

Action Plan of Gender Sensitization Cell(2024-2025)

Gender sensitization is an integrated approach that aims to understand the social and cultural constructions of gender that shape the experiences of women and men in society. Gender issue is not only a female issue-it is a psycho social, political and economic imperative. It is vital that all of us be included in this equation.

In the recent past, awareness about women's rights and issues has been raised considerably. Bethune College, a premiere educational institution has always marched forward in generating awareness about gender equality.

Being a premiere educational institution, the college has always heralded women's education and empowerment.

With this objective in mind, the Women's studies Centre was inaugurated in 2010. With a larger vision to promote well being among women and a deeper pursuit towards women development, the centre has focused its activities in both academic and social fields. It is dedicated to conducting different seminars, workshops, awareness campaigns to educate students about women's health, sexuality and rights. It has also published a book, *Voices Beyond Silence : Issues and Insights* published by Sopan and Women's Studies Centre, Bethune College, Kolkata November, 2020). ISBN 978-81-948279-2-4. to disseminate knowledge about contemporary practices in the field of women's empowerment. The introduction of Women's Studies as a course in the undergraduate level since 2012 and special papers of the current CCF curriculum dedicated to women and their issues have successfully initiated academic conversation on the issue of gender equality.

A Certificate course in "Ethics and Value Education" has been introduced for under graduate 1st year students. Concepts like Feminist Philosophical Perspectives, Gender Equity and Women's Rights have been incorporated in the course's curriculum as a tool for transformation of students' conscience on women's issues

The Students' Activity Cell (SAC) of Bethune College helps the students to explore their co- and extra-curricular abilities along with their academic pursuit. The Cell also runs seven students' clubs for various co and extra-curricular activities. The Cell organises number of Inter and Intra-college Competitions, seminars/workshops and other activities throughout the year to help and encourage the students to pursue their interest in different fields along with academics.

Human Rights Cell was inaugurated on 29.06.21. The Cell organizes events and publishes an online bulletin focusing on human rights and gender issues '-Jagriti' on Bethune College website. 'Jagriti' contains posters, photographs, bio-notes, write-up contributed by the students.

Bethune College has a very active NSS unit. Volunteers of the unit are proactive in organizing seminars and gender sensitization programmes both inside and outside the college campus. The college aims to make students, teachers and office staff well aware of “Gender sensitization”.

Utilizing the expertise of different committees, the college prepares an annual gender sensitization action plan at the beginning of every academic session and tries to execute the plan to its level best.

ACTION PLAN (2024-2025)

Gender Sensitization Action plan of Womens’ Studies Centre for 2024-25

- **One day Thalassemia Awareness and Testing Camp in Collaboration with NSS** in association with Rotary Club of Belvedere Gardens & Hindol Society may be organized. This accessible testing represents a commitment to community health while emphasizing women's right to medical information and autonomy in reproductive choices.
- **Banamohatsav – Community Inclusion Programme will be celebrated** on Bethune Day. This community inclusion programme, involving Women and children from Goabagan slum will promote solidarity across class boundaries by bringing together privileged students and marginalized slum residents in cultural celebration.
- **Rakhi Bandhan: Women in Solidarity** -This programme will highlight the traditional Raksha Bandhan festival as a celebration of women's solidarity rather than patriarchal protection. The initiative aims to reclaim cultural traditions for feminist purposes, transforming a festival that traditionally positions women as needing male protection into an expression of sisterhood and mutual support among women. By tying rakhis to each other, women are to assert their capacity for self-protection and collective care, demonstrating how cultural practices can be reinterpreted to serve feminist values.
- **Protest March may be organized to** demonstrate engagement with contemporary social issues and collective resistance. By organizing and participating in public protest, students are expected to develop political consciousness and practical skills in advocacy and activism.
- **Saree Mela** at Goabagan Slum, Kolkata may be organized. This cultural and economic empowerment initiative will aim to promote traditional crafts while supporting women's economic independence through the buying and selling of sarees.
- **Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign** - In response to the UGC circular on the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign, a comprehensive programme will address the critical social issue of child marriage by emphasizing girls' education as a fundamental strategy for prevention.

- **Gender Based Violence Awareness Programme in collaboration with** Internal Complaints Committee, Students' Grievance Redressal Committee and Human Rights Cell may be organized that will address digital safety, social media vigilance, and cyber-related legal protections. This programme will deal with issues like Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment Act 2013, POCSO Act 2012, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 and a detailed explanation of the SHe Box portal for confidential online reporting of gender-based harassment.
- **International Women's Day Celebration Curated by** Department of Women's Studies and student volunteers **will involve an** Annual poster exhibition that will intend to create space for creative expression about women experience using artistic media to challenge stereotypes and highlight diverse representations of womanhood that often remain invisible in mainstream narratives.
- Students and teachers may organize Campus-wide rally under the theme "Women in Leadership: Breaking Barriers" The rally will aim to celebrate women's leadership while acknowledging the persistent barriers that limit women's access to leadership positions across all sectors of society
- Cultural Committee and Women's Studies Centre may initiate a collaborative performance on Annual Prize Day of Bethune College with the aim to reclaim and reinterpret religious and cultural traditions from feminist perspectives, demonstrating how traditional symbols of feminine power can inspire contemporary women's empowerment.
- WSC, **in Collaboration with** Anti-Ragging Cell and IQAC plans to host a **Seminar on Mental Health and Wellness** .This collaborative event will address the critical intersection of institutional safety and women's wellbeing, recognizing that gender-responsive environments are fundamental to women's educational access and achievement while promoting a holistic approach to preventing gender-based discrimination and harassment. **May 2025**
- A workshop on Making Hand made Natural Soap may be conducted to empower participants with sustainable self-care skills and entrepreneurial knowledge.

Gender Sensitization Action plan of Ethics Value (1.6.2024 to 30.5.2025)

- A visit to Sister Nivedita Heritage Museum and Knowledge Centre, Baghbazar, Kolkata, may be organized for all UG I Students, along with the teachers, to get a glimpse of the life and works of this reformative leader.
- EV lecture on Women in literature : an ethical perspective will be delivered by Smt. Sumita Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, Bethune College tentatively on 29.1.2025

Gender Sensitization Action plan of Student's Activity Cell for 2024-25

- Intra-college Photography Competition will be held .The theme of the competition will be related to women's issues.
- Student Week Photography Competition with the same theme will be organized
- Inter-college Photography Competition (DRISHTI) at AALAP 2025 has been planned that will showcase different aspects of the lives of women.
- Different clubs will carry out multiple activities throughout the year in collaboration with Womens' Studies Centre under the banner of gender Sensitization Cell.

Gender Sensitization Action plan of Human Rights Cell for 2024-25

- The Cell plans to celebrate the International Human rights Day on 10.2.25 through different activities. Since the Annual Fest of the college will take place on the same day, Principal of the college will be requested to elaborate on the issue of Human Rights while addressing the students.
- The Cell also decides to provide human rights related topic for the students taking part in creative writing competition.
- The issue of Human Rights will also be highlighted through the Face Painting competition.
- The students will be motivated to participate with enthusiasm and showcase various dimensions of the issue of Human Rights.

Gender Sensitization Action plan of NSS for 2024-25

- Project on Health, Hygiene and Nutrition Campaign for Children at Goabagan Slum from March, 2024 to April, 2024 as a part of Youth for kids project will be carried on.
- International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking on -June 2024 will be organized.
- One day camp on Thalassemia, Cervical Cancer, Menstrual Hygiene and Endometriosis awareness for the students in association with Rotary Club of Belvedere Gardens Calcutta and Hindol Welfare Society.-July'24 has been planned. Thalassemia testing of the students, teachers, girls from the adopted slum will be done.
- International Youth Day and Celebration of Bethune Day and Vanmahotsav by distributing plants and umbrellas to the girl children of the adopted slum in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre of the College-August'24 is to be organized.
- Gift a book' campaign will be organized in collaboration with LWB foundation as a part of Youth for kids project throughout the August month
- Saree cum book fair at the adopted slum for women and children before Durga Puja in collaboration with Women's Studies Centre of the College may be organized.

- AIDS awareness program at the red light area of Sovabazar in collaboration with Amra Padatik-December'24 is being planned. Health survey of the sex workers will be conducted and human chain at the college will be formed.
- Voter awareness program is also to be conducted by the EC members on 7.12.24.
- Mental health awareness program in collaboration with SACas a part of the Students' week observation-January 25 may be conducted
- Mental health and physical health awareness sessions at the special camp of NSS-March'25 may also be done.

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