



**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)
ONE DAY WORKSHOP**

***Topic: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Contemporary India:
Issues and Challenges***

The Department of History organised a one-day Training Programme on Human Rights entitled **Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Contemporary India: Issues and Challenges** funded by the **National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi** between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. at Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium on 3rd March 2022.

The programme began with a prayer song followed by Tamil Thai Vazhthu. Dr D. Anuradha, Head - Department of History welcomed the gathering. Dr I. Princes, Convenor briefed on the dynamics of the training programme. Dr D. Anuradha honoured the chief guest with a shawl, Mr J. Ranganathan, Co-ordinator, Shift II, presented a memento, and Dr A. Arputha Selvi, Assistant Professor presented a bouquet. Dr R. Xavier, Assistant Professor introduced the chief guest.



Dr Gowri Ashokan, Former Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Chennai, was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. She

highlighted the struggles she had faced throughout her career because of her family and social background. She explained that empowered women can contribute to nation-building by joining any sector like the army, social service, politics, education, and corporate sector. Moreover, the government should focus, especially in rural areas, on empowering women, as the majority of India's population resides in the villages.

SESSION I

Resource Person: Dr Ramu Manivannan, Formerly with the University of Delhi and the University of Madras, Visiting Professor, Department of International Relations, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai.

Moderator: Dr P. Nanci, Coordinator, Department of International Relations, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai.



Dr Ramu Manivannan, the Resource Person of the session, spoke on the theme **Introduction to Human Rights**. He discussed the Constitutional Provisions, UDHR, 1948 and the International Covenants regarding Human Rights. With over 25 years of experience, he shared with the students the necessity of education and gave them an awareness of the status of women in Indian society. He also spoke about hard labour, which is for men and women. The students raised their questions to the speaker. Dr P. Nanci delivered the vote of thanks.

SESSION II

Resource Person: Dr M.V. Usha Devi, Professor and Chairperson, Department of History, Bangalore University, Bengaluru.

Moderator: Dr A. Arputha Selvi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai.



Dr M.V. Usha Devi, the Resource Person of the session, spoke on **Silence of Human Rights and Voicelessness of Women – Historical Review**. She briefed about the rights of women and the challenges faced in the workplace, competition, and compatibility. She explained the provisions of the Indian Constitution on the protection of the rights of women. She emphasised that women empowerment is all about making women both socially and financially independent. It is a process in which women make their own independent decisions. The students raised their questions to the speaker. Dr A. Arputha Selvi delivered the vote of thanks.

SESSION III

Resource Person: Mrs Adhilakshmi Logamurthy, Advocate/Social Activist, Madras High Court, Chennai – 600 104

Moderator: Dr P. J. Biju Joseph, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai 600 034



Mrs Adhilakshmi Logamurthy, the Resource Person of the session, put forth ideas on **The Legislative Protections for Women in India in Promoting Gender Equality**. She emphasised violence against women, sexual harassment, women trafficking, and protecting women from domestic violence. Our Constitution provides exclusive rights to women for their protection and development. She shared her experiences as an advocate and informed how within the family there are divisions of hierarchy and how they can be sorted. Besides, providing proper education to a girl child is the main agenda of women empowerment. The students raised their questions to the speaker. Dr P.J. Biju Joseph delivered the vote of thanks.

SESSION IV

Resource Person: Dr Ajeet Jaiswal, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur – 610 005

Moderator: Dr Marilyn Gracey Augustine, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Madras Christian College (Autonomous), Chennai



The fourth session of the training programme began with the input by the resource person Dr Ajeet Jaiswal on **Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: Two Sides of the Same Coin**. He spoke about the gender differences in education, employment issues, female household leadership, and spousal violence and gender relations. Empowered women can contribute to nation-building by joining various sectors. Women empowerment is important in solving societal issues like poverty, unemployment, and birth control in India. He highlighted how men should treat women and how women should treat themselves. The students raised their questions to the speaker. Dr Marylin Gracey Augustine proposed the vote of thanks.

The Valedictory session began with a welcome address delivered by Dr D. Anuradha. Mr J. Ranganathan, Co-ordinator, Shift II, honoured the chief guest with a shawl, Ms Karoliya Jansi Rani presented a memento, and Dr D. Anuradha presented a bouquet. Ms Karoliya Jansi Rani, Assistant Professor, introduced the chief guest.



Dr G.J. Sudhakar, Professor Emeritus, C.P. Ramasamy Aiyar Institute of Indological Research (Affiliated to the University of Madras), The C.P. Ramasamy Aiyar Foundation, Chennai, was the chief guest. In his valedictory address, he emphasised women's empowerment in contemporary Tamil Nadu. He gave input on education, scholarship, skill training, placements, jobs, mentoring, concession, and government schemes. He rightly said that gender equality is a basic human right and is fundamental to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world.

Dr I. Princes, the convener of the one-day training programme, proposed the vote of thanks. The training programme came to a successful end with the National Anthem.

The training programme was intellectually enriching for students, scholars, and the faculty who attended the programme.