

Report
On
Pedagogical Aspects in Development of Women Studies Curriculum
25th February, 2021.

A meeting on “Pedagogical Aspects in Development of Women Studies Curriculum” was organized as a precursor to the two-day workshop on Women Studies Curriculum ably supported by Teaching Learning Centre of Tezpur University. The convenor of the meeting welcomed the experts and laid the objectives of the meeting. The questions were framed for the experts like incorporation of multidisciplinary knowledge for an interdisciplinary teaching programme. How to develop minimum proficiency of methodologies and languages across the broad range of feminist scholarship. The concern for students coming in almost from all directions / disciplines having good information, but disconnected from history, geography of the region is also a major concern for thought. The experts in the domain attended and presented their ideas and suggestions on nature of pedagogy of Women Studies in Higher Education.

Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta University focused on the issue of adequate theorization of the vast knowledge bank of women studies. The issue of discrimination and inequality needs to be theorized. Focus on ground reality issue of representation, locality history through photographs etc. new terminologies, emphasis on local issues and the scientific basis of emotion, different tools, methods and strategies to be integrated at the curriculum development level. A way out by integrating knowledge from different disciplines to develop new concepts and epistemologies was also reinforced in the discussion.

The second speaker **Dr. Vatsala Shukla** from SNDT University, Mumbai led to a futuristic curriculum on Employment, Industry and Women Studies. A democratic planning and use of innovative methods to be incorporated in the pedagogy. The varied experiences of the students during the internship, newer innovative tools, recreating knowledge using technological skills were to be incorporated in the curriculum. The expert delved on perception and expectation of the

students marketability. Smaller courses on education, media, banking sector, health, legal aspects, community organization and leadership development courses.

Without giving up the critical edge of women studies how can the employment scenario be improved was also a major concern debated in the discussion.

The third speaker **Dr.Madhumita Purkayastha** from DHSK College, Dibrugarh talked mainly from the literary perspective . She tried to trace the historical roots from the western literature. By referring to Virginia Woolf's A Room of Ones Own, she tried to integrate the idea that women studies should have a pedagogy of its own. The nature and the complex, dynamic, evolving process of the discipline cannot be limited to one system or fixed pedagogy of teaching and learning. This has to remain dynamic and continuous. The diversified needs of different learners i.e, students, faculties and corporate workers also needs to be addressed. Dr. Purkayastha was of the idea that the ratio of the practical components should be 60 and theory 40, which will give students a fair chance to explore field as a laboratory. She further elaborated that a centralized curriculum is not appreciated. The unique selling point of women studies can be in a passionate and collective manner by which portrayal of stories and narratives can be documented and it definitely has immense opportunities. A lot more emphasis should be in numbers which will reveal the statistical data of the inequality status in Assam.

Before thanking the experts the suggestions were taken for the intensive workshop on curriculum development. The experts recommended curriculum development, questions of gender (understanding and incorporation), language and use of technology for affective pedagogy. The vote of thanks was offered at the end of the meeting by the convenor.

[Some Screenshots of the Online Live Meeting:](#)



WSP Topics 2021 - Microsoft PowerPoint

Who is the "woman" or "feminist" of Feminist Pedagogy/WSP? Who enacts it?
 Feminist/WS academics?
 Activists? Researchers?
 Teachers with an interest in feminism?
 Teachers of WS, Gender Studies or other subjects?
 Theoreticians and those practicing "Gynocritics"?
 Creative writers practicing *Ecriture Feminine*?
 All women? All men?
 Some specific women and men?
Why/why not the non-normative "gender-queer"?

Click to add notes

10:21 AM 25-02-2021

Madhumita Purkayastha

WS Pedagogical Aspects 2021 - PowerPoint (Product Activation Failed)

WS PEDAGOGY – CRITICAL CONCERNS

- Current challenges of WSC – faculty, staff and students
- WS students and employment status
- Disconnect – course/career, gap in professional skills
- Dynamic job market - career opportunities, non-traditional career for WS students
- Pandemic and changing teaching-learning needs
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Newer blended courses
- Learners' expectations – professional courses, skill-based

29:10 / 1:30:13

Vanshi Shukla

Framework Developed in the workshop

The rapid expansion of the women's studies programme within the university system suggests a measure of their acceptance by the academic community. This however serves to hide the subtle ways in which feminist thought and actions are debated. The institutionalization of women's studies has created its own compulsions of meeting certain standards of theoretical sophistication. Women studies, thus becomes another discipline – a venue for career growth and the space for women's experiences and knowledge.

This particular workshop is aimed at the professional development of faculty in women studies and secondly curriculum development in women studies. There should be adequate theorization of the relativist and experiential knowledge within the discipline. To mainstream women studies

Tentative Schedule of the Workshop(online)

The workshop will be divided into seven sessions along with the keynote address by one of the experts in women studies .

Keynote address, Topic – **Divide between Theory and Praxis in Women Studies** : Prof . Sushila Kaushik

Session I -

Question of Gender in women studies: Prof. Manimekalai

Session II -

Feminist Methodology: Field as a laboratory: Prof. Samita Sen

Session III-

Development of Women Studies Curriculum: Prof. Mary John

Session IV-

Global / Local nexus in Women Studies: Prof. Indu Agnihotri

Session V

Women studies programs as repository of women's knowledge: Prof . Rekha Pande

Session VI

Engagement of women studies with Technology: Prof. Shaila Desouza

Session VII

Panel Discussion

Topic- Self –Reflection and Crossing Boundaries in Women Studies : Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath, Prof. Meena Gopal, Prof. Mini Sukumar. Moderator(Dr. Mousumi Mahanta)

Vote of Thanks : Dr. Ivy Daimary

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