

**Women Development Cell**  
**One Day Seminar on**  
**‘Challenges to Women's Development, Empowerment and Liberation in**  
**Contemporary India'**

**Report**

Ghanshyamdas Saraf College's Women's Development Cell organized a State Level Seminar in association with Maharashtra State Commission for Women, and University of Mumbai Women's Development Cell, on 'Challenges to Women's Development, Empowerment and Liberation in Contemporary India' at on **Wednesday, July 31, 2019**.

The seminar started with the lamp lighting ceremony and invocation of Goddess Saraswati, followed by a welcome address by Principal CA Dr. Jayant Apte .He emphasized the need for women's forum as the first step towards women empowerment. The tone of the seminar was set by the Convener of Women's Development Cell of the College, Dr. Shagun Srivastava who highlighted the objectives of the Cell, and the various activities conducted to spread awareness about issues related to gender.

Dr. Gita Chadha, Chairperson of the University of Mumbai Women's Development Cell, presided as the Chief Guest and the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Chadha who is an academician, researcher addressed the audience on ' Women and Gender: Perspectives from Women's movements' focusing on gender stereotypes created and reinforced by the society and media. The talk started with an overview of gender discrimination, the way it is perpetrated in both domestic, as well as public spheres. She elucidated the manner in which psychological constructs of masculinity and femininity pose a hindrance to women empowerment, and one's need to break free from these. She also highlighted the need to deconstruct gender-restrictive roles that subvert domestic work as economically unproductive. Dr. Chadha addressed the role of educational institutions, women's forums, politics, and media as primary in this regard. The address concluded with a message of the need for women to stand up against their exploitation, solidarity between women regardless of their socio-cultural and economic stature, and an active participation of men in feminist movements against the various forms of violence and exploitation.

Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson of Maharashtra State Commission for Women made her virtual presence via a brief audio-visual message that expressed her concern over the rising need to tackle various issues related to women, the role of the Commission, and the many challenges that lie before the government.

Prof. Charmie Dalal, Member, Women's Development Cell of the College provided the audience with a brief introduction of the panel members, highlighting their respective areas of expertise. It

was followed by a panel discussion on 'Violence Against Women: Problems and Solutions' by the members that included Dr. Gita Chadha, Chairperson, University Women Development Cell, Mrs. Mangala Marathe, Secretary, Swadhar, (NGO at Goregaon West, Mumbai), Mrs. Pooja Kute Lawyer and Activist, and Mrs. Aruna Jogalekar, Artist, Director, Writer, and Producer, which was coordinated by Dr. Lipi Mukherjee, Chief-Coordinator, Self-finance Department of the College. The discussion opened with identifying different forms of violence, and the way it can be traced to the legitimization of violent behaviours that are encoded since childhood.

Dr. Chadha expressed her views on the ways in which systems of power like patriarchy initiate violence against women. She highlighted on the women becoming doubly susceptible to violence due to this, both in the domestic as well as the public domain. Mrs. Kute added the role of judiciary in tackling the concern of violence against women. She elaborated on the significance of having a supportive legal system, and the awareness of the same by the women to assert their rights, highlighting the 'Manodhairya Scheme', that provides psychological and economic relief to the survivors of sexual assault and acid attacks. Mrs. Kute emphasized the role of law and order, and society together in making these legal schemes accessible to women. Mrs. Marathe highlighted the role of NGOs as a support system to the survivors of violence, and their families by aiding in legal and medical correspondence. She emphasized the contribution of family, educational institutions, workplaces, and women's forums, as fundamental in curbing violence against women. Mrs. Jogalekar highlighted the role of media- newspaper, social media, and art that reinforce both subtle and overt forms of violence against women. She emphasized on the portrayal of women in media, and the way it operates as a result of culture to create a collective, stereotypical identity.

The discussion was also received enthusiastically by the audience which concluded with an interactive session on honour killings, cyber-crime, workplace harassment, role of self-defence workshops, helplines, and counsellors while tackling the same, and an agreement of the need for a free interaction, and sensitization of the society regarding gender-based violence. The discussion was concluded by emphasizing the significance of Internal Committees to be approachable to the women, and to be updated with the knowledge of various laws and legal schemes.

The second part of the seminar comprised of paper presentations by academicians, professionals, and research scholars on themes like the contribution of women entrepreneurs, gender stereotypes, objectification of women, to name a few. The paper presentation session was concluded by a discussion on the various themes of the papers by Mrs. Mangala Marathe and Prof. Shripad Joshi, who chaired the session.

The Valedictory was conducted by Prof. Mamta Chhajer, who thanked all the paper presenters for their enthusiastic participation in the Seminar.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Vice Principal Prof. Gopal Sonar, who extended his appreciation to the participants and the paper presenters, and encouraged them for continued hard work. Prof. Sonar also expressed his gratitude to the Management, Academic, Administrative, and Technical Staff, and Student Volunteers for their support. The Seminar concluded with the distribution of certificates and Seminar proceedings to the paper presenters by Mrs. Mangala Marathe and Prof. Sonar. Dr. Shagun Srivastava, Convener of the Women Development Cell of the College, also expressed her immense gratitude to the Committee for their support and hard work.

Dr. Shagun Srivastava  
Convener -WDC





RSET's

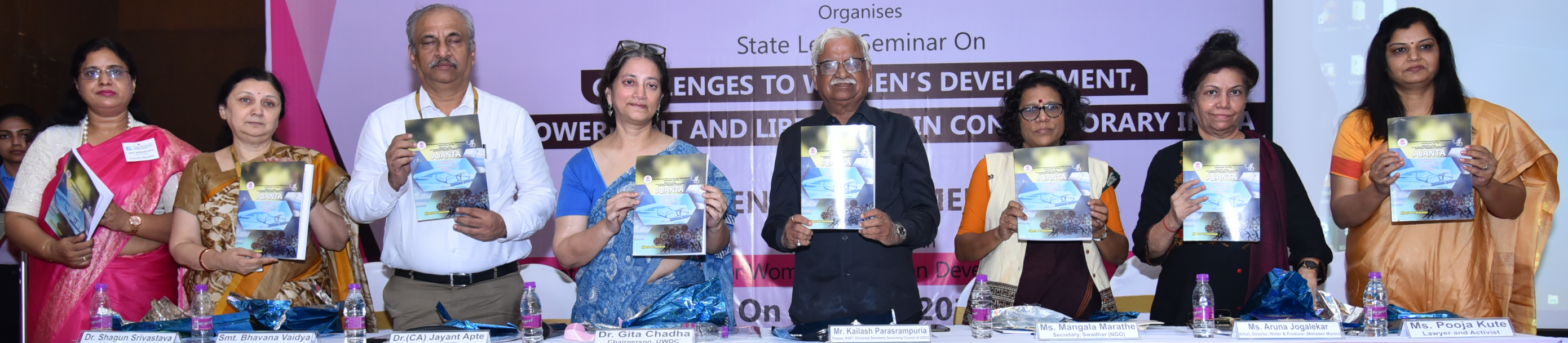
Ghanshyamdas Saraf  
college of arts & commerce



UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

Accredited twice by NAAC with "A" Grade  
Organises  
State Level Seminar On

CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT,  
EMPOWERMENT AND LIBERATION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA



Dr. Shagun Srivastava  
Chairperson, WDC, GSCC

Smt. Bhavana Vaidya  
Administrator, GSCC

Dr.(CA) Jayant Apte  
Principal, GSCC

Dr. Gita Chadha  
Chairperson, UWDC

Mr. Kailash Parasrampur  
RSET's Secretary (Security & General Duties)

Ms. Mangala Marathe  
Secretary, Swadhar (NGO)

Ms. Aruna Jogalekar  
Artist, Director, Writer & Producer (Mahadevi Marathi)

Ms. Pooja Kute  
Lawyer and Activist



RSET's

Ghanshyamdas Saraf  
college of arts & commerce



UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

State Level Seminar

CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT,  
EMPOWERMENT AND LIBERATION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

JULY 31, 2019, WEDNESDAY

Chief Guest:

Ms. VIJAYA RAHATKAR, Chairperson MSCW

Guest of Honour:

Dr. GITA CHADHA, Chairperson, UWDC





श्रुति आस्तवर्क मुचला  
सन्ने लक्ष्मि के बाद विनी भी अल्लाह कर्तो से  
शान्दा केद, माई, दोनक, लमना, रामानिपम  
बजाना तथा फटके फोड़ना कस्त मना है।





MAHARASHTRA STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



RSET's

**Ghanshyamdas Saraf**  
**college of arts & commerce**



UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

Accredited twice by NAAC with "A" Grade  
Organises

State Level Seminar On

# **CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWERMENT AND LIBERATION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA**

Organised By

**WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CELL**

In association with

State Commission for Women Development Cell, University of Mumbai



Dr. Lipi Mukherjee



Dr. Shagun Srivastava  
Convener - WDC - GSCC



Dr. Gita Chadha  
Chairperson, UWDC



Mr. Kailash Parasrampur  
Hon. RSET, Honorary Secretary, Governing Council of GSCC



Ms. Mangala Marathe  
Secretary, Swadhar (NGO)



Ms. Aruna Jogalekar  
Artist, Director, Writer & Producer (Mahadevi Marathe)



Ms. Pooja Kute  
Lawyer and Activist



MAHARASHTRA STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



RSET's

**Ghanshyamdas Saraf**  
**college of arts & commerce**



UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

**State Level Seminar**

# **CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWERMENT AND LIBERATION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA**

**JULY 31, 2019, WEDNESDAY**

Chief Guest:

**Ms. VIJAYA RAHATKAR, Chairperson MSCW**

Guest of Honour:

**Dr. GITA CHADHA, Chairperson, UWDC**