

About the Department

Department of Women's Studies of The University of Burdwan has been established in the year 2015 with a full-fledged M A degree course on Women's Studies. Before that, it was under Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and conducted a regular M Phil Programme in Women's Studies as per UGC guidelines from 2007 to 2015.

Women's Studies, now also called Gender Studies, is an multi/interdisciplinary field of study devoted to innumerable pressing issues related to women's life and existence. It takes, in particular, the gender identity and gendered representation of women's thoughts and activities as a central category of analysis and theorising. As a distinctive academic discipline, Women's Studies has a core area of theories of its own, but it draws more on knowledge from various disciplines, humanities, social sciences, and sometimes from natural sciences, too. It is now admitted that all arenas of knowledge and practices are gendered, somehow or other. Hence we can say, it is multi/interdisciplinary field of inquiry, expanding the frontiers of knowledge onto the manifold facets of women's living with inequalities. This field now-a-days also includes masculinities studies, studies of the third gender/ transgender, and the like, in so far as these issues involve hierarchy and domination of power coming out of gender-relations and sexuality.

As a discipline, it is expected to empower women at large. Side by side, it has established the implicit social responsibility to transform/influence other disciplines to imbibe the feminist perspective, develop and empower women and increase their visibility in teaching, research and management in the universities, colleges and schools by enhancing their academic strength and competence. Recognised and indeed guided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Women's Studies is a discipline in the UGC's list of disciplines for the NET and JRF programmes.

And our MA degree course aims to develop critical consciousness of the intersections between ideas and material realities. Reputed university professors from different disciplines take special interests in educating the students in this gender direction. Apart from providing a broad liberal arts education, this course invites each student to explore and question the prevailing socio–eco–political realities. The course is open to graduates of any sex, and is arranged to develop in students those important skills required to work in different types of development agencies, governmental and non–governmental organisations, academia and media. The syllabus is regularly updated to cope up with the present realities.

And, as soon as we get the adequate number of full–time permanent teachers, we wish to start different research programmes leading to M Phil and Ph D degree in Women’s Studies.

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