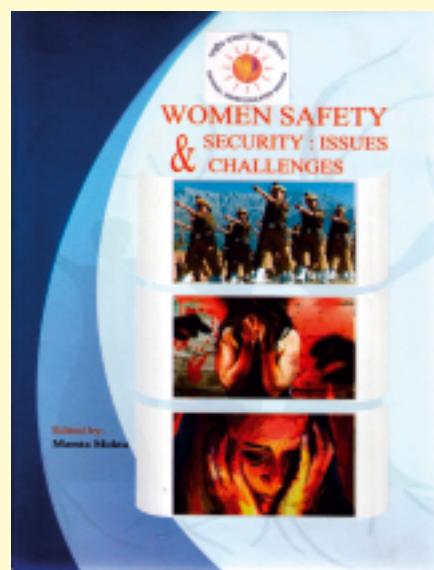
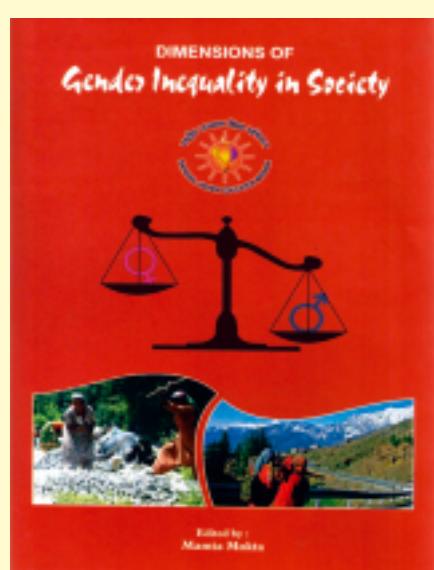
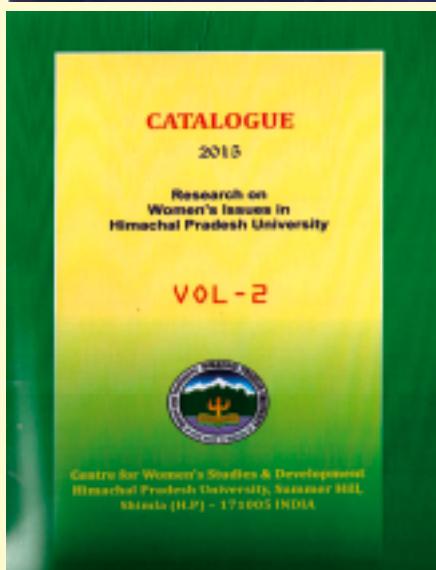
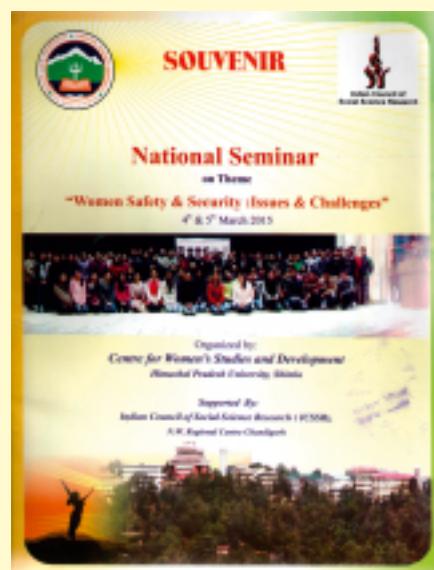
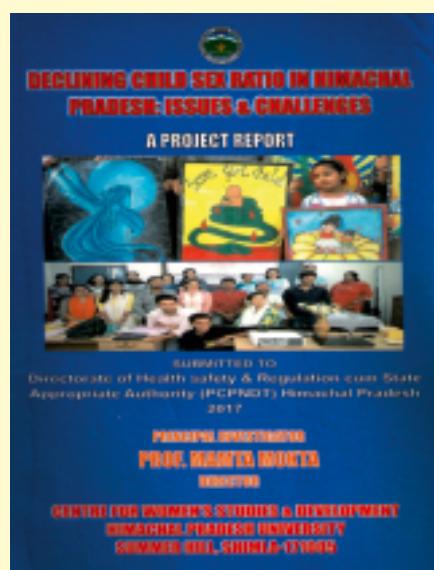
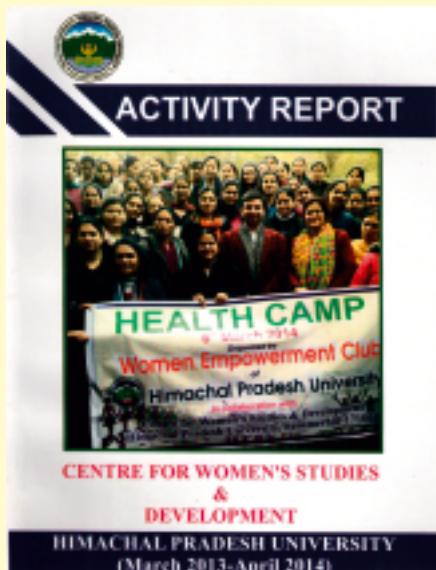
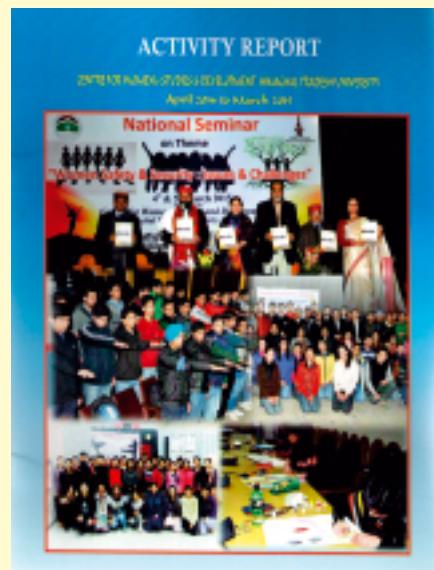
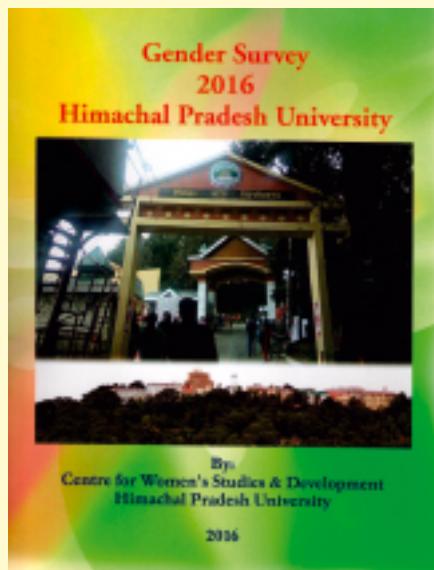
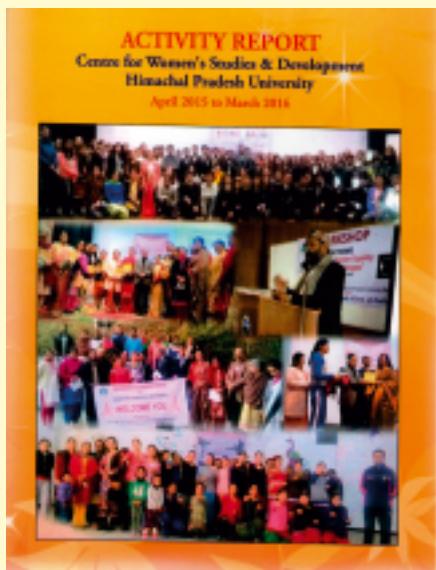


ACTIVITY REPORT

Centre for Women's Studies & Development
Himachal Pradesh University
“NAAC Accredited ‘A’ Grade University”
April 2016 to March 2017



Publications of Centre From March 2013 to March 2017





HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Summer Hill, Shimla - 171005

Professor Arun Diwaker Nath Bajpai
Vice-Chancellor



Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Centre for Women's Studies & Development, Himachal Pradesh University, is bringing out its activity report for session 2016-2017. Gender equality in University is priority of administration and more women are part of governance in Himachal Pradesh University. I also appreciate the initiative take by Centre in Publishing Book "Dynamics of Gender Inequality in Society" conducting gender survey of University in 2016 and for conducting research on sensitive issue "Declining Child Sex Ratio in Himachal Pradesh: Issues & Challenges".

It is also praiseworthy that the Centre is organizing workshops and programmes for community upliftment and also recognizing and motivating those individuals and organizations who are working for women cause. I place on record my deep appreciation of the commendable work done by this Centre of our University.

I wish the Centre success in its future endeavour.

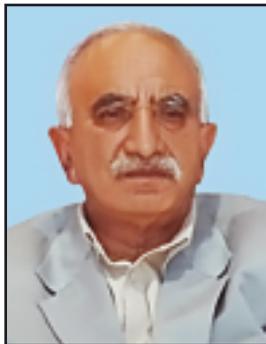
(A.D.N. Bajpai)



HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Summer Hill, Shimla - 171005

Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan
Pro Vice-Chancellor



Message

I am happy to learn that the Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Himachal Pradesh University, is bringing out its activity report for 2016-17. The Centre for Women's Studies and Development has done outstanding efforts by organizing gender sensitization programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences and health camp regularly. The Centre is progressing and collaborating with various government departments, non-governmental organizations and voluntary organizations to work for women's cause.

I appreciate the initiative taken by Centre this year in recognizing and rewarding the work of individuals and leading organizations who are working for women cause in society.

(Rajinder Singh Chauhan)

From the Editor's Desk...



Education is considered to be a very important tool of Women empowerment. Education can gear the capability of women to question patriarchy. People force their thinking, their boundaries on women, they tell how to dress, how to behave, whom you can meet and where you can go. Education should be geared that women should not live in the shadows of people judgement. They should make their own choices in the light of their wisdom. Centre for Women's Studies and Development of Himachal Pradesh University is also working on the same issue. Centre this year has recognized the work of those organizations who are fighting for women cause & rewarded them with women achievers on behalf of Centre. Centre is also working with Gender Champions of Himachal Pradesh University to ensure dignity of women in society. Centre organized workshops, conducted Research on Declining child sex Ratio, published Book on "Dimensions of Gender inequality in Society", conducted Gender survey of University (2016) & also organized gender sensitization campaign in community. Activities performed by Centre are published in this activity report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mamta Mokta".

(Professor Mamta Mokta)
Director
Centre for Women, s Studies and Development
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Gender Sensitization Campaign was organised in Govt. Degree College, Nahan

Gender Sensitization Campaign was organized by Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University in Govt. Degree Collage Nahan on 22nd April 2016. All the faculty members and students of the college were present on this occasion. Principal Mrs. Diksha Malhotra welcome Prof. Mamta Mokta, Director, Centre for women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University. Smt. Chandrika Prasad from the Department of English and incharge women cell in the Government Degree College, Nahan gave brief introduction about the working of women cell in Nahan College. Prof. Mamta Mokta in her address told that equality between men and women entails the concept that all human beings both men and women are free to develop their personal abilities and makes choices without the limitation set by stereotypes rigid gender role and prejudices. Prof. Mamta Mokta discussed in detail about Saksham Guidelines and Gender Champions Scheme of UGC and expressed her concern that these schemes should be implemented at the college level and youth should be involved for changing the mind set of the society. Smt. Chandrika Prasad also shared her views on gender concerns in society. In the end Dr. Sarita Bansal, Assistant Professor in Public Administration thanked Prof. Mamta Mokta, Director Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University for organizing Gender Sensitization Campaign in the Govt. Degree College, Nahan.



Gender Sensitization Campaign was organized by Centre for Women's Studies and Development
in Govt. Degree College, Nahan on 22nd April, 2016

Gender Champions organized Awareness Campaign on Gender Issues on 16th June, 2016 in Solan

Gender champions of Himachal Pradesh University were appointed by the Centre for Women's Studies and Development. These champions were encouraged and motivated and were given training to organize awareness programme on various gender issues. Under this series Kundesh and Saurabh organized different activities in Solan city. They organized street plays, skits on gender related issues and also carried anti-dowry campaign in the streets of the Solan city on 16th June, 2017. Both Saurabh and Kundesh were honoured by Honourable Vice Chancellor on 8th March, 2017 for playing constructive role in society.



Anti-Dowry Campaign was organised by Gender Champions Kundesh and Saurabh in Solan



Saurabh and Kundesh were honoured by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for working as Gender Champions of Himachal Pradesh University on 8th March, 2017

Workshop on Declining Child Sex Ratio: Issues and Challenges

Organised on 3rd June, 2016

Workshop on “Declining Child Sex Ratio: Issues and Challenges” was organized on 3rd June 2016 in collaboration with Directorate of Health safety & Regulation cum State Appropriate Authority (PCPNDT) Himachal Pradesh & Department of Public Administration in the Conference Hall of Department of Public Administration. Director, Directorate of Health Safety & Regulation cum State Appropriate Authority (PCPNDT), Himachal Pradesh, Captain Raman Sharma was Chief Guest on this occasion. Former fellow Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Dr. Usha Bande, was Guest of Honour on this occasion. Workshop was inaugurated by lightning of lamp by Chief Guest, Guest of honour and other dignitaries.

Director Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Prof. Mamta Mokta welcomed all the dignitaries on this occasion. In the inaugural session Chief Guest, Captain Raman Sharma told that Declining Child Sex Ratio is a matter of concern in hill state of Himachal Pradesh also and state government is deeply concerned about this alarming trend. He told that Government initiative to set up tracking chips in ultrasound machine in Kangra and Una District on pilot Basis to track use of ultrasound machine is a good initiative. He stressed the need that educational institutions and Government organizations should collaborate to tackle the issue of Declining Child Sex Ratio. Dr. Usha Bande, Former Fellow, Indian Institute of Advance Studies, in her address told that every woman have



Participants of the Workshop

to change the attitude towards girls child as it is women who pamper their sons and husband till they begin to believe that they are really superior being.

Prof. Narinder Bist, Former Director, Population Research of Himachal Pradesh University, in his address told that causes of declining child sex ratio are hidden in the social fabric and if they need to be tackled they can be tackled by changing the mind set of community. Dr. Arushi Jain, Deputy



Prof. Mamta Mokta as Director welcoming Chief Guest and delegates in the workshop

Registrar, also gave her presentation in which she narrated in detail about various initiatives taken in Una district to promote girl child. She told that how district administration took various initiatives to check trend of declining child sex ratio in district Una and ultimately helped in improving child sex ratio in the district.

Mrs. Nirmala Chauhan, Women Coordinator of Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti, in her address shared that how the Gyan Vigyan Samiti is organizing various programmes and campaigns against the trend of Declining Child Sex Ratio. Dr. Runa Mehta, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, gave presentation of the state of implications of PCPNDT Act in Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Mahesh Jaswal, Special Officer from Directorate of Health Safety & Regulation cum State Appropriate Authority (PCPNDT) Himachal Pradesh also shared his experience regarding implementation of PCPNDT act in Himachal Pradesh.

In the end Prof. Mamta Mokta, Director, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Himachal Pradesh University, thanked all the resource persons for giving their presentation, sharing their views and making the workshop successful

Workshop on “Environment and Women’s Health”

Organised on 13th June, 2016

Centre for Women's Studies & Development Himachal Pradesh University in collaboration with Hostel Administration organised workshop on theme – “Environment and Women’s Health” on 13th June 2016 in Girls Auditorium of Rani Laxmi Bai Girls Hostel Auditorium. Vice Chancellor, Prof A.D.N. Bajpayee, was Chief Guest on this occasion and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan was Guest of Honour on this occasion. Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, delegates, teaching faculties of university, hostel wardens and girls of hostel jointly planted trees and ornamental plants in campus of girls hostel and vicinity of Himachal Pradesh University.

Prof A.D.N. Bajpayee, stressed the need that environment is sensitive issue and it needs to be tackled with caution. He told that greed and lust for desires are the factors responsible for creating environment pollution human is preparing for its own destructions by more consumption. Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan, also told that greed has corrupted mankind from beginning of time to its end. He stressed the need that community should play proactive role in protecting the environment.

Principle Scientific Officer (Environment Department of Government of Himachal Pradesh), Dr. Rajesh Attri, was Key Speaker on this occasion. Dr. Attri stressed need of conducting energy audit in



Tree Plantation drive was organised in Himachal Pradesh University.



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor as Chief Guest in the workshop on
“Environment & Women's Health”

educational institutions and told that rainwater harvesting and solar energy appliances must be used in university and colleges for day to day consumption of energy needs. Dr. Attri also stressed the need for collaboration of university with Ministry of Environment to work collectively in the direction of environment protection.

In second session of workshop health was the major concern. To increase awareness about Breast cancer presentation was given by Dr. Ritu Chattak, Associate Professor, IGMC. She shared helpful guide about breast health and preventive measures to stop breast cancer probability.

Kalapna Sangrahak, Project Head for Breast Cancer Awareness and Clinic Check-up Sewa Trust, Shimla, in her lecture shared information regarding breast cancer. She told that mission of SEWA Trust is to help those affected by breast cancer through early detection, education and support to service.

In the end Prof. Mamta Mokta thanked Prof. Veena Sharma, Chief Warden, H.P. University, for collaborating this event and expressed her gratitude to Resource Persons and participants to make this event successful.

Workshop on “Mainstreaming Gender in Higher Education Institutions”

Organised on 28th June, 2016

Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University organized one day workshop on theme “Mainstreaming Gender in Higher Education Institutions” on 28th June 2016 in Himachal Pradesh University. Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan, was Chief Guest on this occasion. Prof. Mamta Mokta, Director Centre for Women's Studies and Development, welcomed all delegates and participants of workshop and told that this workshop is especially designed for non-teaching employees of the University. Mrs. Sarojini Ganju Thakur, Former Chairperson, Regulatory Commission, was Guest of Honour and Key Speaker on this occasion. Mrs. Sarojini Ganju Thakur in her keynote address stressed the need of mainstreaming gender in higher education institutions. She raised the issue of forming gender sensitive policies to reduce stress of working women. She also raised the need for starting crutch for children of University employee, and teachers of Himachal Pradesh University. She told that gender sensitive infrastructure must be developed and gender sensitive legislation should be formulated at the grassroots level to declare gender sensitive educational institutions. Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan, as Chief Guest told that more women are involved in administration of Himachal Pradesh University and women are discharging their duties with sincerity and devotion in university.

S.P. Lokaayukta Ranjna Chauhan, in her address told that women should come forward & challenge the discriminatory practices so that gender sensitive environment can be evolved in society. Prof. Usha Banda, Former Fellow, Indian Institute of Advance Studies, talked about gender institution in the society and other major measures that have been taken by the government for women. Prof. Mamta Mokta in the end thanked all resource persons and participants and hoped that this workshop will help all delegates and participants of workshop to be gender sensitive behaviour.



Workshop on “Mainstreaming Gender in Higher Education Institution”
was organised by CW&D on 28th June, 2016

Workshop on “Women Empowerment”

Organised on 15th December, 2016

Workshop on “Women Empowerment: Promoting Girl Child under Muskan” was organized by Centre for Women's Studies and Development in collaboration with I.C.D.S. Project under CDPO of Jubbal on 15th December, 2016 at CDPO Office, Jubbal. MLA Jubbal Kothkhai, Shri Rohit Thakur, Parliamentary Secretary Horticulture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, was Chief Guest on this occasion. All Panchyat Pradhan, BDC Members and BDC Chairperson of Jubbal Kothkhai were present on this occasion. Prof. Mamta Mokta, Director Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Himachal Pradesh University, in her speech stressed the need that the community should come forward for protection of girls child and she also praised the initiative of declaring Muskan of the month as well as Muskan of the year from among those women and girls who were excelling in their respective field and playing an important role in the development of the society. Programme Development Officer WCD, District Shimla, Mr. Rakesh Bhardwaj, BDC Chairman, Prajwal Busta and CDPO Jubbal, Miss Arti Negi, shared their views on this occasion.

CDPO Jubbal, Miss Arti Negi, thanked Prof. Mamta Mokta for sharing her thoughts on theme women empowerment and collaboration with I.C.D.S. Project for working together on this sensitive issue.



Workshop organised at Jubbal on 15th December, 2016

One Day Awareness Campaign at Ghumarwin

Organised on 18th December, 2016

Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University in collaboration with CDPO Office, Ghumarwin organized One Day Awareness Campaign with Anganwari Workers, Mahila Mandal on 18th December, 2016.

CDPO Ghumarwin welcomed the initiative taken by Centre for Women's Studies and Development for organizing the programme in their area. Prof. Mamta Mokta, as resource person in her lecture discussed in detail laws relating to women. Various legal issues pertaining to domestic violence, dowry, discriminatory practices were discussed in detail and laws pertaining to these evils were discussed at large. In the end CDPO Ghumarwin thanked Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University for organizing workshop in their area.



Participants
at
Ghumarwin Awareness Campaign



International Women's Day

Organised on 8th March, 2017

International Women's day was organized on 8th March, 2017 by Centre for Women's Studies and Development in Himachal Pradesh University Auditorium. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.D.N. Bajpai was Chief Guest on this occasion and Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajinder Singh Chauhan was Guest of Honour on this occasion. Programme was inaugurated by Honourable Vice Chancellor by lighting of lamp followed by Kulgeet. Programme was started by award giving ceremony. Women Achievers Awards 2017 were given by Honourable Vice Chancellor to those distinguished women who were identified as women achievers.

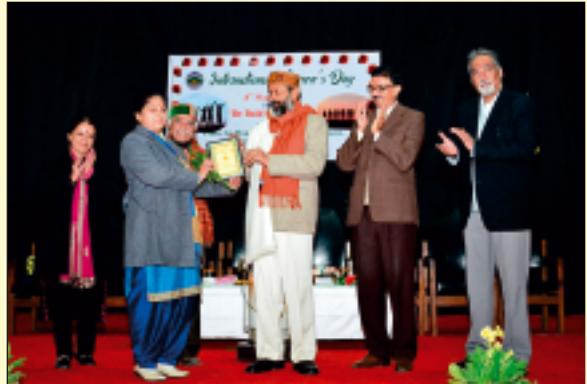
Women achievers were felicitated and were honoured with Women Achievers Award 2017 by Honourable Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Prof. Girija Sharma, First Dean of Studies, H.P. University. Mrs. Pratiba Chauhan, Editor, The Tribune, Ms. Dhara Sarswati, Programme Coordinator of Doordarshan, S.P. Narcotics, Shalini Agnihotri, University Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Neeraj Sharma, Dean Faculty of Language, Prof. Sarswati Bhalla, Dean Faculty of Science, Prof. Sushma Sharma, Chairperson, Dept. of Sanskrit, Prof. Rajindera Sharma, Chairperson, Department of History, Prof. Amrit Varsha Gandhi, Mrs. Khanchan Sharma, Pragmatic Writer, Anuja Sood, Additional Secretary Law, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Poetess, Dr. Anjali Diwan and Poetess, Dr. Sangeeta Sarswat from St. Bedes, were also honoured for giving their valuable contribution in education.

Five courageous girls of R.K.M.V. College, Shimla, who were studying in college despite of being physically challenged were also honoured on this occasion. Youngest Panchayat Samiti Chairperson, Prajwal Busta and President of H.P. University SCA for 2016-17 Naina Sambhar, were also honoured on this occasion.



Various cultural activities skit, choreography, mimes and folk songs giving the message of saving girls child were also organized on this occasion.

Glimpses of Women Achievers Award 2017



Glimpses of Women Achievers Award 2017





Director Prof. Mamta Mokta being honoured by D.G.P. Govt. of Himachal Pradesh in programme organised by Betiyan Foundation at Barthi

Director sharing Centre Publications with C.D.P.O and Anganwari Workers at Ghumarwin



Release of Book Dimensions of Gender Inequality in Society by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, A.D.G.P, S.R. Mardi and other dignitaries

Himachal Pradesh University

(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University)

Activities organised by Centre for Women's Studies and Development

Himachal Pradesh University in 12th Five Year Plan (March 2013 to March 2017)

1. Centre for Women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University has Organised National Seminar Cum Colloquium on theme "Gender agenda: Gaining Momentum" on 8-3-2013 in H.P. University.
2. Organised Seminar on "Consumer awareness" on 15-3-2013 in collaboration with Himachal Upbhokta Sarankshan Parishad at Bachat Bhawan Shimla.
3. Organized a Seminar-cum-Colloquium on the theme "Child Sexual abuse: Resiliency & Prevention" on 11.5.2013 in Himachal Pradesh University.
4. Organized colloquium on Theme "Status of Women in Himachal Pradesh" on 16-9-2013 in H.P. University.
5. Organized workshop on "Holistic Health and Student" in collaboration with Aman Kachroo Trust and Rajendra Prasad Medical College Tanda on 09-10-2013 in Himachal Pradesh University.
6. Organized Seminar on Theme "Human Rights, Values & Education" On 10-12-2013 in law conference Hall of H.P. University, Shimla .
7. Organized "Health Camp" for girls of Himachal Pradesh University on 6-3-2014 in Himachal Pradesh University, Rani Laxmi Bai Girls Hostel.
8. Organized "Health camp cum voters campaign" on 30-3-2014 at Phase three New Shimla.
9. Organized "Health camp & Bone density test" for women teaching faculty and women employees of Himachal Pradesh University on 30-4-2014 in Himachal Pradesh University.
10. Organised Health Camp on 30-4-2014 in Himachal Pradesh University, Vice Chancellor's Committee Room in collaboration with Indian Menopause Society Shimla.
11. Organized campaign against Sexual Harassment at D.A.V. College, Kothkhai on 13-9-2014.
12. Organized Seminar on consumer awareness in collaboration with Department Food Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs and Himachal Upbhogta Sarankshan Parishad at HIPA on 24-12-2014.
13. Organized "Gender Sensitization campaign" in Himachal Pradesh University on 26-2-2015
14. Organized "Self Defence Training camp" for Girls of Himachal Pradesh University from 1-3-2015 to 4-3-2015.
15. Organized Two days National Seminar on "Women Safety & Security : Issues & Challenges" on 4th March & 5th March 2015 in Himachal Pradesh University.
16. Organised one Day National Seminar on theme "Quality in Products and Services" on 24-7-2015 in Conference hall of State Institute of Health and Family welfare.
17. Organised workshop for Gender Champions on 14-9-2015 in Dept of Public administration, H.P. University.
18. Organised Awareness programme on 11-11-2015 at Pangi Distt Chamba.
19. Organised workshop on theme "Promoting Gender Equality: Issues and Challenges" on 30-11-2015 in Himachal Pradesh University.
20. Organised Self Defence Training camp for girls students of Himachal Pradesh University at Girls Hostel, Himachal Pradesh University from 1st March to 8th March 2016.
21. Organised Gender sensitization Campaign on 5-3-2016 in Himachal Pradesh University.
22. Organised Debate/Essay Competition on women Issues on 5-3-2016 in Himachal Pradesh University.
23. Celebrated International Women's Day on 8-3-2016 in Himachal Pradesh University.
24. Organised Bone Density Test on 8-3-2016 in HP University Vice Chancellor's Committee Room.
25. Organised Gender sensitization Campaign in Degree College Nahan on 22-4-2016
26. Organised workshop on Declining Child Sex Ratio on 3-6-2016 in Department of Public Administration in H.P. University, Shimla.
27. Organised tree plantation campaign on 15-6-2016 in Himachal Pradesh University Campus.
28. Organised Workshop on Environment and women's Health on 15-6-2016 in HPU, Girls Hostel.
29. Organised Workshop on "Mainstreaming Gender in Higher Educational Institutions" on 28-6-2016 In H.P.U.
30. Organised workshop on "Declining Child Sex Ratio" on 15-12-2016 in Jubbal.
31. Organised gender sensitization campaign on 18-12-2016 at Ghumarwin.
32. Organised International Women's Day on 8-3-2017 in Himachal Pradesh University Shimla.

Centre for women's Studies and Development Himachal Pradesh University completed research project of Directorate of Health Safety & Regulation cum State Appropriate Authority (PCPNDT), Himachal Pradesh, on "Declining Child Sex Ratio: Issues and Challenges".

Women power on the rise in HPU: Survey



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Bruno P. Lamont

HIMACHAL PRADESH: Women power is on the rise in Himachal Pradesh University with more women holding key positions. The female capacity of girl lecturers almost doubles as compared to key faculty.

As per the latest survey of the HPU release on International Women's Day, women are holding key positions like Dean of Studies-First Year, Director and Chief Warden, Prof. Veena Kumar, director of seven departments are women and 10 out of 20 deanships are women.

The strength of women appointed professor, associate professor and professors is 15, 11 and 10 respectively.

Getting stronger

- The strength of women-appointed professors, associate professors and professors is 15, 11 and 10 respectively.
- Women account for 40% of the Executive Council while the Academic Council has the major proportion of male-women members.
- The capacity of 11 (present in the previous year) L20 compared to 5 in the key faculty.
- For the administration, two women hold top posts Deputy Registrar while six are as the top educational officer.
- In the nominated Student Council Association (SCA), women account for 10 members. The president of SCA, vice-president of SCA and joint secretary Nancy Kumar.



Picture of a student at the education fair in

are members of the Executive Council. The highest decision-making body in the university, it includes the Vice-Chancellor, Director, heads of representative of student members.

The capacity of 11 girl lecturers in the university was 1,029 compared to 500 in their 500 posts, indicating that more females are employed.

graduate courses. In the administrative posts of Deputy Registrar while six are on the post of various offices. However, there are only 151 non-teaching women employees out of the total 800 employees.

As far as the Nominated

governor, Vice-Chancellor, president, Vice-Chancellor, secretary, Director, heads of various units, 10 are women.

Joint efforts must for success of plantation drive: Environmentalists

Kullu-Dharmashala

Environmentalist

STRENGTHENING

As the Mahotsav has received largely an annual ritual of planting trees, environmentalists have said that individuals, NGOs, Forest Department and other government agencies should join hands to do 'environmental audit'.

To ensure higher tree survival rate, the plantation drive must be struc-



tion of over 20 crore people in the northern region.
"We should recycle waste paper and use both sides of the paper to do more,"

उल्लेखनीय योगदान के लिए एचपीयू में महिलाएं सम्मानित

अमर उजला चौटी

सिवानी।

महिला दिवस पर विश्वविद्यालय में विशेष कार्यक्रम करवाया गया। इसमें अपने-अपने बेट्रे में सहाहनीय योगदान अपने-अपने बेट्रे को सम्मानित किया गया।



लक्ष्मीबाई, दुर्गावती की जीवनियां पाठ्यक्रम में हो शामिल

एचपीयूनिवर्सिटी के महिला अध्ययन एवं विकास केंद्र में विशेष योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर कुलपति प्रो. एडीएन वाजपेयी ने बताया कि भारतवर्ष में सदियों से ही नारियों का सम्मान होता है। भारतीय लालाजों में यह भी कहा गया है 'बत्र पूज्यते नारी तत्र स्मरते देवता'। अर्थात् जहाँ नारियों का सम्मान कर पूजा होती है वहाँ देवताओं



एचपीयूनिवर्सिटी के महिला अध्ययन एवं विकास केंद्र की ओर से अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इस अवसर कुलपति प्रो. एडीएन वाजपेयी ने बताया कि भारतवर्ष में सदियों से ही नारियों का सम्मान होता है। भारतीय लालाजों में यह भी कहा गया है 'बत्र पूज्यते नारी तत्र स्मरते देवता'। अर्थात् जहाँ नारियों का सम्मान कर पूजा होती है वहाँ देवताओं

Joint efforts needed to improve child sex ratio: Experts

THREE NEWS SERVICE

SHEENA JUNIS

Academics and scholars have batted for roping in public and NGOs to supplement the government's initiatives to bring about a change in the mindsets to improve the adverse child sex ratio in the state.

The issue was addressed at a workshop conducted by the Women Studies and Development (WSD) Department, Himachal Pradesh University, in collaboration with the Directorate of State Health Safety

and Regulation on the University campus here yesterday.

Dr Usha Bande, a writer, said "The society needs to look at a girl as a girl child and not simply as a daughter, sister, wife and so on, to address the problem of a 'daughter deficit' society. For this, we need behavioural change in the society".

While addressing the gathering, HPU Vice-Chancellor ADN Bajaj said mutual collaboration between the HPU and the Health Directorate would help address the sex problem in the state.

Prof Manju Mokta, coordi-

nator of the workshop-organizer of the WSD Department, said the suggestions and studies presented at the workshop by scholars and experts would be used to frame a strategy to combat the adverse child sex ratio menace that, on an average, remained 906/1000, as per the 2011 census.

"We will identify factors as to why the child sex ratio is 1033 /1000 in tribal Lahaul-Spiti and why it is less than the state's average in Kangra, Hamirpur, Una and Kinnaur, despite higher literacy levels there," she added.

■ The society needs to look at a girl as a girl child and not simply as a daughter, sister, wife and so on, to address the problem of a 'daughter deficit' society. For this, we need behavioural change in the society.

Dr Usha Bande, writer

Dr Arushi Jain from Indira University, Una, cited the success story of Una, where the child sex ratio improved from 876/1000 in 2011 to 906/1000 in 2015. "This was possible due to people's participation with

the district administration. This needs to be replicated in Kangra, Hamirpur and other districts," she added.

Prof Nareshwar Singh, from the Population Research Center, HPU, underscored the need for taking people into confidence for conducting population surveys so that the correct picture emerged from the ground. While Nirmala from Gyan Vidyam Samiti cited the efforts of the samiti to educate women on the child sex ratio and female foeticide, Amriti Varsha Gandhi from the History Department empha-

sized the need to glorify girl child at all levels of the society to change the mindsets.

Runa Mehta from the Law Department said the Health Department needed to implement the PNDT Act effectively and spread the message of 'Beti Hai Anmol' and 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiatives. Ranjeet Sharma, director of Health Safety Regulation, said the government would collaborate with women NGOs to track pregnant women so that the offenders seeking sex determination tests could be tracked.