

DIPLOMA IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

INTRODUCTION

The United Theological College, Bangalore founded in 1910 is an ecumenical institution imparting a life-centered theological education and fostering a spirituality that promotes justice, peace and solidarity with the poor and the oppressed in India. Women's Studies at UTC began as a program in February 1994 and became an integral part of theological education. Ever since, Women's Studies has not only been an academic discipline but one that was connected well with local NGOs and People's Movements. This is the first time however, that a formal program, namely Diploma in Women's Studies, is designed for the benefit of those even outside UTC.

The Diploma in Women's Studies is offered for women and men regardless of their faith orientation and practice, who are keen to make a difference in the society/world in which they live. The program is envisaged with two major components of theory and praxis, in order to build a society that is a little more sensitive to the issue of injustice, discrimination and violence against women. Importance will be given to understanding and analyzing the structure and ideology of patriarchy that is manifest and operative in our everyday lives in numerous ways. Becoming aware of gender issues opens new possibilities of becoming aware of one's "self", one's understanding and interpretation of the society, one's faith, religion and spirituality.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Understand, Unmask and Undo Patriarchy
- Critically position our "self" as women and men in society
- Develop a critical perspective to view the world differently
- Address various forms of Violence against Women in our time
- Networking and solidarity with people's movements for justice
- Building Peace with Justice: Women as Agents of peace

METHODOLOGY

The Diploma in Women's Studies is envisaged as a two-term program beginning in September and ending in March. The Course is designed within praxis framework (action-reflection-action) where the students are expected to attend a three-day session of classes every month and rest of the time, will be assigned to different centers/ NGOs related to gender issues such as Vimochana, Women's Voice, CISRS, ISI, WINA, Samvada and other centers. Their work will be monitored where the students will be expected to present weekly reports of different issues that they have covered during the month. The first week and the final week of the program will be a whole week program for initial input and evaluation respectively. A 4000-word project is to be submitted at the end of the Program.

TIME FRAME

COURSES DURING TERM I	CREDIT
Introducing Gender Issues and Patriarchy	2
Understanding Structures of Power/Ideology in society	2
Women in Religion and Society	2
Violence Against Women	2

COURSES DURING TERM II	CREDIT
Dalit / Tribal / Adivasi: Critical engagement with issues	2
Rereading Scriptures/Traditions with new Eyes	2
Women Media and Development	2
Women as Agents of Transformation in Church/Society	2
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COURSES DURING TERM III	CREDIT
Participation in Women's/ People's Movements	2
Visit to NGOs and other related agencies	4
Project work	6

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION FOR THE PROGRAM: + 2 / II PUC Reasonable proficiency in English

COURSE FEE: Rs. 10,000 / - (Limited scholarships available)

RESOURCE POOL: Resource persons will be from a pool of scholars, activists, theologians, those in Movements. The marginalized and discriminated in society will not be "objects" of our study but subjects who will teach us to understand and live life differently.

Coordinators

Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar

Dr. Lalrinawmi Ralte (Rini)

For details please contact:

The Registrar, United Theological College,
63, Miller's Road, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046

Tel: 91-80-2333-3438, 2333-0503, 2333-9269,

Fax: 91-80-2333-0015

Website: www.womenutc.com

www.utcbangalore.in