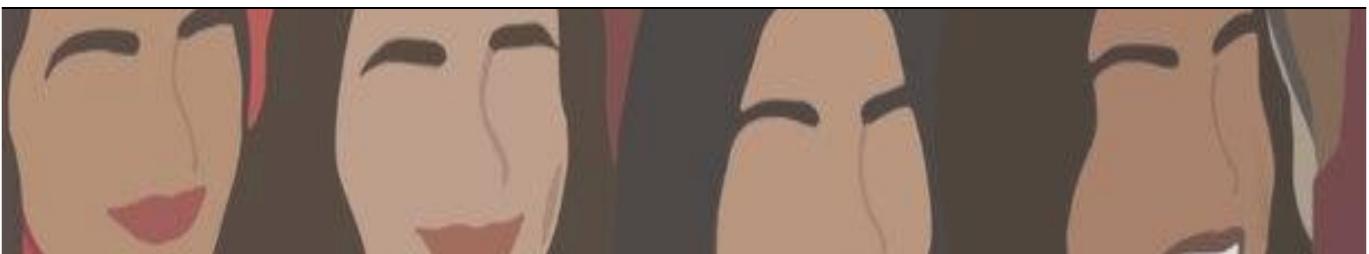


WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL, VASANTA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, RAJGHAT FORT, VARANASI



Celebrating International Women's Day on
“SHADES OF WOMANHOOD”

Introducing
“VAMA”

An E-Magazine,
VOLUME – 1, Year- 2021-22



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From the Principal's Desk

I am extremely happy and proud of the Women's Development Cell of the College for developing and launching an E-Magazine VAMA on the occasion of International Women's Day which gives a platform to students' creativity and reflects their thoughts, opinions, aspirations and vision for the future. All the faculty members and student representatives of Women's Development Cell have done a commendable job. I am sure the forthcoming issues with each year passing will take the talent of students to the advance level. I appreciate the initiative and look forward to the forthcoming issues.

With best wishes...

- Prof. Alka Singh
Principal
Vasanta College for Women
Krishnamurti Foundation, India
Rajghat, Varanasi



From the Coordinator's Desk

We are happy to present the first issue of the Annual E-Magazine VAMA launched on the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March, 2022). The theme of the first issue of the magazine is 'Shades of Womanhood'. This E-Magazine is an initiative by student members of the Cell under the guidance of the faculty members. It aims at giving a platform to young minds to express their ideas, views and perspectives on different aspect of women's lives and experiences beyond binaries and stereotypes. Writing has been one of the most powerful instruments for questioning the status quo and bringing change. Writing, especially for women, is the medium for sharing the unheard experiences and getting their perspectives recognized. To quote Helene Cixous 'woman must write herself, must write about women and bring women to writing, from which they have been driven away so violently as from the bodies -for the same reasons, by the same law, with the same fatal goal. Woman must put herself into the text-as into the world and into history- by her own movement'.

We hope that the present E-Magazine would promote and motivate the students to think, reflect, question and write. I express my sincere gratitude to the principal of our college for her constant guidance and encouragement. I thank all the faculty members of Women's Development Cell for all their cooperation and support in making this publication possible. and I must congratulate and thank all the Student Coordinators for their hard work in designing, editing and compiling the E-Magazine without which this publication would not have been possible.

- Dr. Preeti Singh
Coordinator, Women's Development Cell
Vasanta College for Women
Krishnamurti Foundation, India
Rajghat, Varanasi



Women's Development Cell at a Glance

Patron

- Prof. Alka Singh, Principal, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi.

Organizing Committee

- Dr. Preeti Singh, Coordinator, Women's Development Cell.
- Dr. Yogita Beri, Co- Coordinator, Women's Development Cell.
- Dr. Rachana Pandey, Member, Women's Development Cell.
- Dr. G.Thavasi Murugan, Member, Women's Development Cell.
- Dr. Samvedana Singh, Member, Women's Development Cell.

Student Members

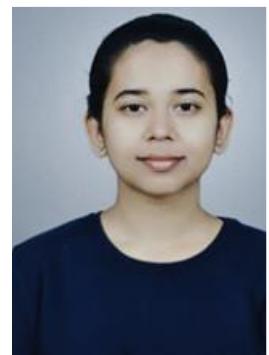
- Ms. Nancy Chopra, Member, WDC, VCW.
- Ms. Anwesha Simlai, Member, WDC, VCW.
- Ms. Angira Singh, Member, WDC, VCW.
- Ms. Anni Singh, Member, WDC, VCW.
- Ms. Soumya Singh, Member, WDC, VCW.



SHADES OF WOMANHOOD

1. Shreeya Naik

(M.A. Final Year)



Acceptance is The Key

Defining what a woman is in one statement is questionable because no single definition fits all women. In fact, modern theories have already made the issue worse by inviting the binaries into play where contrary to man, a woman is stigmatized by a bunch of adjectives the moment she is born. Still worse, all women are forcibly categorized into that one category.

The reality is, womanhood is an experience which is different for every woman. And, that's the beauty. And, that beauty must be happily acknowledged. Shades of womanhood is not just about different women, but also the same woman exploring and experiencing the different versions of herself.

Neena Gupta, an Indian actress and Television director once said, "*I have lived a life of many shades and am very thankful to God.*"

Embracing shades of womanhood is twofold. First, on a personal level. And, second, on a societal level.

When the confidence is radiated from a personal level only then is the expectation from the society turns into a reality. Because if one is not able to accept oneself wholeheartedly, how can it be expected from others?

Easier said than done, it actually takes a lot of courage for a woman to accept the shades of womanhood she herself experiences with all its changes, its highs and lows which are sometimes ecstatic and sometimes overwhelming.

For instance, a woman's body goes through many phases like adolescence, childbirth, old-age, and menstruation every month for a couple of decades during her lifetime. And, during all of that, her body goes through a lot of changes both internally and externally. The social media culture has made the matter quite sensitive as one woman sees another woman who might have a "better" body. It's great to appreciate someone else, or derive inspiration. But, if there comes a sense of negative comparison, or envy, that is something seriously problematic. Studies have shown such cases where women struggle with mental health issues, eating disorders like Anorexia Nervosa or Bulimia Nervosa, and many more because of it.

A woman must know her own worth which goes beyond any shape or size. Acceptance is the key.

Alessia Cara, in her song 'Scars to your beautiful' writes,

"And you don't have to change a thing

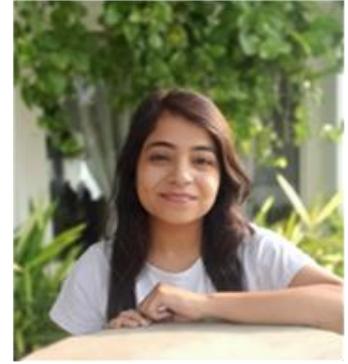
The world could change its heart

No scars to your beautiful

We're stars and we're beautiful"

A woman should wholeheartedly accept the different versions of herself, and should not be too quick to judge other women who might have a different sense of womanhood from that of hers. Afterall, it's about shades of womanhood.

2. Ananya Mishra
(M.A. Final Year)



Indian Womanhood

Indian womanhood always has enthralled writers from all over the world. History is filled with accounts of the valor and determination of Indian women who overcame odds to save the honor of their country, kingdom or family. Indian womanhood has risen to dizzy heights over the centuries, and volumes have been written about their achievements and conquests that have gone down in the realms of history. The saga of the invincible Rani of Jhansi has been told and retold, even finding expression through films and media, and remains a favorite amongst many.

There are many shades of an Indian woman as she has many role models to imbibe and learn from. She is a product of multiple mothering in the form of numerous aunties and caretakers that look after her from an early age. She is also coated from an early age with the various cultural and moral attributes a woman is supposed to have. She is made to accept that she is different from men, and it is only in due course of time that the fallibility of this inequality dawns upon her. The Indian woman has to then rise above the goals set for her by others and has to project herself in a new light where she transcends the myths that seek to suppress her. She is capable of anything and needs just a little support to prove it. The biggest battle a woman wages is often on the domestic front day after day, and this goes unnoticed. To this Indian woman plodding along with her domestic chores and at the same time engaging in different occupations and entrepreneurship, we must direct our attention.

What we must do as Indian citizens?

The Indian woman has been exploited enough. We do not need to put her on a pedestal and worship her, but rather need to recognize how much our lives revolve around her. We must respect her and bring her to the fore. Indian society shall be enriched when we have happier, strong and safe women and Indian homes shall prosper if we awake to our responsibility to Indian womanhood.

3. Anni Singh

(M.A. Final Year)

Women & History

When Virginia Woolf claimed, “*She (women) pervades poetry from cover to cover; she is all but absent from history*”, she (Woolf) questioned women’s portrayal both in Literature as well as in History. Though her claims and facts were widely limited to western culture, she certainly rooted the seed of women’s position in history.



Now when one looks back to the past, all shade one can find of a woman is, as a piece of decorum, courtship, a precious fragile thing which needs to be protected, to be kept hidden. This eventually leads to the cycle of observations including; ‘Women as History’ & ‘Women in History’. While talking of later ancient times, one will find women’s reference more of a ‘thing’ & not of a ‘being’. This kind of portrayal has provided them the least space in history, therefore they were limited to literature only, and that too had shades of symbolizing beauty and coyness in the poetic compositions. Moving forward towards medievalism, they largely appear as a ‘care-taker’ & not ‘taken cared of’. Being suppressed by the medieval norms, another picture of women which dominantly came to the forefront was of miserable and dependent housewives and daughters who had no liberty to read, write and take their decisions. The medieval era neither allowed a proper place for them in history nor in literature. It took a long span for women to finally get some space in history along with their other shades wherein they were not just limited as a symbol of beauty and suppressed but they also became warriors and prominently, became ‘individuals’.

Although one cannot confidently claim women’s presentation of every shade but one can of course witness the progress. From Draupadi to Rani Padmavati, to Rani Lakshmi Bai, to Ramabai Ranade, to Priyanka Chopra, to Mary Kom, to Mithali Raj... Now they are everywhere, being appreciated for their differences, qualities, if being questioned, answering back too, raising their voices, questioning the norms, and what not. Now they are present in the history as well as they are the history and women’s history is a history in itself.



4. Srabani Biswas

(M.A. Final Year)

Women & Ornament

Women: a term used for someone who is a keeper, a keeper of house, mind and patience. A lady is always taught to be a perfectionist. Likewise, the word "woman", it has "man" within it, which carries the patriarchal entity with herself only, she is more of a carrier either for generative or for household. Since the past, women and ornaments have been closely connected with each other.



Bindi, a small ornamental dot, tells much about a woman. With a round dot between her eyes, she abstains herself from several things. Even the colors make up the standard repertoire of feminine adornment. That so strange "nath"(nose-ring) centralizes a woman's character, she has to have it done before her wedlock.

The so-called society has formulated a ritualistic manner of "bichhua" to suppress that nerve just to govern her act of living. Jewelry is often viewed as a social status rather than a fashion accessory for completing an outfit, it highlights her salutation before her name, and how well-mannered she is. Different pieces are to be used to symbolize different messages such as wisdom, elegance, and prosperity.

In ancient times, the beauty of a lady was even considered for her longer neck. A brass coil was draped around her neck throughout her life in order to lengthen it, the longer the neck, the more beautiful she is. Many times, women are being victimized of such strange customs and regulations where she could not even figure out her own self. Women should wear a fabulous smile, not a piece of metal to be called someone's property. The true sense of beauty should be as naturalistic as water of the ocean; pure, gentle and genuine.

5. Neha Bharti

(M.A. Final Year)

Shades of Womanhood

*"It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman phenomenally."*

- Maya Angelou



A woman is all – rounder. She is the backbone of our society and we all should respect them, without them(women) our society is incomplete and alone.

A woman can be in any form. She can be in the form of a child, wife, mother, sister, grandmother, friend and all these persons play an important role in our life. When a woman is in her initial days, she is the most loved one in our home and when she leaves the home, she makes everyone cry and goes to another home and stays away from them, she accepts her other family and loves them. This shows a woman's sacrifice and immense love and when she is a mother, she takes so much pain for her child. No- one can compete with a grandmother's love for her family.

This shows the Shades of Womanhood.

6. Punita Maurya

(M.A. Final Year)



Her Dream

Sitting with tears near that university,
That has been ranked third for its duty,
Her aspiration is to be an aspirant of it,
Due to lack of opportunity, she is pushed into a dark pit.

She has the quality of water molded in every situation,
Tranquility is in her each motion,
She is the dream of someone,
But her dream is the part of no-one.

She is periodical goddess but is also chained,
She is worshiped but is also cursed,
She is powerful yet she is suppressed,
She is still able to be underestimated.

Taking degree in her hand,
Watching full numbers on the paper,
She is now cursing her sex,
Is she the same creature created by the same potter,
Or is she molded by mistake?

She burns like midnight candle,
Weaving stars in her bosom,

She does all what she can,
For shadowy ego, people ban.

7. Ritika Panika

(B.Com, Final Year)

Those hands splashed on my face,
Like the cold water in winters
Those speedy hands from which
I couldn't escape
Leaving a deep imprint on my cheeks and heart,
And I was a beholder who was left apart.
That tight slap reminded
How cowardly I was.
I couldn't say no.
Was it because I was married or so?
I was raped without my consent
Not just once, twice, or thrice, but
I was molested every single night.
I was forced to moan,
A forceful fake pleasure to show.
I was spanked and tortured
If ever I tried to question,
I was always asked to keep quiet.
The only reply which came was a splash.
It shattered me down,
“You're married, you're my wife
I can play with your whole body
You don't have the right to deny”
But I realized,
My body is mine and
My consent cannot be denied.
Marriage isn't a license
To play with my body,



I understood it was time to fight
And raise my voice towards these marital rape insights.

8. Aganya Raj (B.A. First Year)

Can beauty be ever defined,
With all its different notions,
The beauty of heart, such that
The words come out beautifully
So does the character;
The beauty of face such that,
The world looks beautiful,
Anyone can be flattered...
With these two being side by side,
Both are treated differently,
Some love, some hate;
Some fear, some bold;
Some caged, some let loose;
Why is beauty so well defined yet so not...



9. Aditi Tiwari (B.Ed. Final Year)

Thirteen

When she was thirteen,
she was made to believe that living a life



on her own terms is not less than a sin.
And that was the day she realized,
In a society that tells us how we must
dress and look and be;
It's easy for people like her who are not in
the loop to feel like they aren't free.

She was not the type of girl who wants to
live her life hiding her face under a veil;
Instead, she wanted to make her parents
proud and living her own fairy tale.
A fairy tale where Cinderella doesn't have a
prince to drag her out of a miserable life;
She wanted to be her own prince and live
with pride.

“It's your fault if you're being judged”,
it's your fault if you're being raped”.
Every single time she tries to prove herself
equal to men, these are the only things that
the society states.

So, she started over-analyzing every single
part of herself that why she is not fit to be
an idol girl as per the society's scheme;
And every single time it just destroyed her
self-esteem.

She was emotional, a girl with a bunch of
soul;
crying over characters which are fictional and
people she doesn't even know.
But she was real and strong back then and
now just a pawn;
Waiting for the day when she will realize that
She is not a destitute but a patron.

And this "SHE" is no one but you this "SHE"
is me this "SHE" is every girl out there;
who is being forced and chained raped, yet
blamed yet waiting for the world to change

This "SHE" is the one who is waiting for the
day to make her own self realize that she is
the harmony to this chaotic world;
the day she will smile and the world will turn
into a better place for her.

10. Srijita Neogi
(M.A. First Year)



One Artist - Many Shades

Being a woman “*isn’t about being anything specific.*

It is just about giving yourself permission to be the things you already are,” said Kristen Bell.

Life is a precious gift that is granted to all humans through women, women are the salt of the Earth. Life is unimaginable without women but most of us fail to understand what womanhood is. Womanhood is not defined by relationships, jobs, body parts, or anything else but yourself. There are a lot of ways to be a woman. For some womanhood is strength, for others it's tenderness. Womanhood might be pushing yourself in school or in your career, or helping to lift others up. You can be a woman wearing a dress and heels, or when you're tying up your work boots. Womanhood is not about being brave or powerful but about having agency and not restricting oneself from being who she really is.



11.Ritidipa Maiti
(M.A. First Year)



Shades Of Womanhood

"We speak because we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. When we are silent we are still afraid. So, it is better to speak.", quoted Audre Lorde.

Everywhere in the world, women face social, cultural, and economic barriers in equality. This is true even in the United States one in 6 women report being stalked to the point of fearing harm to themselves or someone they love. Barriers to social-cultural and economic equality are even more extreme for ultra-poor women in conflict-affected countries. Living in a democratic country still today women are lagging behind somewhere and reason somewhere revolves around our society, our patriarchal norms, and we females are itself a big reason for women's deprived rights. A woman is no less than men rather a woman is the only one who gives birth to a boy child whom our society puts forward and thinks is the reason to be the success of anything. A woman has different shades in herself. A woman can give birth to souls. Every woman has a story to tell. Everyone has inspiring women in their lives. It can be our mother, sister, or anybody, we honor or find as our role model in life. A girl, who is married at an early age, having a baby when she sacrifices her happiness for her newborn, there she represents her motherhood which is also womanhood. A woman who is studying and wants to fulfill her mother's dream and getting married but also doing her studies getting employed and her responsibilities towards fulfilling her mother's dream is also a shade of womanhood she expresses. A woman beard navigating the vast sea of interpersonal relationships, mental health, heartbreaks, ambitions, and career blogs on the simple joys of life, a woman is with a myriad of shades. This showcases how a woman is heartening and awe-inspiring stories of women and how they have always tried to be better not only themselves but also for their families. I feel knowing oneself what one is from within to one's roots is what actually a true shade of women talks about. It can be a small girl from an old lady. True shadow of women who lies in speaking about your own self remembering your roots.

12.Tripti Anand (B.A. First Year)

You see,
From ages to ages, legacies
and stories have been passed on
from generations to generations
narrating how men have been
ruling over the world, keeping
women inferior to them.

Be it Mahabharata, where
Draupadi begged for her
self-respect in a court full of self-righteous
'warriors' and
'sage';

Or be it Ramayana, where Sita
had to prove her chastity by
giving agnipariksha.

But this time,
Be it a girl, a woman, or a lady,
Be it a mother, sister, friend,
wife, daughter, or a baby,
We together will create the
history.

We together will make sure not a
single woman, unlike Draupadi,
has to wait for Krishna to add
extra yards to her saree.

We together will make sure not a
single woman, unlike Sita, ever
comes in a situation where she
needs to prove her purity to the
same world who didn't think
twice before disrobing her



(Draupadi).

Instead,
We together will arise a question,
Who is at default?
Being a girl, is it our fault?
We together will make sure that
every single woman not only,
possess the ‘piousness’ of
Draupadi or Sita, but also the
‘ferocity’ of Durga and Kali.
We together will make sure that
the world needs to decide
whether they want to see the
the shade of Sita or the shade of Kali
in a woman.
We together will re-create the
History, again;
where women are not considered
just as an object to satisfy men,
Neither as a goddess,
But just as a human and a
woman
with equal rights and respect,
with equal choices and options,
with equal love and longing,
and with equal freedom and
space.



13.Sandhya Kumari
(M.A. First Year)

A Room of Her Own



"A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction."

In 1929, when ‘A Room of One’s Own’ was first published, the argument that Virginia Woolf made regarding the limited freedom, or to say extensive restrictions on a woman as a writer, gave voice to thousands of women at that time. Now, we as women of the 21st century, should not be surprised to know that the situation is the same for us even today; particularly for South Asian women.

The demand for a room is not about asking for a ‘personal room’ in a 2BHK house. A room that we want is a space that even if it’s for an hour, allows us to not think about father, husband, family, or society. A space where we can sit back and think about what we want. The fact that a woman’s existence revolves around other lives, so much so that she is not able to *think* beyond it or restricts her thoughts and actions, are the reasons why she needs a room of her own.

14. Beauty Bhattacharjee

(M.A. Final Year)



Role of a Single Mother

In Indian culture, women are always considered goddesses but from history to the present day, women face various ups and downs in their status. The status of women in ancient India was quite high, the place of women was higher than men and they had respect and honor. They were completely free to decide their path in life.

But when we are looking to the modern period, women have all rights to all the spheres of life. However, due to wide corruption, traditional and social norms, and weak implementation of the laws and schemes, many of these rights remain only in the papers, especially for poor and illiterate people.



Single Parenthood is a phenomenon that has always been for existence and mankind. A single parent is a parent, not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. There has been a drastic increase in the number of single-parent families. The death of a partner was a common cause of single parenting. In the present scenario, the task of parenting is a difficult one. To provide a quality life to children, both parents should invest their maximum time, effort, and care for the children. However, nurturing children single-handed is a difficult process both financially and psychologically. The difficulty of a single mother is related to the upbringing of children, their future, and setting down in life till the time children get married and get jobs, they are dependent on the single parent. Being a single mother, one has to sacrifice her social and financial independence. They carry many responsibilities on their shoulders as mothers. They faced various problems like social, emotional, and economic problems. Single mothers have to face several challenges in their day-to-day life which can lead to mental health issues, financial crises, living on a low income, and receiving low levels of social support.



Parenthood is challenging enough even under the best of conditions. So being a single mother, especially in our society, is tasking. A woman is the primary caretaker of the family. She has taken the responsibilities of the family. A woman is the only person who nurtures, develops, and strengthens the family. Women play many roles in the family such as wife, mother, daughter, sister, etc. She is the most sensible person and she transfers the tradition from generation to generation to transfer the culture and values of the society. Relatively some women are parenting their children alone

The study of single mothers is important because it will focus on the challenges and issues faced by single mothers and their economic status.

15. Prachi Jaiswal

(M.A. First Year)

What is Womanhood?

Womanhood is the state of being a woman, the state of being an adult female acting according to what one has been taught accurately in terms of how to conduct oneself in the world.



Now women have come out of the shell of norms, rules, and regulations, women are setting examples everywhere. For instance, in the Olympics 2021 female athletes won three medals, Falguni Nayar the founder of Nayaka businesswoman Harnaaz Sandhu brought the Miss Universe Crown, and many more...

May it be Globally or in our own lives women have achieved back then also and they are doing it now as well, it's not that it is for the first time they have made us proud in different fields and with such hard work and the potential they can rule the world.

Eventually what needs to change is the superficialities that try to pull them down is the institution of patriarchy and still has an impact on us, we are still bonded to such norms, the change that we see today is somehow superficial, still, women are seen through the lenses of patriarchy (definition of women with certain roles).

It is deeply rooted in culture and religion, our mind is mended in such a way that when we look at women and think of her various shades we can only see her playing roles of sister, mother, wife, etc. "*One is not born, but rather becomes a woman*", says Simone de Beauvoir, we have seen different shades of women as per the definition and they are applaudable, let them be free of every rule don't try to fit them in shoes of patriarchy

let them glow and explore different shades of not just as a woman but as HUMAN.

"I don't wish women to have power over men, but over themselves" - Mary Wollstonecraft

16. Zeenat Firdous

(M.A. First Year)

Share Love for WOMEN

My dear wife suddenly left me in the lurch due to cancer after being together for 33 years. In the initial days of our married life, her only ornament was her beautiful smile for she gave up her jewelry to support us all through life's ups and downs. She was always by my side, a pillar of strength. I recalled with nostalgia that she celebrated all the functions and festivals alone with full generosity and hospitality. I wish I had spoken out and appreciated her kindness and love. Words like "sorry", "love". "thanks" lose their meaning if not uttered at the right moment. I had reached a height with her co-operation, her company had helped me to cross in difficult times. The heaps of money would not give delight and pleasure only the words would have. I was outside that day when I got the news that her health was deteriorating. On my way back she was at the hospital, just alive but unconscious. The doctor said they were helpless. I bent down close to her. I was broken. I lamented, not speaking to her, how grateful I am for all that she had done for my family and relatives.

Dear friends I speak to all, please speak to your partner or near and dear ones about how much you value their companionship, kindness, patience, and greatness. Don't miss the opportunity to do so as I missed it...

17. Arti Sinha
(M.A. Final Year)



नेता और नागरिक : भारत में महिलाओं की राजनीतिक भागीदारी



भारत में आगामी राज्य चुनावों के संदर्भ में की जाने वाली चर्चाओं में महिलाओं की राजनीतिक भागीदारी एक प्रमुख तत्व के रूप में उभरी हैं। यू रीसर्च सेंटर के विश्लेषण के अनुसार, ऐसी 15 महिलाएँ हैं जो देश की सत्ता की ताकत हैं, और उनमें से 8 देश की पहली महिला नेता भी हैं, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र के 193 सदस्य देशों में महिला नेताओं की भागीदारी 10 फीसदी से भी कम हैं। भारतीय राजनीति पुराने समय से ही महिलाओं का दखल रहा है, समय के साथ - साथ हर राजनीतिक दल में महिलाओं की भूमिका विस्तृत हुई है, वर्तमान दौर में भी भारतीय राजनीति में महिलाएँ अग्रणी हैं।

भारत में महिलाओं का राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व

भारतीय संसद में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व वैश्विक तुलना में काफी कम हैं। 542 सदस्यीय लोकसभा में महिलाओं की भागीदारी 11.8 फीसदी (64 सांसद) जबकि 245 सदस्यीय राज्यसभा में 11 फीसदी (27 सांसद) हैं। वास्तविक प्रतिनिधित्व का मतलब यह है कि अलग- अलग पृष्ठभूमि वाली महिलाओं को आवाज मिले और इससे राजनीति में नई संवेदना विकसित हो। राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व में महिलाओं की भागीदारी की वजह से स्थानीय स्तर पर राजनीतिक एजेंडे और गतिविधियों में सुधार आया हैं। समाज में महिलाओं से संबंधित मुद्दों पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है, महिलाओं के खिलाफ अत्याचार, बल का उपयोग आदि के विरोध में जागरूकता बढ़ी है, बालिका शिक्षा को बढ़ावा दिया गया है। महिला मतदाताओं का सम्मान बढ़ा है।

भारत में महिला नागरिक का कर्तव्य

आज, दुनिया का कोई भी क्षेत्र ऐसा नहीं है, जहां महिलाओं ने खुद को साबित नहीं किया हो, महिलाओं ने अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा हर क्षेत्र में मनवाया है एवं खुद को समाज में एक सशक्तिशाली शक्ति की तरह स्थापित किया है। आज महिलाओं का योगदान सभी क्षेत्र में अहम् हैं। महिलाएं किसी भी देश के विकास का मुख्य आधार होती हैं। वे परिवार, समाज और देश की तरक्की में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं। इनमें से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कार्य मतदान है, भारत में महिलाओं के द्वारा प्रातिनिधि चुनने का निर्णय आज भी पुरुष करते हैं, हालांकि 1980 से 2014 के बीच महिला वोटर्स की संख्या में 15 प्रतिशत इजाफा हुआ है। 1980 में महिला वोटर्स की संख्या जहाँ 51 प्रतिशत थी, वही 2014 में बढ़कर 66 प्रतिशत हो गई हैं। 2014 के लोकसभा चुनावों में अब तक का सबसे अधिक महिला मतदान हुआ। वर्तमान में युवा भारतीय महिलाएँ संभवतः किसी भी अन्य समूह की तुलना में आकांशी भारत का अधिक प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। अवसर मिलने पर वे हमारी गतिहिन राजनिति में एक नई ऊर्जा ला

सकती है और इससे स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, शिक्षा और आजीविका जैसी बुनियादी आवस्यकता के वितरण की दिशा में ले जा सकती हैं।

**18. Tanya Patel
(B.A. First Year)**

रहूं वहाँ!

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो सुंदरता की परिभाषा उत्तम चरित्र, पवित्र हृदय, विनम्रता,
ना कि रंग - रूप, कद-काठी ।

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो धर्म की परिभाषा अंतःकरण की पवित्रता,
ना कि कटूरता, अंधविश्वास ।

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो जाति की परिभाषा कर्म,
ना कि ब्राह्मण, क्षत्रिय, वैश्य, शुद्र ।

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो मनुष्य की परिभाषा मानवता,
ना कि छल, कपट, अभिमान ।

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो विश्व की परिभाषा आपसी सहयोग, भाईचारा,
ना कि विश्वयुद्ध ।

रहूं वहाँ

जहां हो सरकार की परिभाषा जनता की सेवा,
ना कि स्वार्थ, भ्रष्टाचार ।



Tanya Patel

**19. Kumari Kajal Sharma
(B.Ed. Second Year)**

मैं नारी हूँ

मैं नारी हूँ।
मैं माता, पुत्री, सखी व संगिनी हूँ।
मैं अग्रजा, अनुजा, भाभी व अद्वागिनी हूँ।
मैं संगीत की लय, सरिता की धार हूँ।
मैं माँ की ममता व प्रवाहिनी प्यार हूँ।
मैं साथी की क्षमता व समाज का आधार हूँ।
मैं अपने प्रियजनों का अधिकार हूँ।
मैं शालीनता का प्रतिकार हूँ।
मैं एक जीवित आकार हूँ।
मैं समाज की इत्र हूँ, मैं ही चरित्र हूँ।
मैं पानीयुक्त चलचित्र हूँ।
मैं गीत हूँ, मनमीत हूँ।
मैं सुआचरण की जीत हूँ।
मैं सुंदरता की पहचान हूँ।
मैं अस्मिता की जान हूँ।
मैं आधी आबादी नहीं, समस्त दुनिया की शान हूँ।
मैं मर्यादा की मान हूँ।
मैं दे रही अपना योगदान हूँ।
मैं केवल माता नहीं, दाता हूँ।
मैं राष्ट्र निर्माता हूँ।



**20. Manisha Singh
(B.A. Second Year)**



ओस कि बूँद सी होती है बेटियाँ,
पापा की प्यारी व माँ की दुलारी होती है बेटियाँ ।
माँ-बाप का दर्द, हमदर्द होती है बेटियाँ ।
रोशन करेगा बेटा तो बस एक ही कुल को,
दो दो कुलों की लाज होती है बेटियाँ ।
हीरा अगर बेटा है, तो सच्ची मोती है बेटियाँ ।
काटों की राह पर चलती है बेटियाँ,
औरो की राह पर फूल बनाती है बेटियाँ ।
कहने को पराई अमानत है बेटियाँ,
पर बेटों से बढ़कर अपनी होती है बेटियाँ ।
बेटा है आंख, तो पलक होती है बेटियाँ ।
जीवन का सारांश होती है बेटियाँ,
ओस की बूँद सी होती है बेटियाँ।

**21. Sakshi Singh
(B.Com. Final Year)**



नारी

नारी की परिभाषा लिखूं तो कैसे लिखू, ना जाने उसके कितने ही रूप है ।
कभी वो सीता जी सी सहज,
तो कभी चंडिका की तरह रौद्रधारी है वो।
कभी पार्वती जी सी ममतामयी, तो
कही लक्ष्मी जी सी चंचल और कल्याणकारी है वो।

कभी मीरा की तरह प्रेम में मग्न है वो,
तो कही सती माँ की तरह अपने प्रियवर के सम्मान के लिए खुद को करती आग में भस्म है वो।
कभी कुंती बन मार्ग दिखाती है वो,
तो कहीं उर्मिला बन अपने कर्तव्य को निभाती है वो।
कभी माँ कौशल्या बन दुलारती और पुचकारती है वो,
तो कहीं द्रोपदी बन खुद के हुए अपमान का बदला लेना सिखाती है वो।
कभी लक्ष्मी बाई जैसी निडर और प्रबल,
तो कही जोधा बाई जैसी अटल है वो।
कभी पन्ना धाय बन कर राजा को बचाने के लिए खुद के पुत्र का बलिदान दे जाती है वो,
त कहीं जीजाबाई शाह जी की तरह अपने पुत्र को वीर शिवाजी बनाती है वो।
कभी अहिल्याबाई होल्कर बनकर युद्ध भूमि में बिना गए कूटनीति और रणनीति के बल पर युद्ध जीत
लेती है व,
तो कहीं रजिया सुल्तान बनकर युद्ध के मैदान में दुश्मनों को ललकार ती है वो।
कभी मदर टेरेसा बन सबको गले से लगाती है वो,
तो कभी इंदिरा गांधी बन अकेले चलना सिखाती है वो।
शायद इसीलिए कहते हैं नारी नहीं नारायणी है वो,
नारी होते हुए भी नर पर भारी है वो ।
समुचित सृष्टि का कल्प्याण करती,
इस सृष्टि की अधिकारी है वो।

22. Pratibha Srivastava

(M.Ed Final Year)



सब ठीक है।

"कैसी हो? कैसा चल रहा है जिंदगी में सबकुछ? कोई परेशानी तो नहीं? दिल तो लग रहा है ना?"

खुद में हजारों जस्बात समेटे ये कुछ संजीदा सवाल यूं तो बड़ी मुश्किल से नसीब होते हैं, मगर कभी न कभी तो ये सवाल जहन तक पहुंच ही जाते हैं।

पूछने के लिए तो ये सवाल बेहद आसान मालूम पड़ते हैं, मगर इन सवालों के जवाब बेहद मुश्किल होते हैं। शुरू के दो सवालों से तो करीब करीब रोज ही दो - चार होना पड़ता है और बाद के दो सवाल करीबी दोस्त पूछ लिया करते हैं।

एक अजीब से बेचैनी होती होती है दिल में इन सवालों से -

जैसे शांत सागर में तूफान के आने से होती है,

जैसे बसी बसाई बस्ती उजड़ जाने से होती है,

जैसे किसी मासूम का कल्प हुआ हो,

जैसे वजूद पर दुश्मनों की फतेह हुई हो,

जैसे जिंदगी रूठ गई हो और खुदा ने मौत देने से इंकार कर दिया हो।

बेचैनी की सिर्फ एक ही वजह है - 'उलझन'। उलझन इस बात की कि आखिर चंद लफजों में ये कैसे बयां किया जाए कि कैसी हूं, जिंदगी में क्या चल रहा है, कोई परेशानी तो नहीं, दिल लग रहा है या नहीं।

आखिर तमाम जज्बातों को लब्जों में पिरोना आसान काम तो नहीं।

खैरियत न्वजाने वाले फरिश्तों से झूठ भी तो नहीं बोला जाता मगर दिल के हालात कोई कैसे बयां करे।

कैसे बताऊं कि तन्हाई अब बेमुरख हो चुकी है,

कैसे बताऊं कि सूरत - ए - जस्बात का कोई कदरदन नहीं मिलता,

कैसे बताऊं कि बेमकसद लोग मेरी जिंदगी के मकसद को फिजूल ठहराते रहे हैं, ताउम्र !

कैसे बताऊं कि मुस्तकबिल की फिक्र सताने लगी है,

कैसे बताऊं कि कोई अपना छूट गया हमेशा के लिए,

कैसे बताऊं कि कोई इज्जत - ए - नब्ज कुचल देता है बार बार,

कैसे बताऊं कि मैंने अनजाने में किसी का दिल दुखा दिया,

कि मेरी अना, मेरी वफ़ा की तौहीन कर दी गई।

कैसे बताऊं कि किसी बेहद करीबी ने सब कुछ लूट लेने की कोशिश की।

कैसे बताऊं कि सामने दिख रही मंजिल तक किस कदर घूम कर पहुंच रही हूं मैं,

कैसे बताऊं कि तमाम दर्दों को इलाज नहीं, दिमागी फितूर के नाम का ताज मिलता आ रहा है।

कैसे बताऊं कि अपनो के बीच बेगाना सा लगता है,
कि गैरों के बीच बदनाम किया गया है,
कि राष्ट्रा ही नहीं रहा अपनो से।

कैसे बताऊं कि नए लोगों से मिलने का शौख नहीं,
पुराने लोगों को भूलने की नाकाम कोशिश है।

कैसे बताऊं कि दिल में तबाही का मंजर है,
तमाम जस्बात आंसुओं में सिमट कर रह गए है
की किसी की जरूरत बेहद है।

कैसे बताऊं कि किसी से लिपट कर जोर से रोने का दिल करता है,
कि सबकुछ बदलने का दिल करता है।

मगर कुछ नहीं बदलेगा ,
ना इंसान, ना हालात।

बेहतर है जस्बात बदल दिए जाएं ।

तमाम उलझनों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए दिल में सही और गलत का फैसला चलता रहता है।
और फिर तमाम परेशान ख्यालात जैसे एक साथ बोल पड़ते हैं - "सब ठीक है " ।

**23. Shreya Ghosh
(M.A. Final Year)**



एक नयी सुबह

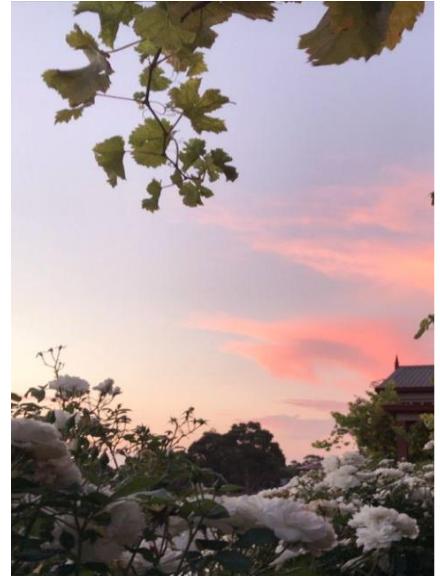
जिनसे हुई पुरे जगत की सृष्टि,
जिनकी माया है अपरम्पार,
क्यों खींची जाती है रस्मों कसमों से

उन्हीं की डोर हरबार!

हर मकान को तुने है घर बनाया,
तेरे रूप में है हमने सबको पाया,
सहनशीलता का दुजा नाम नारी है कहलाया,
इस संसार का दस्तूर सम्भालते हुए आया।

जो खुद के लिए कुछ मांगा नहीं,
समाज के शर्तों के आगे कुछ कहा नहीं,
बस जीना है औरों के लिए
क्या उनकी पहचान है बस यही?

अब भी वक्त है एक नया इतिहास रचने का,
जहा ज़ज़बा होगा, अपनी उड़ान भरने का
जो आज तक थे अपने रूतबे से अंजान,
कल वहीं नारी कहलाएंगी पुरे देश की शान !





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL



National e-Conference on "Journey of Women's Studies Centers in India: Problems, Potentials and Prospects" (4th – 5th August, 2020)

Women's Development Cell has successfully organized a National e-Conference on the topic "Journey of Women's Studies Centers in India: Problems, Potentials and Prospects" from 4th-5th August, 2020. This workshop aimed at providing a forum to the scholars and practitioners of Women's Studies to reflect on challenges and opportunities for Women's Studies Centers in India and to explore the possibilities of networking and collaborations. The event was attended by several students from varied departments.



International Web-Talk on "Rethinking Gender and Human Security: A Global Perspective" (8th August, 2020)

International Web-Talk was auspiciously organized by Women's Development Cell on the topic "Rethinking Gender and Human Security: A Global Perspective" for our college students on 8th August, 2020. The main objective of the Web-Talk was to analyze women's position and challenges who are at the margin: The unheard voices of women refugees, women migrants, sex workers, health workers, women prisoners in the COVID-19 crisis and to create a meaningful dialogue on the need for a gender sensitive framework of human security. The Eminent speakers of the Web-Talk were **Prof. Araceli Alonso** (Co-Director of UNESCO Chair on Gender, Wellbeing and Culture of Peace, 4W Director of Gender, Health and Clinical Practice, Co-Director 4W-TREETS (Social Transformation to End Trafficking for Sex), Gender and Women's Studies, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US).

The second speaker was **Prof. Anita Singh** (Professor, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University& Co-Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, FSS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi).

The third speaker was **Prof. Geeta Patel** (Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures & Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, US).

The fourth speaker was **Dr. Lindsey Churchill** (Associate Professor of History & Director, Women's Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center & Program Director, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Central Oklahoma, US). The event was attended by a number of students and various faculty members from different universities of India as well as of Abroad.



Celebration of International Women's Day (8th March, 2021)

Women's Development Cell has celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March, 2021. The event was attended by various students from different departments of our college.



One Day Legal Awareness Workshop on “Legal Provisions & Protective Measures for Women” (29th July, 2021)

One Day Legal Awareness Workshop was organized by Women’s Development Cell on the topic “Legal Provisions & Protective Measures for Women” on 29th July, 2021. The workshop aimed at making students aware about the legal provisions and safeguards for women. It also provided information as of to empower the youth of our country with the knowledge of their legal rights and duties, ultimately to be able to share power equally, gain full access to the means of development. The workshop was divided **into three sessions**. The first session was on the topic **“Cyber Crime Against Women: Special Reference to Information Technology Act”**. The lecture was delivered by **Prof. G.P. Sahoo** (Faculty of Law, BHU, Varanasi). The second session was on the topic **“The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013”**. The lecture was delivered by **Dr. K. Syamala** (Associate Professor-cum-Director (Research & Training), National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi).

The third session was on the topic “**Manipulating Your Society-Glimpses of Security Threats in the Modern World and Things You Can’t Do About It**” and the lecture was delivered by **Mr. Utkarsh Verma** (Software Engineer, Infosys, Pune). So many students became a part of this session.

Celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava (25th September, 2021)

E-Quiz Competition was jointly organized by Women’s Development Cell & The Department of Political Science under the aegis of IQAC on the topic “Role of Women in the Indian National Movement & Constitutional Development” on 25th September, 2021 to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava.

Student Development Programme on “Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities in Present Times” (24th November, 2021)

Women’s Development Cell, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi in association with ICFAI Business School has organized Student Development Program on the topic “Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities in Present Times” on 24th November, 2021. Lecture was delivered by **Prof. Arun K Kaul** (Faculty member IBS Gurgaon). The program was attended lots of students from different departments of the college.



Career Development Workshop (17th-25th January, 2022)

Adore India in collaboration with Women's Development Cell & Student Research Development Cell under the aegis of IQAC has successfully organised Career development Workshop from 17th-25th January, 2022. The main objective of the workshop was to improve personalized development, to create resumes that get attentions and results, to ace the job interview and build trustworthy relations at a workplace. The workshop was attended by various students of the college.

