

REPORT
NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
“Women Empowerment: Looking Back, Looking Forward”

18th March, 2023

Sponsored by



Western Regional Centre
Indian Council of Social Science Research,
Mumbai

ORGANISED BY



SevaSadan's College of Education
Ulhasnagar – 421 003, Dist.-Thane,
Maharashtra, India.

A one day National Seminar on ‘Women Empowerment: Looking Back Looking Forward’ was organized by Seva Sadan’s College of Education on the 18th March, 2023. The seminar was sponsored by WRC ICSSR, Mumbai. The sub-themes of the seminar were:-

- 1) Women - Real Managers of the Environment
- 2) Women Achievers of free India
- 3) Women’s Socio-Economic Empowerment
- 4) Women’s political participation
- 5) Challenges in Women Empowerment
- 6) Any other topic related to the theme.

The inaugural session began with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and first year student teacher sang saraswati vandana. This was followed by Maharashtra state song and University song. A welcome song was sung by second year student teachers. The Chief Guest Ms Kavita Nair Bhatia, The President of Seva Sadan Trust Mr Sanjay Dabrai, Dr D Harichandan were welcomed by Dr Renuka Shewkani, I/C Principal. The proceedings of the seminar, published in peer-reviewed journal was released by the esteemed guest during the inaugural session. Dr Renuka Shewkani, I/C Principal in her address highlighted the role of women in society. She also stated that looking back we have examples of Rani Laxmibai, Razia Sultana, and, Looking Forward we have Nirmala Sitaram, Pratibha Patil. Madam also presented the statistical figures on women’s work force.





In her inaugural address, Ms Kavita Nair Bhatia appreciated the efforts of the college in organizing the seminar and the topic of the seminar is in tune SDG no. 5 that is gender equality. Madam, began with an activity inviting the audience to follow her actions with light music background. This was a form meditation accompanied by music. In her address, she touched upon the meaning of women empowerment, the traditionally assigned role of men and women, how socialization has conditioned our mind, statistics on violence against women, the criteria for sacking from jobs. Madam, stated that women empowerment has to be holistic in nature. She asked the audience to point out the harassment meted out to menfolk by the society, to which a student-teacher stated they are not allowed to cry. The session was interactive, through video and activities. In conclusion, madam stated that to make women rights a reality, she exhorted the audience to take a pledge. The session conclude with vote of thank by Dr Rajkumari Punjabi.





The inaugural session was followed by the first technical session, the chairperson for this session was Dr D Harichandan, former Director IDOL, University of Mumbai. The theme covered in this session included women-real managers of environment, women achievers of free India, women's socio-economic empowerment. The papers presented during this session highlighted the women achievers in different field viz social, political, economic, education, the feminist perspective and women empowerment as reflected in Kamala Das poetry, the role of women in Panchayati Raj the challenges they have to face while discharging their duties, study on financial literacy. One of the presenter highlighted the political participation of women and stated that women participation at all political level is far from appreciation and how 33% of women participation bill is still pending. Dr D Harichandan, in his concluding remarks appreciated the work of all the presenters and gave suggestions for further improvement. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr Rukmini Jamadar.



The post lunch, second technical session covered theme on women's political participation and challenges in women empowerment. The chairperson for this session was Dr Sunita Magre Associate Dean Interdisciplinary Studies and Prof Head of Dept. of Education, University of Mumbai. The papers in this session focused on issues and challenges in women empowerment, role of mass media and an anthropological study of socio-economic empowerment of adivasi women. In her concluding remark, Dr Sunita Magre appreciated the anthropological study and related it with NEP 2020. She emphasized that we should believe that we are empowered, only then we can solve the problems, being psychological empowered is a must. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr Rajkumari Punjabi.



The third and final technical session was chaired by Dr Pandurang Barkale, Consultant RUSA. The papers in this session covered topic on mental health of teachers, various challenges viz gender discrimination, female foeticide, disparity in education, sexual harassment, a study on

glass ceiling effect and women empowerment. The chairperson in his remarks appreciated the paper presentation and stated that there is still a long way to go.



The valedictory session began with report reading, Dr Heena Wadhvani presented a brief report of the seminar. Two of the participants provided their feedback appreciating the selection of the topic and the organization of the entire seminar. The Chief Guest for the session, Dr Pandurang Barkale, Consultant RUSA in his address mentioned that women constitute half of the world's resources, yet contribute only one-third of the total and own one-tenth of the resources, isn't that ironical, the reason being the patriarchal nature of the society. Sir, also mentioned that there can be patriarchal female like a mother-in-law and feminist men like Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi Karve. Sir, concluded by reciting a poem on women.

A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Rukmini Jamdar.

