

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES, VIDYA-BHAVANA



HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The UGC during the XIth Plan took a major initiative to create departments of Women's Studies in educational institutions all-over India to generate awareness and facilitate empowerment of women through education, research and targeted interventions. The Women's Studies Centre, a product of this initiative, at Visva-Bharati was established in July 2009.

The Centre for Women's Studies at Visva-Bharati focuses on interdisciplinary research on gender and development. The Centre also tries to organize extension works on women and gender questions which have a strong link with the research taken up in the department. Some of the thrust areas of research at the Centre are the following: Gendered dimension of development in India: question of education and health, violence against women, the question of agency and policy issues, Girl children in the light of broader developmental goals of India and South Asia, Labour market choices of women and the constrained optimums, Women and conflict and the inside-outside dichotomy and the concept of domesticity. Gender questions are global. We believe that understanding of gender relations is essential to comprehend the contemporary world which in turn is contingent upon the intricate interplay of social, cultural, political and economic factors determined in the past. Gender relations cut across multiple categories such as class, caste, religion and ethnicity. Without an interdisciplinary approach, thus, this analysis is not possible. Thus the Centre draws its membership from across the disciplines of academics inside and outside the university.

PROGRAMMES AND COURSES OFFERED

Programme Name	Number of Courses
Ph.D. in Women's Studies	3
M.Phil. in Women's Studies	11
Generic Elective Course in Women's Studies	4