

NATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON  
**WOMEN'S JOURNEY TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT:  
MYTH OR REALITY?**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

VENUE: MUKTIPRANA SABHAGRIHA

33, SRI MAA SARADA SARANI, DUMDUM, KOLKATA-700055

Organised by



**RAMAKRISHNA SARADA MISSION VIVEKANANDA VIDYABHAVAN  
DEPARTMENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION**

In collaboration with



**LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE, KOLKATA**

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## Seminar Abstract

People are born female or male, but learn to be girls and boys who grow into women and men. They are taught what the appropriate behavior and attitudes, roles and activities are for them and how they should relate to other people. These learnt attributes are what constitute their gender identities and determine their gender roles. A gender analysis identifies, analyses and helps to act upon inequalities that arise from the different roles of women and men or the unequal power relationships between them and also the consequences of that inequality on their lives, health and well being. Empirical research in recent years has unveiled the fact that women occupy a marginalized position in society. That women are unequally treated, particularly in the third world societies, is evident from the perception of high mortality rate of women, their unhealthy living conditions, malnutrition and their lack of education, killing of girl child, abusing women and such other acts. Amartya Sen in his essay 'Gender Inequality and Theories of Justice' has observed that the total number of 'missing women' in Asia and North Africa is quite large (more than fifty million in China and thirty seven million in India), compared to that of Europe and North America, the total exceeding hundred million worldwide. By capitalizing the case of 'missing women' all over the world, he attempted to make us aware of the growing problems of gender inequality in matters of life and death

We have seen through ages that women have been discriminated against on biological, sexual, economic, social and several other grounds. Feminist movements have emerged with a set of social theories and practices that are critical of past and present social relations. These feminist approaches, in spite of in-house differences, share a common view that social, political, cultural and institutional frameworks that create and dictate the pattern of women's lives are unjust. The alarming issues, against which the feminist scholars are attempting to raise their voices, are that of social injustice and inequality against women. These feminist movements are primarily motivated and informed by the experiences of women. The lived experiences of women reveal systematic subordination of women to men. The reason behind such unequal treatment might be the unequal power structure and unjust social arrangement, which through ages has strengthened this power hierarchy. We

need to break this belief. We need to oppose this unequal treatment towards women. Patriarchy for its own survival projects women as vulnerable and inadequate, but reality tell us a different story. Woman's lived-experience shows that she is different but not below non-human. Let us voice our opinions against this myth that 'women are weak and vulnerable'.

This National Seminar would precisely try to harp on the concept of empowerment par se and would focus on some major arenas to understand the concept of empowerment in regard to women.

Submission of abstracts and full paper Papers are invited from diverse disciplines for presentation and publication. Papers should be in strict adherence related to the following themes:

Theme 1: Conceptualising Women Empowerment.

Theme 2: Women Protagonists in Literature (to focus on women empowerment)

Theme 3: Does access to education and technology empower women?

Theme 4: Are working women really empowered?

Theme 5: Striving to find her own voice: Women and their lived experiences

Interested participants are requested to send an abstract within 500 words to [rksmvv.seminar2017@gmail.com](mailto:rksmvv.seminar2017@gmail.com) on or before 31<sup>ST</sup> January, 2017. Papers must be typed in MS word, font: Times New Roman, font size 12, line spacing of 1.5. Selected abstracts will be intimated via emails within 7th February, 2017. The papers will be reviewed by a team of experts and selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings with ISSN recognition. Selection of full papers will be intimated via email after the seminar. Registration fees of Rupees 200 (for academicians and teachers) and Rupees 100(for scholars and students) to be deposited on either of the days of the seminar.

Participation in the seminar has to be confirmed via email before 15<sup>th</sup> March for considering the number of food packets.

**For any further communication, do feel free to contact the**

**Joint Coordinators:**

Dr. Bidisha Chatterjee – 9830422366

Dr. Payal Bose Biswas – 9831191328

Smt. Tanju Dutta – 9831025380