



The Women Harassment Prevention Cell of
NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064

cordially invites you to the Two-Days UGC-DEB Sponsored National Seminar
on

“Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation”

commencing at 10.30 A.M on December 5-6, 2014

in

The Seminar Hall, 1st Floor, NSOU Headquarters

Professor Samita Sen, *Vice-Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women’s University*
will deliver the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session.

Professor Malabika Sarkar, *Former Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University*
will grace the occasion as Chief Guest.

Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, *Vice-Chancellor, NSOU*
will deliver the Presidential Address.

The edited volume ‘*Gender Sensitisation, Women Empowerment and Distance Education: History, Society and Culture*’ will be formally released at this august gathering.
Your presence is earnestly solicited.

Professor Kajal De
Chairperson, WHPC &
Director, School of Sciences

Dr Chandan Basu
Organizing Secretary,
Seminar Organizing Committee



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
DD 26, Sector – 1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700064
Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

PROGRAMME*

Two-Days National Seminar on 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation'

Date: December 5-6, 2014

Venue: Seminar Hall, Netaji Subhas Open University, DD 26, Sector – 1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700064.

December 5, 2014

Inaugural Session

10.30 am: Welcome Address – Professor Debesh Roy, *Registrar, NSOU*

10.40 am: Introducing the Theme – Professor Kajal De, *Director, School of Sciences and Chairperson, WHPC, NSOU*

10.50 am: Keynote Address – Professor Samita Sen, *Vice Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal*

11.35 am: Address by the Chief Guest, Professor Malabika Sarkar, *Former Vice Chancellor, Presidency University, West Bengal*

11.50 am: Release of Edited Volume titled *Gender Sensitisation, Women Empowerment and Distance Education: History, Society and Culture* by Professor Malabika Sarkar

12.00 noon: Presidential Address – Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, *Vice Chancellor, NSOU*

12.15 pm: Vote of Thanks – Smt Nilanjana Chatterjee, *Assistant Director, Study Centres Department, NSOU*

Tea Break

12.20 pm – 12.30 pm

Panel Discussion

12.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Panelists:

Dr Nandini Sahu - Associate Professor of English, *IGNOU, New Delhi*

Professor Pushpa Mishra, *Former Principal, Bethune College, Kolkata*

*It is a tentative programme and subject to change.

Professor (Dr) Apurba Mukhopadhyay - *Professor of Political Science, NIAS, Kolkata*

Moderator: Professor Malabika Sarkar

Lunch Break

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Technical Session 1 - Paper Presentation

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Chair: Professor Amal Das

Presenters:

Invited Speakers - Sri Champak Bhattacharya, IPS, *Jt. Commissioner of Police (Orgn)*

1. Swatilekha Bhattacharya - The Politics of Exclusion: The Status of Women in 'Modern' Society
2. Dr Sutanuka Ghosh Roy – Douloti the Unvoiced Female
3. Saumya Bose – Violence Against Women: The Age of Consent Bill (1891) Controversy
4. Dr Piku Chowdhury – Environmental Degradation and the Emerging New Identity of the Indian Woman: A Step beyond Stereotypes

December 6, 2014

Technical Session 2 - Paper Presentation

11.00 am – 1.30 pm

Chair: Dr Santanu Rakshit, *Associate Professor of Economics, PCK, Visva Bharati University*

Presenters:

Invited Speakers: Smt Rahima Khatun, Nari-o-Sishu Kalyan Kendra, Khaskhamar

1. Pooja Gautam: Legal Constituents on Sexual Harassment At Workplace: A Critical Analysis
2. Nishant Sirohi – Violence Against Women and the Justice Delivered: An Introspection
3. Nirjhar Dey & Madhurima Lodh: And Her Voice is Unheard: Manipuri Women and their Unyielding Struggle
4. Tahura Anzar: 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation'
5. Pyali Chatterjee: Role of Law Relating to Commercial Surrogacy in India and Protection of Surrogate Mother
6. Kajal De & Soumita Dutta - Identity and Deception in the Realm of Cyberspace: Crime against Women

Lunch Break

1.30 pm – 2.00 pm

Technical Session 3 - Paper Presentation

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Chair: Professor Kajal De, *Director, School of Sciences & Chairperson, WHPC, NSOU*

Presenters:

1. Priyanka Biswas – Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act: Is it a Game Changer?
2. Dr Sudakshina Ray: Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Reported Violence against Women in India
2007-2012
3. Bhavya Shukla & Vardhman Siddharth Panwar: 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation'
4. Sangeeta Chatterjee – Harassment of Women at Workplace: An Insight vis-a-vis Privacy Laws in India

Tea Break

3.30 pm – 3.40 pm

Valedictory Session

3.40 pm – 4.30 pm

Valedictory Lecture: Professor Jayati Gupta, *Department of English, West Bengal State University*

Report on the Two-Days UGC-DEB Sponsored National Seminar on 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation', held on December 5-6, 2014.

The Women Harassment Prevention Cell (WHPC), NSOU organized the Two-Days UGC-DEB Sponsored National Seminar on 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation' on December 5-6, 2014 in the Seminar Hall, NSOU, DD-26, Sector – I, Kolkata – 700064. To make the programme successful, an Organizing Committee was duly constituted. The Organizing Committee uploaded the Call for Paper on the NSOU Website. It received more than fourteen papers from different angles analyzing the question of violence against women and the possible role of law in protecting them from onslaught of violence.

In the Inaugural Session, the Welcome Address was given by the Registrar, NSOU. Professor Kajal De, Director, School of Social Sciences and Chairperson, WHPC introduced the very theme of the Seminar. Professor Samita Sen, Vice-Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University delivered the Keynote Address. Both Professor De and Professor Sen critically analyzed the context of violence and law in the development women question in modern India especially. Professor Malabika Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor (Former), Presidency University acted as the Chief Guest of the National Seminar. The Presidential Address was given by Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, NSOU. In his address, Professor Sarkar highlighted the limits of law on the one hand and future possibility of law in curbing down the violent attack on the women on the other hand.

The eminent scholars like Dr Nandini Sahu, Associate Professor of English, IGNOU, Professor Pushpa Mishara, Former Principal, Bethune College and Professor Apurba Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Political Science, NIAS were invited to deliberate on the issue. This panel discussion was moderated by Professor Malabika Sarkar.

In the Technical Session I, Professor Amal Das, Professor of History, University of Kalyani chaired. There were four papers in this session. These papers dealt with the politics of exclusion, Douloti the Unvoiced Female, The Age of Consent Bill (1891) Controversy and Environmental Degradation and the Emerging New Identity of Indian Woman.

On December 6, 2014, the Technical Session II was held. It was chaired by Dr Gautam Raskahit, Associate Professor of Economics, PCK, Visva Bharati University. There were six papers, which deliberated on themes like legal constituents on sexual harassment at workplace, violence against women and justice, Manipuri women and their struggle, violence and law, commercial surrogacy and protection of surrogate mother, identity and deception in the realm of cyberspace etc.

Professor Kajal De chaired the Technical Session III. The papers dealt with the issues like domestic violence, role of law against violence and privacy laws etc. all the papers were elaborately presented and deliberated followed by question-answer session. There was real involvement of the participants in the seminar throughout the period.

The Valedictory Lecture was delivered by Professor Jayati Gupta, Professor of English, West Bengal State University. In her lecture, the entire gamut of the question of women, violence and law was critically interrogated before the audience.

The seminar was immensely successful in terms of participation, involvement and enthusiasm of the scholars – especially the younger scholars – who were provided an academic environment by the WHPC, NSOU to deliberate on the issues related to women, violence and law.

The WHPC is highly obliged to UGC-DEB for providing grant to make the programme successful.

Chandan Basu
Organizing Secretary, Seminar Committee