

UPSA & Women Studies Centre, Kumaun University, Nainital

National Seminar

Overcoming Gender Discrimination in 21st Century India

30 November – 1 December 2018

Venue : The Hermitage, Mallital, Nainital

Gender discrimination and its impact on the developing societies remains a major area of concern for planners, policy makers and administrators across the world. Issues of gender based marginalization and inequity continue to plague all countries of Asia in the 21st century. As these societies undergo rapid transformations due to economic and demographic changes, rural-urban transformations and cultural reformulations, questions of gender identities and how they impact the life of a nation come to the forefront of both development research and practice.

Closely linked to the challenges posed by gender discrimination in patriarchal societies such as India are issues of reformulation of traditional gender identities, rights of the genders and ensuring equity for all citizens irrespective of gender. In contemporary India there have been burning debates on issues of gender identities, the rights of the LGBTQ, decriminalization of homosexuality and emergent trends of the construction of gender through the arts, cinema, media, literature etc. The Gender-Spectrum in India remains ubiquitous and the debates about ethical relationships is evolving all the time, and often we are trapped within circles of ethical concerned.

The Indian tradition and ancient thought all contain deep explorations of gender identities and rights. In Indian concept of *Shakti* where 'feminine creative energy' is there as cosmic power, cosmic dynamic force, self-born, *Paran Shakti, Adi Shakti, Para Shakti* to maintain the balance of entire universe. Similarly, we find debates and concepts regarding gender in other Asian traditions such as the Chinese where the Yin and Yang are two archetypal poles- underlying the fundamental rhythm of the universe.

There are many theoretical and ideological concepts and epistemological bases that we can use in our scholarly understanding of the challenges posed by gender discrimination in 21st Century India. We can choose not only the traditional Indian and Asian philosophical framework for such research but also integrate the concepts given

by western scholarship especially the feminist scholarship which emerged during the waves of 20th century feminism.

The seminar will focus on the contemporary challenges that India faces in mitigating gender discrimination. The papers may focus on the following sub-themes, but need not be confined to these

Sub- Themes

- Indian Concept of Feminist Jurisprudence
- Indian Constitutional provisions for the safeguards for women
- New measures in India to protect women
- Gender: Status Indicators
- Healthcare Policy 2017 in India
- A Health problem of differently abled people (DAP)
- Issues of Menstrual Hygiene
- Gender Equity vs. Religious Practices
- Planned Urbanization vs. Women Health
- Hygiene's vs. Women Health
- Gandhian Theory of Population and Women
- Women Role in Rural Economy
- Schemes, Yojana, Programme initiated by Government for Women Empowerment
- Ujjawala Yojana for Women
- Female Beggar
- E-waste and Women
- Women and Family size
- Literacy vs. Women Life
- New measures in India to protect women
- Action taken by Governments for Women Empowerment
- Gender and Discrimination
- Gender Inequality in India
- Political Empowerment of Women
- Crime against women
- Special Laws for women
- Women Empowerment Schemes at Centre and State Level
- Role of women Help-line Schemes
- Role of NCW in empowering women
- Women Science and Technology
- Challenges for Working Mothers
- Women and Media
- Women in the unorganized sector