

**Women's Studies Department, Barkatullah University, Bhopal**

**National Seminar**

**On**

**Indian Women: Theory, Research and Perspective**

**Date: 19 -20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Background Note**

Women play a variety of significant roles in our society throughout their lives. Indian Women's status has varied over the ages and various issues of equality, rights and opportunities are seen gaining in importance in modern times. Different policies and programmes for women's upliftment and empowerment have been seen to help them to strengthen their capacities and overcome many barriers. Women in India are seen to participate extensively in areas such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sector, science and technology. Yet the journey is not complete and the underlying challenges are very tough. Many women find themselves trapped in stereotyped roles and Injustice and discrimination against women is a recurring theme and needs to be addressed.

Women's Studies is one such discipline which focuses on status of women in society and addresses their issues on different platforms. It is an interdisciplinary study of women and society from the standpoint of women's lived experiences. It provides a counterpoint to the historically established theories in the various branches of human knowledge and challenges the predominantly male centric understanding of social institutions and processes. In its essence, Women's Studies is both a perspective and a discipline: it challenges the notions of objectivity of knowledge, or does it also reflect biased western world view? This needs to be explored and understood in the context of Indian perspective. Women's studies have provided a new perspectives on major themes – women's issues, religion, gender, class to name a few – that have a significant impact and role to play in society. It has also long been a part of the larger feminist movements in India. It must be remembered though the discipline as such is strongly influenced and in fact grown out of western women's movement and their challenges. These challenges and their historical underpinnings are different in India from those in the western world. Thus feminist theoretical formulations do not always depict Indian women reality in totality or do they? These differences are important in understanding Indian women aspirations and challenges.

Since its recognition as an academic discipline in the early 1970s, Women's Studies has evolved in many directions with interdisciplinary perspective. It has helped break many disciplinary grids, altered our understanding of the various branches of human knowledge and questioned the Universal applicability of the established theories. It has influenced other disciplines of social sciences and humanities etc also to

look at the issue or a problem from gender perspective and women's lived experiences like in economics, psychology, Education History, Law, media etc. Are the western conceptions of women applicable to Indian women? Or what are inherent western biases in feminists theories and formulations? What are the continuities that Indian women share with their world counterparts? These questions needs to be addressed .

Against this backdrop, the National seminar on “**Indian Women: Theory, Research and Perspective** ” is proposed to be organized by Women's Studies Department, Barkatullah University, Bhopal on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on the Occasion of International Women's Day, 2020. The Seminar aims to understand Indian Women in totality from different perspectives in social sciences, Arts, Law, behavioral sciences etc and how research on women has been done from different perspectives contributing to make an understanding on women In India. Thrust area of the proposed seminar is the understanding of discourse on Indian woman. Along with the interrogation of the contemporary social milieu of Indian Women, the seminar also hopes to open up fresh possibilities of research and vision for the future of Indian women.

**Major Themes:-**

- Women's Studies in India: Issues and perspectives
- Indian Women: Research trends and Need
- Understanding of discourse on Indian woman

**Sub-Themes :-**

- Gender Constructions in Academic Disciplines;
- Cultural Interpretations of Indian Women: Roles and Contributions;
- Indian Women: Freedom Struggle and Social Movements;
- Indian Women: Perspectives from Constitution and Law;
- Women and Media: Issues and Discourse;
- Issues Defining Indian Women: Redefining Womanhood in India.

**Participants-** University/ Academic Institution's faculty from all over India from the discipline of Social Sciences, Humanities, Law, Media etc, research scholars and Organizations dealing with the issue.

**WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
BARKATULLAH UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL  
CALL FOR PAPERS**

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The Women's Studies Department, Barkatullah University, Bhopal proudly announces a call for papers for the National Seminar on '**Indian Women: Theory, Research and Perspective**' to be held on 19 -20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We invite abstracts and papers on any of the subthemes of the seminar mentioned above. If you wish to present a paper in one of the subthemes, please prepare an abstract of about 500 words.

The abstract should clearly contain the following:

Sub theme under which abstract is submitted

Title

Name of the author(s)

Full address for correspondence

Telephone and Email id

Abstracts should be sent to the coordinator of the seminar on following e-mail : [wscbhl@rediffmail.com](mailto:wscbhl@rediffmail.com)

Note-Deadlines are not applicable to experts/ resource persons

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**Important Dates**

**Abstracts should reach coordinators by 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020.**

**Acceptance will be communicated by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

**Full paper of the selected abstracts should reach to coordinators by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020( mentioning that the submitted paper is a original piece of work of the author and not submitted or presented anywhere else)**

**Note: consent of the co-author for presentation and publication ( if selected) will be required.**

**Note: Kindly do not send request to extend the last date of submission(abstracts submitted on or before the due date will only be included in the abstract Booklet)**

Following acceptance of abstracts, the coordinators will communicate with you regarding paper Presentation. Participants with shortlisted abstracts will be invited to present a paper in the seminar and registration will be done of those participants only. Accommodation will be provided to participants whose abstract has been shortlisted and full paper submitted as per the deadline (subjected to the availability and as per the decisions of the organizing committee).**The papers presented in the seminar will be published( if found suitable for publication) in the**

**edited book / special issue of the Research Journal of the Department. Full paper (of the participants with shortlisted abstracts ) of 6000-8000 words in New Times Roman font 12 typed on one side of the paper, 1.5 spaced with references should reach to coordinators by 10th March 2020. Papers fulfilling the above mentioned parameters will only be accepted.**

**Registration**

There is no registration fees and **registration will be confirmed only after receiving the full paper of the participants with selected abstracts.**

**Seminar Chief Coordinator**  
**Prof. Ruchi Ghosh Dastidar**  
Head  
Women's Studies Department  
Barkatullah University  
Bhopal

**Coordinator**  
**Dr. Jaya Phookan**  
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