**Report**

**Three Days’ Scholar-in- Residence Programme under the ERUDITE Scheme of the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), Thiruvananthapuram**

**The Three Days’ Scholar-in- Residence Programme under the ERUDITE Scheme of the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), Thiruvananthapuram organized by the Women’s Studies Centre at CUSAT commenced on 31.03.16 at 10. 00 am. There was round of introduction. Prof. Meera Bai introduced the experts and explained the objectives of the Programme. The experts then explained the purpose of the programme and what they intended to do for the three days. The participants were also asked to give their expectations from this workshop. This was followed by an Ice Breaking, Analyzing the Gender Perceptions among the participants by administering a Questionnaire, which was taken before and after analysis.**

**The technical Sessions began, covering the following: Introduction to Gender Studies, Gender Concepts, Gender Socialization etc where the participants were taken to the training methodology mode of interaction making the entire session participative and interactive. There was group discussion, brain storming and sharing of experiences etc,**

**There was also discussion on Gender, Culture, Media and Institutions, and further interaction of Expansion of Concepts, Patriarchy and Mode of Production, Marxist and Socialist Feminism covering creation of patriarchy, History of patriarchy etc. By the end of day 1, the participants understood, the basic concepts of Women’s Studies such sex, gender, public and private spaces, gender of division of labour, patriarchy and its nexus with capitalism, culture, socialization, alienation, oppression of women, sub-ordination of women, Women empowerment, and the gendering of the society and implication on women. There were various methods followed on this day, which included group discussion, sharing of experiences, brain storming and administering the questionnaire, gender quiz, analysis, screening of gender cookies documentary films and discussion.**

**The day II started with recap of what had been discussed on the previous day and students were asked to come to make the points on the board.**

**The technical session on day II started with the discussion on Gender and Work. There was further discussion how women’s work is marginalized and invisible for most of the time. There was also an explanation of organized and unorganized sector and women’s work in these two areas. Female work participation Rate and the nature of women work participation in the Globalization Era etc. were discussed. Discussion and interactive lecture were further continued on the declining work participation rate, the visibility of physical presence of women and not the actual contribution of women, feminization of labor, migration and failure of agriculture, challenges of food security and vulnerability of women. Some of the research studies conducted were shared where the issues of adolescent girls in the labour market, the working conditions in export processing zones , the intersectionalities of Caste, Class, Religion, Gender etc. were presented.**

**This was followed by administering of Gender Quiz and Screening of Gender Cookies – documentary films and Discussion on the same. Further, there was a discussion on Status of Women in earlier periods, Women and colonial India, Social Reform Movement and various contributions towards the upliftment of women’s status in colonial India.**

**This was followed by a discussion on Status of Women in Contemporary India and the Status of Women’s Committee Report, “Towards Equality 1974” which highlighted the gender gaps in various social, economic and political spheres.**

**There was also discussion on Women’s Movements, highlighting to very important movements the anti –arrack [Liqour] and Chiko Movements in Uttar Pradesh. It was further stretched to discuss on Eco feminism, and the Status of Women in Kerala and if there was any liquor movement in Kerala. Participants shared their experiences of women in Kerala Society and what were the similarities and differences from Women in other States.**

**At the end of the second day, the participants were able to understand the questions of status of women and how women had organized themselves to fight for a better status.**

**The third day started with the students giving a short description on their research topics. This was followed by a discussion on Feminist Research and Research Methodology . Further the students were exposed to identify Need Based areas of Research in Women’s Studies, where the various feminist research studies based on qualitative, quantitative and triangulation methods, the unique features of feminist research and the need were highlighted. There was also discussion on the need for Documentation of Feminist Research and method of doing the same. Further there was an explanation on the aims and Objectives of Feminist Research and how Feminist Research was different from Mainstream and Social Science Researches. Towards the end, there was a discussion on Gender Based Violence and what do we understand by Sexual Harassment. This session highlighted on the need of having healthy gender relationships among the two sexes and how the women’s issues were not just the issues related to women, but were the issues of the society .**

**At the end, the participants gave the feed back on the three days deliberations and how they had been benefitted by this programme. The experts also pointed out the uniqueness of the programme and how it was not presented in other States. They appreciated the Government of Kerala for being a very Gender Sensitive Government and encouraging the participants through this Erudite Programme. The experts also highlighted the fact that the government of Kerala earmarked a separate budget for the progarmme thereby showing its commitment for creation of “Gender Just’ Society. The Experts hoped that such a valuable progarmme becomes a model to be copied by other States and replicate. This programme definitely helped in making the students [Both boys and girls] more gender sensitive and building their capacities to take up good research and leadership roles in future.**

**The progarmme ended by Dr. Meera Bai proposing the vote of thanks and explaining how this progarmme had been beneficial to students. The progarmme came to a close with the participants proposing the vote of thanks on their side. There was exchange e-mails and contact numbers to continue the dialogue in future with the experts. The experts hoped that this progarmme would be an eye-opener and may bring more students to volunteer for such progarmme in future from different disciplines.**