

## **Centre for Women's Studies, Visva-Bharati**

### **Academic Programme**

Degree offered: Integrated M.Phil /PhD Programme in 'Gender and Development'. The programme will commence 2015 onwards.

Detailed syllabus

### **Semester I**

#### **Core Course: Research Methods**

**Credit-8/ Marks- 100**

Module 1: Scientific Social Research- Meaning, Objectives, Laws and Social Facts, Validation and Falsification, Paradigms in social research

Module 2: Research Design and Data Collection -Scientific Methods and steps, Research design vis-à-vis research methods; Collection of quantitative data; Designing qualitative research

Module 3: Data Analysis and Interpretation- Quantitative and Qualitative techniques; National and international statistical resources for the study of women and gender; Limitations and difficulties of published data; Computer applications- use of software for quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Module 4: Advanced Methods in Relation to Gender Studies- Feminism and research; Key methodological and epistemological debates within women's studies; Reading selected texts from following categories: ethnography, oral history, life narratives (with special emphasis on Indian women's autobiographies and memoirs), event narratives, testimonies, verbal art, speaking texts, songs.

## **Semester I**

### **Core Course: Feminist Thought**

**Credit-8/ Marks- 100**

Module I : UNIQUE FEATURES OF FEMINIST THOUGHT- Interdisciplinary nature of feminism; Feminism and the politics of gender; Feminist critique of the Top-Down power structure; The Interface between different types of oppression – gender/class/caste/race/religion.

Module II : THE SEX - GENDER DIVIDE- Sex, Gender and the biology culture interface; The essentialist position – Freud; The liberal position – Mill; The radical position – Simone de Beauvoir; Three levels of discrimination - sexism, patriarchy and androcentrism

MODULE III: FOUR MAJOR DEBATES IN FEMINIST THOUGHT- Logic and feminist logic ; The place of body in theory- construction; Feminist debates on objectivity; Feminist debates on justice

## **Semester II**

### **Core course: Gender and development with reference to India**

**Credits-8/ Full Marks- 100**

Module 1: Notions of gender, development and well-being- Growth vs. development: concern for human well-being; contribution of feminist analysis in focussing on exclusion of gender.

Module 2: Review of theoretical approaches to development- Overview of theoretical approaches; Development indicators and critiques

Module 3: India in the context of world at large-International initiatives in women's development

Module 4: Indian experience of development and gender with a focus on West Bengal- Beginnings of women and development debate in India; A gendered critique of Indian development experience; Women in the labour market; Development of capability: a gendered approach; Feminization of poverty; Policies and governance: A critique

Module 5: Inequalities, exclusion and violence- Conceptualising violence and its different forms; Public space and violence against women; Intimate partner violence

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Gender, Family and Work- A dialog between theory and empirics**

**Credits-4/ Marks-50**

Module 1: The family and the patriarch- Theoretical concepts referring to the neoclassical paradigms of family: family as a unit for decision making; Interventions by the Marxists and Feminists; Socio-cultural issues and the modifications; Does working outside the home for pay necessarily enhance agency?

Module 2: Implications of gender disparity within the household: The world relevant to us- Disparity in development of capabilities and entitlement; The question of girl child; Feminization of poverty

Module 3: “Men as the main bread winner”- Development of capability and women’s ability to participate in paid work; theoretical explanations

Module 4: The role of the state - Supply side interventions and Demand side questions; a critique of India with reference to select countries; West Bengal in comparison with Tamil Nadu

Module 5: Women’s experience in paid work

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Social Indicators of Development with Emphasis on Health and Education: A Gendered Perspective**

**Credits 4/Marks 50**

Module 1: Health and education as social indicators of development- Theoretical perspectives on gender, health and education; The implications of socio-economic and cultural factors

Module 2: The women’s movements for education and health in South Asia and in developed countries- Women’s movements in education and Right to education, Embodied health movements and women; Experiences in India

Module 3: Development of basic capabilities: Why and how gender matters? International experiences- Experiences of education and health related achievements in the developed countries; The exception of Bangladesh

Module 4: Did India/West Bengal follow the same path? Indicators of literacy and education with special reference to girls' education- spatio-temporal variations; Primary education - changes and challenges; Gender inequality in higher education; Overview of health scenario; Public health and gender questions

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Rural Women in the Indian Development Experience**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1: Status, problems and social structure of rural women in India.

Module 2: Indian Five Year Plans: issues related to development of rural women including Public Works with special reference to MGNREGA.

Module 3: Status of tribal women – emerging issues.

Module 4: Rural planning, PRIs, decentralization, leadership and women.

Module 5: Concept of Micro-finance & SHGs: international and national experiences, a comparative picture (for example, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Andhra Pradesh).

Module 6: Women in Agriculture and Non-farm Management.

Module 7: Violence against Rural Women and International and National Organizations working for Rural Women.

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Women and Environment**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1: Women and Nature- Natural Recourses, Ecosystem, management of natural resources, depletion of natural resources, Urban intervention and decay in natural environment - implications on rural women.

Module 2: Women and Pollution-Different types of pollutions, Role of women; Pollution and health hazards

Module 3: Women in environmental movements

Module 4: Women and Management– forest management, global warming, waste water management, Role of Women in Agriculture- Reflections of advanced technologies towards environment.

Module 5: Women , NGO and Environmental Policy

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Gender, Media and Development**

**Credits-4/Marks-50**

Module I: Gender, Media and Society- Gendered Media and its influence in society: its manifestation in society from gender perspective

Module II: Gender and Communication Research- Processes of communication in modern life and society with special reference to gender; Methods of Research in Mass Communication

Module III: Media Monitoring on Gender Issues; Project on Gender Representation in Media (Print/Audio-Visual/New Media/Social Media/Film)

Module IV: Practical

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Women and Religion**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1: Role and status of women in religious institutions.

Module 2: Role and status of women in religion (Mother, daughter, wife ,widow).

Module 3: The spiritual heritage of women.

Module 4: Women mystics in medieval times.

Module 5: Goddess worship

Module 6: Feminist theology

Module 7: Feminism and spirituality

Module 8: Monastic order (life in the order)-a)Admission ,b)training, c) rules and regulations, d)Inter communication between monks and nuns.

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Women In Ancient India**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1- Research methodology for exploring ancient texts and archaeological documentation.

Module-2: Position of women in Vedic Literature- Women as revealed in *Samhita* texts-the hymns by women seers; Women in later part of the Vedic period – gradual deterioration of status and plausible reasons behind this- socio-economic perspective.

Module 3 – Women in the two epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*

Module 4 –Women in the age of *Dhamasastras*- Total degradation of status of women; A few principal *Dharmasastra* writers and their views about women.

Module 5 – The status of women as revealed in Buddhist texts.

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Feminist Literary Critique: Tagore and Other Selected *Bangla* Texts**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1: Theories of Feminist Literary Criticism

Module 2: Tagore’s literature in the light of Feminist critique

Novel: *Jogajog*

Short stories written during 1914-1920.

Module 3: Feminist critique: Ashapurna Devi: *Pratham Protisruti*, *Subarnalata*

Manik Bandopadhyay: *Putul Nacher Itikatha*

Module 4: Student’s own criticism of any literary work from feminist point of view

### **Semester III**

#### **Optional Course: Women and/in Literature**

**Credits 4/ Marks 50**

Module 1: Selection and excerpts from works of Mary Wollstonecraft, J. S. Mill, Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Elaine Showalter, Mary Jacobus, Helene Cixous, Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, Judith Butler, Henry Louis Gates Jr, bell hooks, Alice Walker, Gloria Anzaldua, Trinh T. Minh-ha, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Val Plumwood, Maria Mies, Vandana Shiva and others to acquaint students with writings on the three waves of feminism, coloured women’s writings, Third World feminists and Ecofeminists.

Module 2: This section could concentrate on Women and/in Literature in India available in English or translated into English from various Indian languages essential to trace the evolution of women’s writing and position in India chronologically.

Selections from *Women Writing in India* (2 volumes) edited by Susie Tharu and K. Lalita; selections from novels by Kamala Markandaya; Selections from Short Story Collections: (for instance) stories by Lakshmi Kanan, Ambai or from *Harvest Annual Translation Vol II* (Special Issue on Bangla Short Stories by Women Writers ed. Tapati Gupta and Anil Acharya. Anustup, 2002); poetry and drama (*Silence! The Court is in Session* by Vijay Tendulkar or *Nagamandala* by Girish Karnad, for instance) selections

### Module 3: Women and/in literature of countries other than India

Texts to be selected from literary works of Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell, Thomas Hardy, Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys, Doris Lessing, Sylvia Plath, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Lorraine Hansberry, Amiri Baraka, Ntozake Shange, Maxine Hong Kingston, Margaret Atwood, Bapsi Sidhwa, Khaled Hosseini, Jean Arasanayagam among others.



## **Research**

The Centre is in the process of developing a major research project on 'A Comparative Study of Women Agricultural Workers in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu.'

Dr. Deepita Chakravarty a book on 'Women's Work in West Bengal' to be published by the Routledge, U.K. in June 2015.

Dr. Tanusree Paul is working on a paper on 'Critical Discourse Analysis of the Advertisements Came In the Well-known Bangla Women's Magazine *Sananda*' published by *Ananda Bazar Patrika*.