the Secretary of the College all spoke.

There were 15 colleges from which students and teachers participated in this programme in around 100. Jamal Mohammed College gender champions organized the programme and coordinated the same.