

## **Report on Women Development Cell Activities**

A Women Developmental Cell is a mandated body as per section 32 (15) of UGC guidelines (prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions) regulation, 2015.

Under the guidelines of UGC, St .Xavier's Institute of Education inaugurated its women developmental cell - POTENTIA on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the presence of the Principal Dr. Sosamma Samuel, Sr. Natty Lopes, Assistant Director Of SAKHYA, An NGO And Ms. Shobha Philip, General Secretary Of YWCA, Mumbai.

The programme commenced with a short speech by Principal followed by the lighting of the lamp

The audience was made aware about the Objectives of Potentia - sensitization of students teachers , development of skills for handling gender related issues and create a gender empowered environment. Some action programmes like activity of conducting awareness session, gender sensitization workshops and competitions were discussed.

further programme was carried forward by the student members of Potentia. A brief introduction of the Logo 'Potentia' was given by Mr. Shannon Nogueira. A beautiful poem was composed, recited and enacted by the student members Ms. Rebecca Pereira and Ms. Atiya Patni to sensitize the issues of women. A short interview conducted by students was projected to show what various schools' teaching staff thinks about women development and what various measures have been take to empower today's women.

Mrs. Nishi Kumar, staff coordinator, spoke about creating awareness and being the voice to express one's thoughts which may lead to change in our society.

Dr. Vini Sebastian, staff coordinator spoke about the collaboration of Potentia and Young Women's Christian Association.

Ms. Shobha Phillip gave a brief introduction about the Association and how we can build a positive relationship between the two organizations. She highlighted the activities that can be conducted for the betterment of the society and enlightening

women about their strengths. In the second phase of the programme Sr. Natty Lopes conducted an activity to show diversity in our society and spoke about how we need to break stereotypes against any gender ,make provisions to end sexual harassment against women.

Further, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019 a talk was held on 'International Day for The Elimination of Violence Against Women'. On this day, there was an arrangement made to invite officials from the police department to make students aware about 'crime against women cell' attended by our collaborating partner YWCA

To spread awareness and to bring attention towards the underlying issues and gender discrimination faced at all levels, students voiced their opinions on important matters that affected the daily life of women students through the activities conducted each month under the WDC.

In the month of December 2019, Students penned down their thoughts reflecting upon such sensitive issues.

In the month of January, students expressed their thoughts, ideas on women empowerment, not only in words but in pictorial form through paintings. The expressions was creative and it also led many to start thinking about the issue of gender in our country more critically and what can be done about it.

In February two of the First Year students attended the programme conducted by YWCA on women's empowerment and transformation

Currently another activity is going on where the members of WDC, have created an expression space for all on the idea of how 'I feel empowered as a teacher in my own skin', where the students can express their view points verbal pictorial and symbolic form.

And Today as we all know on the occasion of Women's Day on 8th March, 2020 we conducted the Panel discussion which was initiated by YWCA and they also helped us in organizing it in our Institute with all the eminent personalities whom we heard today, we are very grateful to YWCA for collaborating with SXIE and guiding us to create a more enlightened environment here in the context of gender .

Gender audit was also conducted in the First and the Second year B,Ed classroom. The attempt was to check if the students are aware whether their institution's facilities and functioning are gender friendly or no. the following areas were investigated

1. Gender sensitization as apart of B.Ed. Programme
2. The basic facilities available for female students
3. The infrastructural facilities available for the students
4. Safety & Security arrangements
5. WDC & ICC and approachability of the institute for students who want to reach out for some or the other reasons to WDC
6. Healthcare facilities
7. Opportunities available for female students
8. Interactions and display artefact are women friendly

Out of 99 students we received 84 responses and the result show that

Sr. No.	Items	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
1.	Gender sensitization as a part of B.Ed. Programme	91%	2%	7%
2.	The basic facilities of hygiene available for female students	80%	4.5%	15.5%
3.	The infrastructural facilities available for the students	78.6 %	9.5 %	11.9 %
4.	Safety & Security arrangements	90.5%	3.4%	7.1%

5.	Existence of WDC & ICC and approachability of the institute for students who want to reach out for some or the other reasons to WDC	89.3%	00	10.7%
6.	Healthcare facilities	39.3%	22.6	38.1%
7.	Opportunities available for female students	84.7%	5.9%	9.4%
8.	Interactions and display artefact are women friendly	89.3%	6%	4.7%