

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(Accredited with “A+” Grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.64) in the Third Cycle & Graded as Category-I University and
Granted Autonomy by MHRD-UGC)

KARAIKUDI - 630 003

Date: 5.12.2018

The Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Chennai and Ford Trust, Tiruppattur, conducted an “Awareness Programme on Social Empowerment of Women through Eradication of Dowry System” on 4th December 2018.



While welcoming the gathering, Prof. K. Manimekalai, Head, Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University, said that by providing adequate education and employment to women, the impact of this evil system can be wiped out. Quoting the National Crime Records Bureau Prof. Manimekalai said while 2500 bride-burning incidents are brought to the notice of the police every year, the number of dowry deaths is said to be about 9000 in India and this number is increasing at a rate of 1 to 2 per cent every year. 21 dowry deaths are reported across the country every day but the conviction rate is only 34.7%. She added that dwindling ration of 940 women per 1000 men is a also cause for concern. She asked women to be courageous to face challenges and seek employment and that would make them economically independent so as to get confidence.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, in his presidential address said that in India the ancient dowry system was a gesture of love shown by parents at the time of the marriage ceremony of their daughters but as time changed, the system was abused and it was transformed into a vital source of income for bridegrooms’ families to meet the pressing social

needs. He further stated that imparting socially relevant education to all women would be the major solution to end this evil system of dowry in India. He emphasized that education alone could play a key role in bring about social transformation; and hence women should get adequate education, acquire knowledge and be economically independent to overcome the issues and problems related to the dowry system. The eradication of the system will not only raise the standard of living of women but also emancipate them from the heinous crimes indulged in by the patriarchal society.

Mr.SP. Manikandan, Senior Lawyer, Karaikudi, in the course of his special address, expatiated on the loss of domestic rhythm, because of the cruel practice of dowry. Today Family Courts, Mahila Courts and All Women Police Stations have been established exclusively to help women find solutions to the issues confronting them. He added that awareness programmes of this type will go a long way in strengthening the laws for protecting women from the problems encountered by them and also putting an end to the cruel acts done because of dowry system.

As a sequel to the programme a documentary film produced by the UNICEF was screened to create awareness among the students, both men and women, of the University. Mr. Paul Azhagarajan, Director, Ford Trust, proposed a vote of thanks. More than 250 students were enlightened through the conduct of this awareness programme. The students took an oath to prevent the dowry system.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu

REGISTRAR