

**WORKSHOP ON GENDER SENSITIZATION AND WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

THE rise of the notion of the gender question and women empowerment has brought radical rethinking in the broader perspectives of knowledge formation on the one hand and modern administrative mechanism on the other. This was, in fact, one of the major ideas, which crossed the limit of the academia in the post-Second World War period. Crossing the boundary of the social sciences, it created necessary preconditions through movements and activities in the administrative structure and societal mechanism for the introduction of new set of laws, rules and regulations to ensure the status, dignity and respect of the women employees in a safe and qualitatively better working environment. The forceful arrival of the gender question further uprooted the lineages of denial of women's right in a male-dominated world to a significant extent. It not only questioned the privileges and dominant status of the male members of the society, the gender outlook was also able to speak of a different social-cultural milieu in public and private space. Though the development of an equal social space for both men and women was not satisfactory and even, but it raised serious issues in the hierarchical public and private order and posed fresh challenges before the social. The aim of the today's workshop is to (i) contextualize the broader question of gender in the historical perspective, (ii) to identify *the possible issues* of gender question and (iii) to explore the challenges of women empowerment before the society.

As the aim of the workshop is to address the issues and challenges of the question of women empowerment, it is felt that we need to have a conceptual explanatory category for a better articulation of the very nature of the workshop itself, even from the epistemological viewpoint. We firmly believe that the nature of any workshop should be interactive, and no descriptive overtone could ensure the interactivity. Therefore, we suggest here to integrate the idea of 'gender sensitization' as a conceptual explanatory category as a fundamental axis of deliberation and argument of the today's workshop. It implies that today's interactivity will centre on the notion of gender sensitization. It is hereby proposed that one cannot understand the challenges before women empowerment unless and until she/he explains the praxis of transformation from an unequal social order to a more equal one. The notion of gender sensitization will explain the praxis of transformation crossing even the limits of womanhood. We also firmly express that this workshop will address the notion of gender sensitization as a concept of power. It is our hope that at the end of the day, we will open up new channel(s) to identify such alternative power relations of gender sensitization and women empowerment.

This workshop is a joint collaborative programme of **Women Harassment Prevention Cell (WHPC)** and **School of Vocational Studies (SVS)** of the Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). The University as a centre of higher education has been extending its educational programmes to those sections of the masses that cannot be easily incorporated in the mainstreams of higher education in West Bengal since its foundation. The WHPC is formed to ensure the safe and secure working environment for the women employees and to

protect them from any kind of mistreatment in NSOU. The SVS is established to offer non-conventional and vocational courses at an extremely affordable cost to the society in general and marginal and weaker sections in particular. The philosophy of the University is to empower the learners through quality education following open and distance mode. The aim of this workshop is to practise this philosophy of empowerment through discussion, interaction and debates.



Women Harassment Prevention Cell
& School of Vocational Studies

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

1, Woodburn Park, Kolkata—700020

Phone : (033) 2283-5157

One Day DEC Sponsored Workshop

on

**Gender Sensitization and Women Empowerment :
Issues and Challenges**

at

**AKADEMI SABAGHAR,
PASCHIMBANGA BANGLA AKADEMI**

on

27 February, 2013

PROGRAMME

- Registration : 10.00 am — 10.30 am
- Inaugural Session : 10.30 am — 11.45 am
 - Welcome Address :
Dr. Debesh Ray, Registrar, NSOU
 - Introducing the Theme :
Professor Kajal De, Professor of Mathematics and
Chairperson, WHPC
 - Keynote Address :
Smt. Sumanda Mukherjee, Chairperson, West Bengal
Commission for Women
 - Address of Guest of Honour :
Smt. Ratrabali Banerjee, Joint Secretary, UGC, Eastern
Regional Office, Kolkata.
 - Presidential Address :
Prof. Subhasankar Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, NSOU
 - Vote of Thanks :
Smt. Anamika Das, Assistant Professor of LIS & Joint
Secretary, Seminar Committee
- Tea Break : 11.45 am - 12.00 pm
- Technical Session-I : 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm
- Lunch : 1.30 pm - 2.00 pm
- Technical Session-II : 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm



Women Harassment Prevention Cell
&
School of Vocational Studies
NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

1, Woodburn Park, Kolkata—700020

cordially invites you to the Workshop

on

**GENDER SENSITISATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT :
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

To be held at 10.30 am on 27th February 2013

at

Akademi Sabaghar, Paschimbanga Bangla Akademi

*Smt. Sumanda Mukherjee, Chairperson,
West Bengal Commission for Women has
kindly consented to deliver the keynote address.*

*Professor Subhasankar Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, NSOU
will preside over the inaugural session.*

Your presence is earnestly solicited

Dr. Kajal De
*Professor of Mathematics &
Chairperson, WHPC*

Dr. Chandan Ban
*Assistant Professor of History
& Organizing Secretary Seminar Committee*