



Editor - in – Chief: Prof.K.MANIMEKALAI

Editors : Mrs.P.Sindhuja
Mrs.S.Geetha
Ms.S.Karthika
Mr.M.Paranthaman
Mr.B.Pon Vignesh

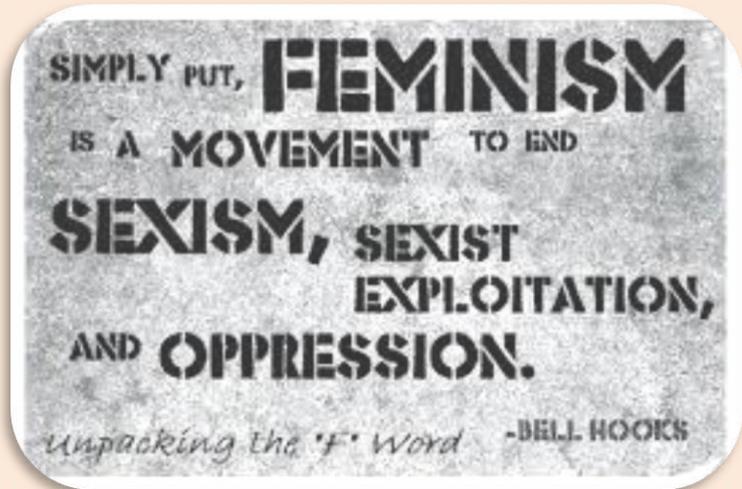
Editorial desk

It is universally accepted that like all human beings, women too, have the right to freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity as their male counterparts do, all over the world. Yet the position of women has always been a subordinate one. Despite protests, movements, agitations and other means of resistance, there has been no respite from this social evil. Gender discrimination continues even in the present times. There has been a steady decline in the proportion of the female sex all over the world as well as in India. Though the number of working women is increasing, there are certain fields in which the entry of women is still barred. In the world of sports, the female players are paid less than their male counter-parts. In the higher jobs too Female Diplomats, Female Politicians, Female Judges and Female Executives have a long way to go to attain the equality in proportion. Health Care, Education, Literacy Rate, Income Ratio and Social Status are the different parameters by which the position of women is gauged to be lower than that of men. In every walk of life, women were and are still marginalized and of lower status than men because women always have been subjugated to subordinate status by men. This problem of subordination and marginalization of women needs a solution. The empowerment of women is one of the solutions to the problems of inequality, subordination and marginalization that women face in the society. However this kind of empowerment is only partial, for all though they have economic and political power, they are kept out of decision making or they are dependent on their husband, father or brother for crucial decisions. Hence in order to change this situation, it is necessary that women have to realize their own nature and understand the value of their own existence. When they realize their own nature they will have confidence and will participate in decision making independently. This issue highlights the steps taken by the UN , in promoting Gender Equity and Equality for the Sustainable Development.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

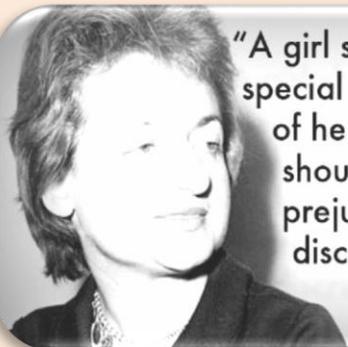
Man is defined as a human being and a woman as a female whenever she behaves as a human being she is said to imitate the male.

Simone de Beauvoir
PICTUREQUOTES.COM



"Feminism has fought no wars. It has killed no opponents. It has set up no concentration camps, starved no enemies, practiced no cruelties. Its battles have been for education, for the vote, for better working conditions...for safety on the streets... for child care, for social welfare...for rape crisis centers, women's refuges, reforms in the law. If someone says, "Oh, I'm not a feminist," I ask, "Why, what's your problem?""

~ Dale Spender



"A girl should not expect special privileges because of her sex but neither should she adjust to prejudice and discrimination."

— Betty Friedan

Marriage is the only form of slavery permitted by law

~ John Stuart Mill ~



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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY

At a UN summit on 25th September 2015, 193 Member States of the UN unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes an ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The framework brings together the three dimensions of Sustainable Development - Economic, Social and Environmental—with 17 goals and 169 targets to be met by all countries before 2030.

The 2030 Agenda is a comprehensive agenda that reaffirms previous agreements, such as the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, as well as Agenda 21 and the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The Agenda is universal and based on the principles of human rights. Goal 5 to “Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls” is recognized as critical to the successful implementation of all goals.

It is noteworthy that during CSW 60, the priority theme was “Women’s Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development”. The Agreed Conclusions made important recommendations to ensure that the Agenda 2030 was gender-responsive, providing an important basis for discussions during the HLPF (High Level Political Forum).

Nine Targets for Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Laws and Policies need to be urgently reviewed, amended or abolished as a first step towards achieving substantive gender equality, complemented by measures to change discriminatory social norms and practices.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference

on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conference.

- Undertake reforms to give women equal right to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 2017

The theme of the high level political forum in 2017 (10-19 July in New York) is *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.”*

Each year, a cluster of goals is under review.

The set of goals to be reviewed in 2017 are:

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal14 Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for sustainable development (reviewed in-depth every year)

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 2018

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held in July 2018 for eight days, including the three-day ministerial meeting.

The theme will be *“Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies”*. The set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development that will be considered each year:

- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

In 2018, 48 countries will be conducting voluntary national reviews at the HLPF.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

30 Articles in CEDAW

Part I

- Discrimination (Article 1)
- Policy Measures (Article 2)
- Guarantee of Basic Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Article 3)
- Special Measures (Article 4)
- Sex Role Stereotyping and Prejudice (Article 5)
- Prostitution (Article 6)

Part II

- Political and Public Life (Article 7)
- Representation (Article 8)
- Nationality (Article 9)

Part III

- Education (Article 10)
- Employment (Article 11)
- Health (Article 12)
- Economic and Social Benefits (Article 13)
- Rural Women (Article 14)

Part IV

Law (Article 15)

Marriage and Family Life (Article 16)

Part V

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (Article 17)

National Reports (Article 18)

Rules of procedure (Article 19)

Committee Meetings (Article 20)

Committee Reports (Article 21)

Role of Specialized Agencies (Article 22)

Part VI

Effect on Other Treaties (Article 23)

Commitment of States Parties (Article 24)

Administration of the Convention (Article 25-30)

NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women's Studies, also known as **feminist studies** is an interdisciplinary academic field that explores politics, society, media, and history from women's and/or feminist perspectives or it examines socially- and culturally-defined gender roles. It is closely related to the broader field of **Gender studies**. Women Studies is the study of subjects relating to women, their roles in history and their contributions to society.

Origin and Development of Women Studies International and National Settings

Women's studies were first born as an academic rubric apart from other departments in the late 1960s, as the second wave of feminism gained political influence in the academy through student and faculty activism. As an academic discipline, it was modeled on the American studies and ethnic studies (such as Afro-American studies) and Chicano Studies programs that had arisen shortly before it. **Women's Studies** is an *Interdisciplinary* university curriculum originating in the United States in the late 1960s. Almost simultaneously in 1969–1970, the first women's studies courses appeared in a handful of American Universities.

The first accredited Women's Studies course was held in 1969 at Cornell University. The first two Women's Studies Programs in the United States were established in 1970 at San Diego State College (now San Diego State University). They were offerings undergraduate team taught and provided overviews of the issues that arose out of the women's liberation movement. The SDSU program was initiated after a year of intense organizing of women's consciousness raising groups, rallies, petition circulating and operating unofficial or

experimental classes and presentations before seven committees and assemblies. Carol Rowell Council was the student cofounder along with Dr. Joyce Nower, a literature instructor. In 1972, Sarah Lawrence College became the first institution to grant Masters Degrees in Women's History. Throughout the later 1970s many universities and colleges created departments and programs in women's studies, and professorships became available in the field which did not require the sponsorship of other departments. Within thirty years, it developed into a recognized discipline with undergraduate majors, masters and doctorate programs, university departments and programs, a scholarly literature of books and journals, and professional associations.

The landscape of higher education changed dramatically in the 1960s as larger numbers of women and minorities entered the professorate and the number and size of institutions grew. Many of the women who entered the academy in the next decade had been influenced by the women's movement and undertook research on women. Thus, scholarship on women grew in the existing disciplines and was designated as feminist scholarship. The field of women's studies emerged as the site for investigating these questions, forging new subject matter, employing multiple research methodologies and experimenting with pedagogies that took into account gender differences in learning styles. Research revealed that new information and interpretations about women forced a reframing of what was known about men and masculinities at any given time or place.

- *Will be continued in the next month bulletin.....*

GLOSSARY OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender Perspective: scrutinizes the problems/constraints, needs, interests and their relative significance from the standpoint of either women or men.

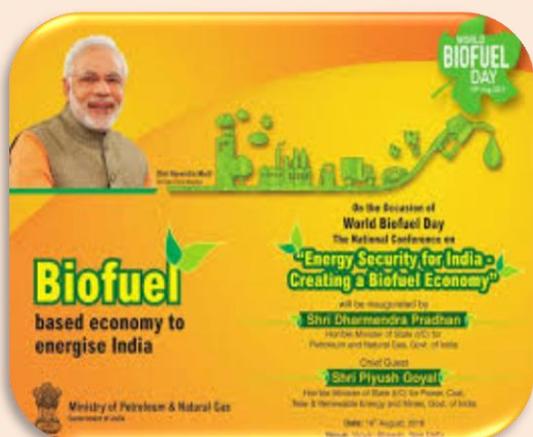
Gender Planning: The formulation of specific strategies, which aim to provide equal opportunities and benefits for both men and women.

Gender sensitivity: Is the capacity to recognize the needs and constraints faced by women and men as well as their interests and perceptions in relation to the difference in their social status.

Gender-sensitivity indicator: Refers to a figure, fact or perception aimed at indicating the degree and level to which a program or project attains its set objectives and succeeds in improving gender equity.

GLIMPSES OF THE MONTH

10th August - World Bio - Fuel Day



Every year 10th August is observed as World Bio-Fuel Day in a bid to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels). On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil. His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace the fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines. Thus to mark this extraordinary achievement, World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August.

12th August - International Youth Day



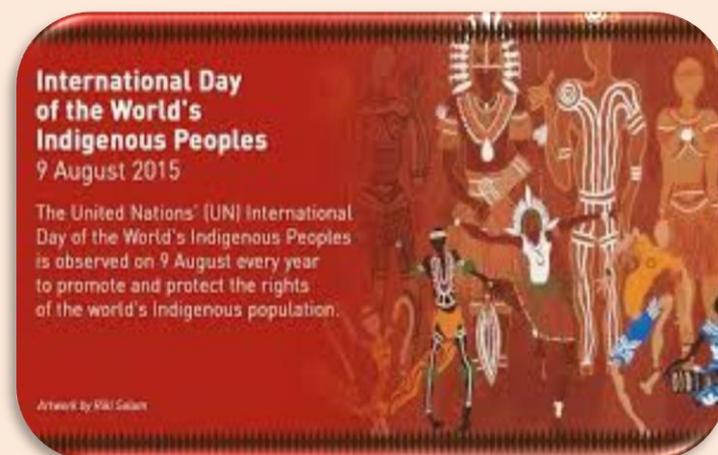
International Youth Day 2017 is dedicated to celebrate young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

International Youth Day is observed annually on 12th August. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide. During IYD, concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organizations take place around the world.

IYD was designated by the United Nations in 1999 with the adoption of Resolution 54/120.

International Youth Day's Slogan for 2014 was Youth and Mental Health. For 2015, it was Youth and Civic Engagement. The theme of the 2016 International Youth Day was "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production." For 2017, the theme of IYD is "Youth Building Peace" which recognizes the contributions of young people to prevent conflict, support inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

18th August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



The theme for the day in 2017 is 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'. Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Its major focus was on alarming statistics on indigenous peoples' poverty, health, education, employment, human rights, environment and more.

19th August - World Humanitarian Day



“A person who has sympathy for mankind in the lump, faith in its future progress, and desire to serve the great cause of this progress, should be called not a humanist, but a humanitarian, and his creed may be designated as humanitarianism.” – Irving Babbitt

Every day, humanitarian aid workers stand on the front lines of war and disaster, braving tremendous dangers and difficulties to deliver assistance to those who need it most. World Humanitarian Day (WHD), which takes place every year on 19 August, recognizes the aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service and mobilizes people to advocate for humanitarian action. The day was designated by the General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

20th August - Sadbhavna Diwas



Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on the 20th of August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the erstwhile Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi was the grandson of the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi assumed the office of the Prime Minister upon the assassination of his mother, and was the sixth Prime Minister of India serving from a period between 1984- 1989. Rajiv Gandhi held the honour of being the youngest Prime Minister at an age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (English: Rajiv Gandhi National Communal Harmony Award) is an Indian award given for outstanding contribution towards promotion of communal harmony, national integration and peace. The award was instituted by All India Congress Committee of the Indian National Congress Party (INC), in 1992 to commemorate the lasting contribution made by the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, carries a citation and a cash award of Rs.10 lakhs. It is given on 20th August the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, which is celebrated as Sadbhavna Diwas (Harmony Day).
