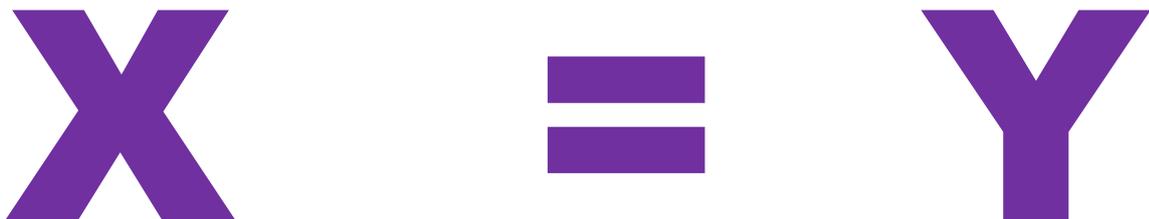


**GOVERNMENT VICTORIA COLLEGE
PALAKKAD**



**GENDER SENSITISATION PROGRAMMES
2015-2020**



Gender Sensitization

Gender sensitization has a prime place among the values fostered and policies implemented by the college. The institution has undertaken all possible measures for the safety, security and equity of the female students in terms of administrative policies, infrastructural facilities, curricular and extracurricular activities. Having a greater proportion of female students, the institution ensures equal representation of girls in students' bodies like the Students Union, clubs and associations. The members of the female staff also have a strong role to play in decision-making bodies of the college like the college council and the IQAC. To cater to the large proportion of female students and staff, the college has facilities like well a functioning Girls Hostel, Common Room for Girls, and a Day Care Centre.



The active engagement of the Women's Development Cell of the college along with the commendable work put in by the counselling unit and the various departments and clubs of the institution in the direction of gender sensitisation is noteworthy. A brief outline of the various programmes held during the past five years in this respect are given below:

Academic Year 2019-2020

Inauguration

The academic year focussed on gender sensitization and legal awareness for all the students of the college. The **inauguration of Women's Cell** activities was held on 19 September 2019. The event was inaugurated by **Inspector of Police (Women's Cell) Ms.**

Meenakumari in the presence of the Principal, Women's Cell Co-ordinator, other guests and students.

Parivarthan –YouTube Video

The students' first venture was a **Youtube Video called " Parivarthan"** which was a survey that recorded the responses of the students and teachers towards Feminism. The video showed mixed responses and highlighted the need for further sensitisation regarding gender in and around the campus. The video can be seen at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dsve3wmL2MA>

Classrooms Campaign against Sexual Harassment

To counter increasing crimes against women, workshops to Women's Cell volunteers on the UGC norms against sexual harassment inside the campuses during October and November. The Sexual Workplace act 2013 guidelines, Saksham Report of UGC and the Samagati Report of the Higher Education Council were discussed. The reports were summarized and print outs were made available to the students who in turn undertook **intense class campaigning** on a daily basis covering all the classes inside the campus. The campaigning was also done through Whatsapp and Facebook groups.





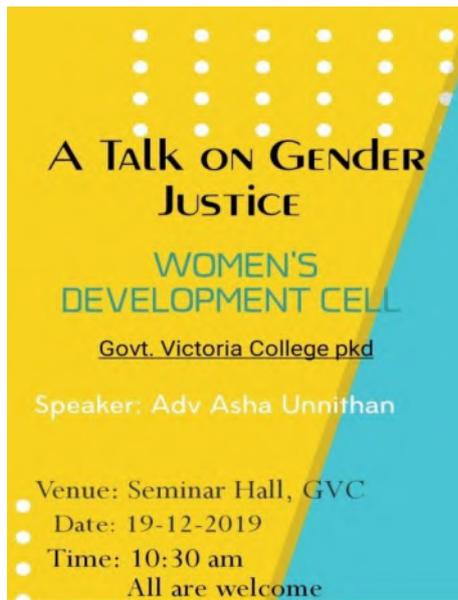
Talk by Dalit Feminist Activist

On 5/12/2019, a talk was held for the students of the college at the Vineetha garden, GVC. The talk with a thrust on the issues experienced by the marginalised groups of our college including the Dalit and the Adivasi students was delivered by the **Dalit feminist activist Mriduladevi Sasidharan**. The title of the talk was "Linganeethi: Pooripikenda Samavaakyangal".



Seminar on Gender Justice and Legality

On 19/12/2019 a **seminar on Gender Justice and Legality** was held. The class was taken by the popular **High Court Advocate Asha Unnithan** at Seminar Hall. The class focused on rising crimes against women and the need to bring the culprits before law. The Sexual Workplace Act of 2013 was elaborated in detail by Ms.Asha. The students also cleared doubts regarding judicial matters during the interaction.



Seminar on Gender Justice

On 21/01/ 2020, we hosted a seminar conducted jointly by Women's cell, Kerala, Women's Development Corporation and Janani Charitable Trust. The resource person Adv V.P.Rejina talked about the need for Gender Justice. In the next session Mr.Prasad Rajappal deliberated on the importance of health in gender justice.



2018-19

Award for Best Women's Development Cell

The highlight of the year was the **recognition of the endeavours of the college in the direction of women's empowerment** which came in the form of the **award of the Best Women's Development Cell** for outstanding contribution to the empowerment of girl students given by the department of Women's Studies, University of Calicut for the year 2018-19:



Video link of Activities for the Year 2018-2019

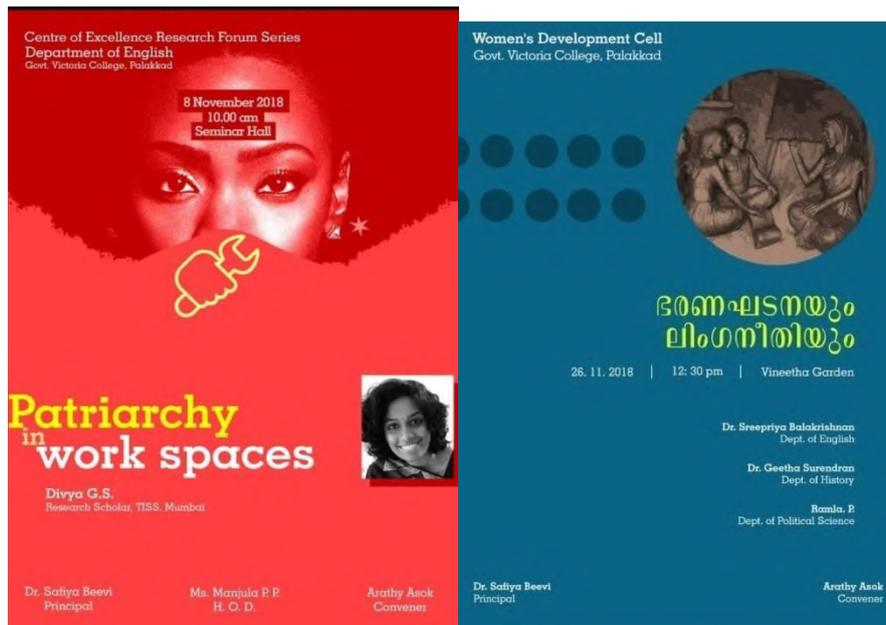
The Women's Development Cell Activities for the year 2018-2019 have been portrayed in the **short video**, the link of which has been shared below:



Video_20190222144515588_by_videomaker_s01 (1) (1).mp4

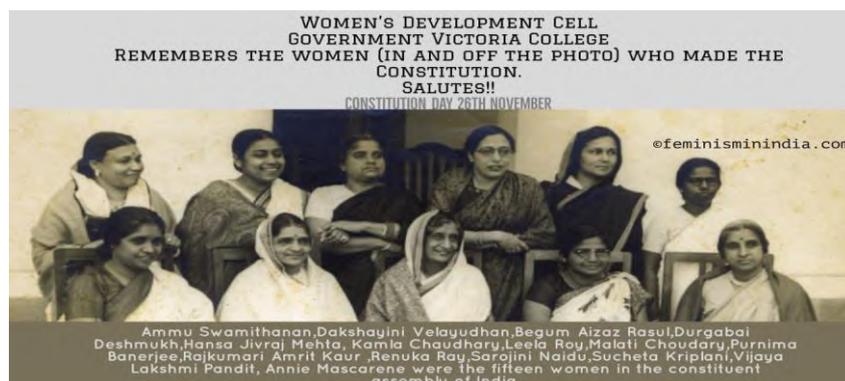
Talks on Gender-Related Topics

The year witnessed several talks on gender sensitisation and women's issues including the **research forum on "Patriarchy in the Work Spaces,"** on 8/11/2018 and the open discussion on **"Constitution and Gender Equity"** held on the constitution day, 26/11/2018.



Honouring the Women who made the Indian Constitution

On Constitution Day in 26/11/2018, the Women’s Development paid tribute to the women who were instrumental in making the Indian Constitution:



Documentary Screening and Discussion

Two documentaries on women’s issues were screened in the campus during the year, **Priyanka Ishwari’s film on Menstruation, “Bloody Women”** on 19/12/2018 and **Bina Paul’s “The Sound of Silence: Policing Women, Gender Discrimination in Kerala Campuses”** on 18/2/2019. The screenings were followed by active deliberations and discussions:



Meet a Change: Addressing Lives and Social Issues

The students had an opportunity to interact with **Sr. Lucy Kalapurackal, the activist nun who raised her voice against the sexual exploitation** of nuns in convents in the programme, “Renaissance and the Condition of Women in Kerala” on 24/01.2019 at Vineetha Garden:



Queer Pride March

In solidarity with the LGBT people, a **Queer Pride March** was organised by the Women’s Development Cell on 11/10/2018. The first of its kind in Palakkad, the march was inaugurated by the Queer Activist Mx. Praveen, also a student of Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam. Several activists and Members of LGBT community interacted with the students and faculty and shared their experiences. The march from Vineetha Garden to Fort Maidan, an

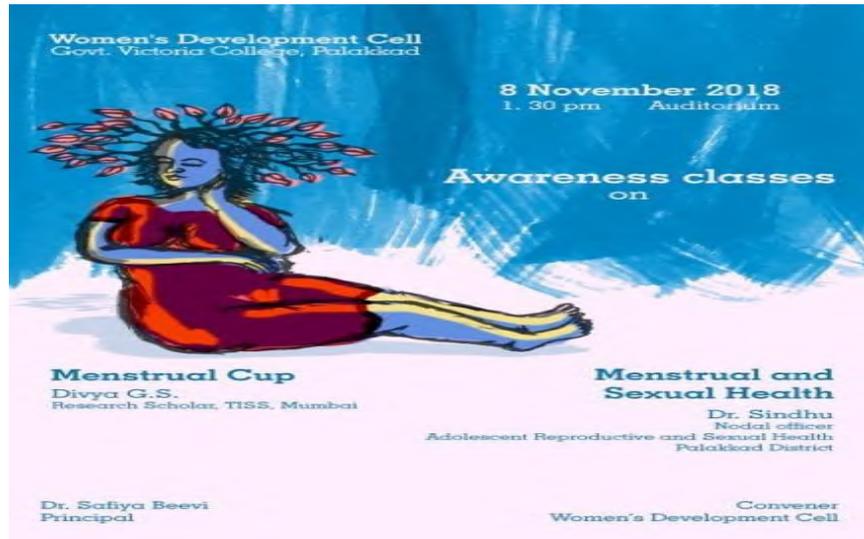
important cultural and historical monument and a pivotal public space of the town created ripples and was a significant move in the creation of a spirit of empathy, inclusiveness and understanding of this marginalized group of people:



Workshop on Menstrual Hygiene

A workshop on Menstrual Hygiene was held on 8/11/2018, in which the **benefits of menstrual cup**, which is more economical and user friendly was explained by Divya, a scholar of TISS, Mumbai. It also included a class on “**Menstrual and Sexual Health**” by **Dr. Sindhu, Nodal Officer, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health, Palakkad**. The workshop

enabled a free discussion among students of problems and societal taboos related to menstruation.



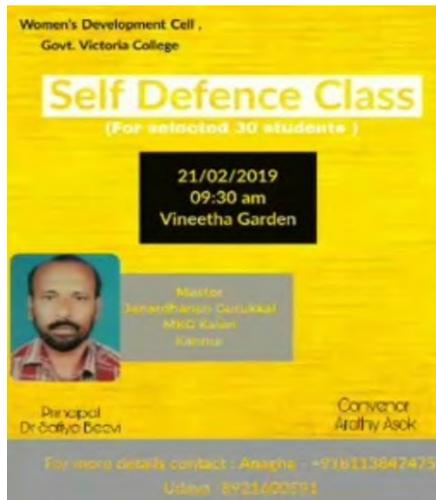
Break the Curfew: Evening with Music

The programme was meant to **break the curfew time imposed on girls** and help them **feel responsible for themselves during night**, beyond curfew time. Held on 7/12/2018 after 6 PM, the event had musical performances by Aakamsh, a beat boxer and students from the college:



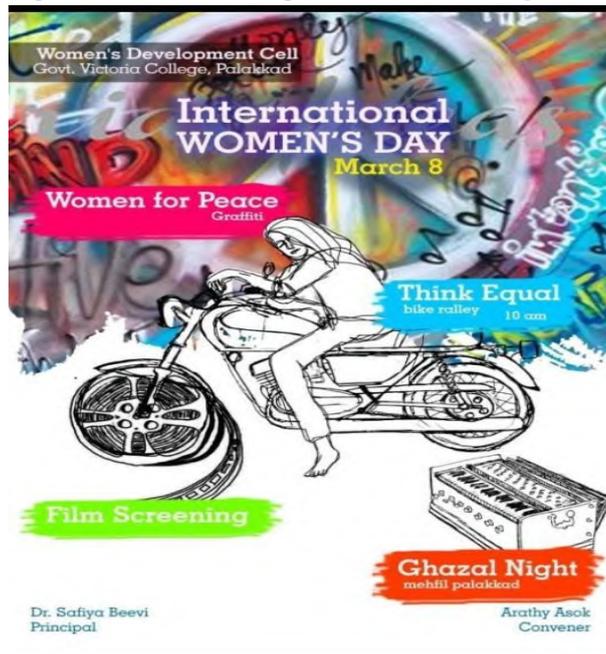
Self Defence Class

30 students were trained by Janardanan Gurukkal on **methods of thwarting unwanted physical attention** on 21/2/2019.



Women's Day Celebrations

Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March 2018 with many events, the highlights of which were **“Think Equal,” a bike rally by girl students** of the college to the town, **“Women for Peace,” a Graffiti** organised in the college, **Film Screening** and **Ghazal Night**:



2017-18

The college conducted a host of programmes for gender sensitization and women empowerment during this academic year. This included medical awareness, cultural programmes, community outreach, film screening and open forums.

The inauguration of both the Women’s Cell and Pain and the Palliative Unit was conducted on 12/12/2017 by the Civil Surgeon & Superintendent at CHC Nemmara. Pink October, a programme creating **awareness on Breast Cancer and other cancers** which threw light on causes, diagnosis, early detection, treatment possibilities, and lifelong management was also launched.

Counselling and Training Session

Ms. Anitha M P, a psychologist and a trainer talked to the students at the girl’s hostel on 14/03/2018 and addressing issues like **gender perception, stress at academic and personal levels and varied expectations** and the need to manage them. An interactive session followed:



Flash mob/Stage Performance:

Performances and plays have a huge impact on the audience and play a key role in carrying forward a message and creating awareness. **Women empowerment, coordination and joy marked the flash mob** at the Stadium Bus stand, Palakkad where a crowd gathered to watch and imbibe the message of the students’ performance as they flashed their banner *Sadhairyam Munnottu*, “**March forward with Courage**” on Women’s Day, 08/03/2018:





Single Character Drama

The highlight of Women’s day celebration was a single-character drama 'Mannathi Theyyam' by Sreeja Arangotukara at 7.30 pm in the open stage of the college. The performance enacted the **marginalization, suppression and the final act of revolt of the central character.**



Documentary Screening and Discussion

The students screened the **controversial documentary film, *Kakkoos***, directed by Divya Bharathi, **portraying the marginalization and social exclusion of those whose life is devastated by manual scavenging** in the college auditorium on 12/03/2018. With the Kerala government introducing robots for scavenging, the contrast in the social milieu in the neighbouring state was shocking to the audience. The screening of the film was to be a **prelude to the Open Forum** discussion set for the following day:



Motivational Talk

Mathrubhumi Grihalaxmi Vedi co-sponsored the **prelaunch of the Women's Day Celebration** on 07/03/2018 with the theme *Saddhairyam Munnottu*, meaning **“March forward with Courage”**. A P Sunitha, a novelist and a faculty of the college, spoke specifically on the theme of courage among women and **motivational speaker** Aiswarya Menon spoke on mind power and positive thinking.



Shastrayaan

During the conduct of Shastrayaan, a programme endeavouring to promote scientific temper and progressive thinking among the general public on 20th and 21st February 2018, women's cell **displayed the poster of the women's helpline number 181** and **screened the ad film on 181** during intervals of the presentation/documentary / short film screened by various departments. Photo posters of the activities of the women's cell were displayed along with the banner of KSWDC.



Night Out

Sadharyam Munnottu meaning “March Forward with Courage” was catchword for the Women’s day celebration of the year, a celebration extending from 8th March to 14th March with various programmes, including a ‘Night Out’, wherein over 90 students walked to through the town at 9 pm to reach Tipu’s Fort, a pivotal public space of Palakkad:



2016-2017

The Women’s Development Cell of the College was awarded the second best Women;s Development Cell for the year 2017-2017 by the Women’s Studies Department of the University of Calicut on 08/03/2017. The award was given in honour for the outstanding contribution in promoting gender equality.



Children’s Film Festival

The department of English organised a Children Films Festival at Govt. LP School Kodinthirapilly on 12/07/2016. The interactive sessions that followed fine tuned the awareness of children on various social issues including those of gender and empowerment.



Talks to Promote Gender Sensitization

Several talks by noted academicians and feminist thinkers of Kerala like Ms Mini Sukumaran, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Women's Studies, University of Calicut on 12/8/2016, Dr Sheeba K M, Associate Professor, Sri Sankara University, Kaladi on 22/11/2016 and Ms Shimna Kasim K P, film maker, Thrissur on 25/01/2017 were organised in the campus:

Ms Mini Sukumaran Addresses the Gathering



Session by Dr. Sheeba K M



Film Screening and Discussion by Film Maker, Shimna Kasim



2015-2016

Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was organised by the Women's Development Cell on 30/07/2015 in which Mr. Sarath Revathi, theatre artist from the National School of Drama interacted with the students on important social issues:



Community Outreach

As part of community outreach, the students, under the guidance of the palliative unit of the college, visited the Palliative Centre at the District Govt. Hospital on 12/10/2015 and on 16/11/2015 and distributed new clothes and towels to the inmates. They also visited Shanti Nikethan, a nearby old age home and spent time with the inmates.

Visit to the Palliative Unit



Visit to Old Age Home



Women's Day Celebrations

A graffiti depicting various issues of gender was prepared in the campus as part of the Women's Day Celebrations on 8th March 2016. A "Night Out" for girl students was also held:

