

WOMEN'S STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (WSDC)

The Women's Studies and Development Centre (WSDC) was established by University of Delhi in 1987 as a response to the call of University Grants Commission to address women's issues in higher education. The Centre was one of the first four women's studies center's established by UGC. The Centre has made long strides in the direction of Teaching, Research and Development in the history of twenty-five years.

The Centre is the focal point for women's and gender studies in the University of Delhi. The activities of WSDC place women and gender at the centre of its inquiry focusing mostly on multidisciplinary perspectives of class, caste, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, age. It also addresses several other contemporary socio-political issues concerning women. Teaching and research has gradually become the prime focus of the Centre.

PROGRAMMES

The Centre offers short term courses for undergraduates, graduates and post graduates Certificate Courses in women's Studies is offered at colleges for under graduates. The Centre undertakes many research projects and other extension activities. It regularly offers University Grants Commission's Refresher Course in Women's Studies for teachers. The Centre also organizes gender sensitization programs, community action, lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences regularly. WSDC has networks with different faculties and Colleges of University of Delhi, Women's Studies Centers across the country, different foreign Universities, United Nations and its constituent bodies, Government bodies, voluntary organizations.

COURSES

1. Gender Studies (Advanced Course)

The Centre runs the Advanced Certificate Course on Gender Studies for Post Graduate students. It is a four months course conducted every year. The aim of the course is to train participants to do research in Gender related topics and even help registered Ph. D scholars to understand gender perspectives in their chosen area of research. The course outline includes Women's Studies as a Discipline; Gender as a Concept; Feminist Theories and Research Methodology. The performance of the participants is assessed by different modes of examinations. The course is open to scholars, teachers and other professionals.

2. Gender and Society (Certificate Courses)

It is a four months certificate course. The course combines class room teaching with field work and project work. The course content includes feminist theories and core issues related to gender inequality, discrimination and operation with a special reference to India the course covers topics such as: Theoretical Challenges, Women in Indian Society, Women in Cultural and Literary Paradigms, Gender and Social Change, Project Work.

3. Certificate Course in Women's Studies

It is a hundred hours course that is equally divided between class room teaching and other activities (workshops, seminars, education visits and other modes of teaching). The course is offered in various Colleges and the College Coordinator has to be contacted for this course. The course work is jointly reviewed by WSDC and Colleges. The students are awarded a joint certificate of WSDC and the College on completion of the course.

4. University Grant Commission (UGC) Refresher Course for Teachers

WSDC has the honour of offering first such course in the country in 1997 that was inaugurated by the Chairperson of UGC. The course aims at introducing theoretical perspectives on emergent issues on Women/Gender, along with dissemination of information on contemporary debates on Women/Gender. The course envisaged detailed and in-depth discussion on ground realities. It facilitates teachers of Humanities and Social Sciences to be informed and develop gender perspectives in their own subject discipline.

Only teachers are eligible to apply for this course which would fulfill the requirement of their career advancement.

RESEARCH

Research is one of the major activities of WSDC. The Centre has conducted numerous academic research projects which includes both theoretical and empirical projects every year on relevant contemporary issues pertaining to Women/Gender.

Research Projects:

1. Marriage, Autonomy and Engendered Violence: A Study of North West India (2010- present)

WSDC has undertaken an empirical study based on the case studies collected from four states- Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The aim of the study is to understand and compare the gender underpinnings of the issue of honour killings and choice marriage in North-West India.

2. Gender and decision making power in the public arena: A comparative study of India and Sri Lanka (2011- present)

This is a comparative study of India and Sri Lanka funded by Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation , which aims to investigate the participation of women in the decision making positions in the political arena, and to scrutinize the state policies with regard to promotion of women in the decision making process in the work sphere in India and Sri Lanka.

Completed Research Projects:

1. Gender Audit of Delhi University (2010-11).

The study reviewed effective gender mainstreaming in policies, programs and structure of University of Delhi and assessed the extent to which such policies had been institutionalized using purposive sampling of 75 teachers across the departments of the University. The study also examined the representation of women at different levels of the University and their understanding of gender perspective identifying gaps for improvement and suggests possible strategies to make the University system more gender sensitive and gender friendly.

2. Gender in School Education: A Comparative Study of India and Sri Lanka. (2010-11).

This comparative study of India and Sri Lanka examined how gendered ideology is being transmitted through curriculum and practices in school. The findings of the study suggested that gender stereotype has been toned down in the NCERT school text books in India. However, gender stereotype is still prevalent in school text books in Sri Lanka. The study also found that teaching is perceived as a feminine job by the students in the countries.

3. Domestic Violence: A Study with Special Reference to Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (2010).

WSDC conducted a study of cases of domestic violence reported to Delhi courts after the PWDV Act, 2005 was implemented. The study mapped legal intervention on cases of domestic violence that were reported to various Delhi Courts.

4. Assessment of Attitudinal Difference towards Girl Child in Selected Districts of North India. (2007-2008).

The study evaluated different aspects of the attitudinal difference towards the girl child in the six states of Northern India, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi. The different aspects the study focused on were: education, health and over all social status. The study established that attitudinal differences for the girl child exist in these states with varying intensity.

5. Strategies to Operationalize Legislation on Domestic Violence against Women: India and the United Kingdom (2006)

The study was undertaken by faculty of WSDC in collaboration with faculty, of Law Department, Warwick University, United Kingdom. The objective of the study was to understand the role of women's organizations in India and England in bringing out issue of domestic violence to the public arena. This project was sponsored by British Council, New Delhi.

6. Developing Indian Perspectives on Feminist Theory (2005)

The study focused on developing Indian perspectives into feminist Theory by reconsidering the key terms like patriarchy, gender, equality, family, community, sexuality etc., while developing suitable methodologies. The project was sponsored by Department of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Human Resource, Government of India.

CONTACT DETAILS

- Women's Studies and Development Centre
Academic Research Centre, Second floor
Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg
(Opposite Khalsa College) North Campus
University of Delhi
Delhi-110007
Tel-fax- 011-27666669
Email: wsc_du@yahoo.com
Website: www.wsc.du.ac.in