

Women's Studies Centre
Vidya Bhavana
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan

Best Practices

- **Interdisciplinary teaching and research:** The Centre offers PhD programme and Minor and Multidisciplinary courses in the Undergraduate Programme. Blending theoretical premises with empirical evidences drawn from both Western and Indian experiences, the syllabi offer excellent opportunities to espouse interdisciplinarity in teaching and research.
- **Integration of IKS:** The intersection of Indian Knowledge Systems with gender is a core thrust area of the syllabi offered by the Centre. It examines how IKS concepts like Vedic India, *purusha/prakriti* and so forth to analyse historical and contemporary gender roles in Indian society and critically engage with the topics such as women's agency, cultural constructions of femininity and masculinity, environment etc.
- **Outreach Activities:** Since its inception in 2009, the Centre has been actively engaged in organising extension and outreach activities to generate awareness among the rural women in the surrounding villages. These span imparting skill development trainings, strengthening of life skills, generating awareness about microfinance, SHG-Bank interlinkage and so forth. These activities also provide exposure for the students of this Centre about the complex social structure of women in society.
- **Consistent Engagement with Students:** The Center maintains a consistent and robust engagement with students through academic programmes (at the UG and Research levels) and encourages an open culture of discussion on gender issues on campus. Further, the syllabi of the various courses offered by the Centre plays an instrumental role in developing gender sensitivities and engage with young minds (UG students) and work on their gender based perceptions and ideologies