



**VISVA-BHARATI
WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE
VIDYA BHAVANA**

(Uniqueness of Women's Studies Centre)

1. Introduction of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS):

The Centre uniquely integrates **Indian Knowledge System (IKS)** in its new curriculum to overcome the dependency on Western perspectives. It includes women's roles in ancient Indian society, indigenous traditions and knowledge systems. It presents the concepts of gender inequality, patriarchy and other gendered concepts from Indian point of view. This makes the curriculum more rooted and more relevant.

2. Fostering Critical Thought and Social Responsibility:

The main focus of our Centre is on developing students as agents of social change. For this reason, our curriculum is not restricted to abstract theory; it includes concepts which is connected to the issues of the real world. Through different modules on gender and development, health, and policy, our Centre prepares students to critically evaluate government schemes and to raise their voices for women's empowerment and social justice as their social responsibility.

3. Broadening Perspectives on Science, Art, Culture and Environment:

Our Centre empowers students to challenge conventional thinking by applying a feminist lens across disciplines. Through courses in literature, art, science, culture and environment, students critically explore how women have been represented, marginalized, or excluded from dominant narratives and knowledge systems. This process equips them to identify and deconstruct stereotypes, question power relations, and understand how gender intersects with race, class, caste, sexuality, and ability in shaping lived experiences. At the same time, it nurtures an appreciation for diverse and alternative epistemologies starting from feminist art practices and queer theory to indigenous scientific wisdom and ecofeminist perspectives. By engaging with these approaches, students not only broaden their intellectual horizons but also cultivate critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper commitment to building inclusive and socially just futures.