

# Rally

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## Empowering Women



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The Next Issue April-May 2016 of 'Rally' is on  
**Electing the Right Leaders for 2016**  
AICUFers, Ex-AICUFers and Friends  
are encouraged to send in Articles, Poems  
on the Theme before Third Week of March 2016.

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# Rallying Point

Prof. Julia Pradeepa

An **extraordinary person** with a story to tell,  
On a **journey and a mission** only she can fulfill.

## Who Am I?

A question most women keep asking themselves over the years. Right from birth till death their identity is connected with the people around her - a daughter, a sister, a wife and a mother. That is because she is a woman. Is there no identity for her as a unique person?

She is only expected to fulfil these roles efficiently and effectively. We find women in all walks of life working on par with men. But are they treated equally? If a woman concentrates more on career, she is not considered a 'family woman'. Whether it is before marriage or after marriage, a man has a wider chance of expanding his career opportunities. Balancing family and work is a big struggle for working women. That does not mean women who are home makers are a happy go group. They have their own share of sad stories too.

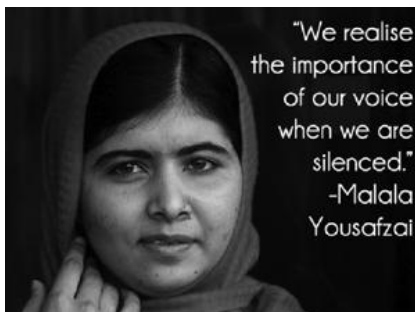
Are educated women really empowered? In the 21st century women are still expected to be submissive and accept whatever happens in her life because women are expected to be tolerant. Has education empowered women and in what ways? Are they able to assert their rights and fight for what they think is right and just. Not really.

I know women who were very strong and bold when they were young; women who stood for their rights and the rights of other women. Are they still the same? When they want to assert their rights, they are forced to be silent by their family. They are told that women's rights and empowerment is not relevant within the family and after marriage. Where have these strong women gone?

On the other hand we find women who are really empowered and assert their rights though they are not educated. They help themselves and others in their community through some means. So it is not education alone that empowers women. It is the will to fight against any injustice that happens to her or any woman in society.

Let us be the strong woman that the society needs; let us create strong women who know their strengths and be assertive. Let us be a part of the society where women are treated in a just and where equality prevails in all forms. Let us become the voice for the thousands of women who are voiceless. Let us put an end to all forms of discrimination- thalaq, dowry, domestic violence, trafficking, etc.

Rally 



**“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.”**

**– Diane Mariechild**

# IN AICUF SOLIDARITY

Fr. S. Emmanuel SJ.  
National Adviser

“**SWAMI VIVEKANANDA** rightly said, “All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which does not respect women has never become great,” he added. The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. With a decline in their status from the ancient to medieval times, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. In modern India, women have held high offices including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors. Women’s rights are secured under the Constitution of India — mainly, equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination; further, India has various statutes governing the rights of women. As of 2011, the President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the parliament) were women. Asserting that the principle of gender equality is also enshrined in the Indian Constitution, our President Mukherjee said: “Not only does the Constitution grant equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Empowerment of women must be regarded as not only an element of our efforts towards gender equality but also a critical step for stimulating their full participation in nation building.” However, women in India continue to face numerous problems, including violent victimisation through rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social or political or economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare. The rural and slum women are found to be economically very poor all over India. According to 2001 census, rate of literacy among men in India is found to be 76% whereas it is only 54% among women. Thus, increasing education among women is of very important in empowering them. It has also noticed that some of women are too weak to work. They consume less food but work more. Therefore, from the health point of view, women folk who are to be weaker are to be made stronger. Another problems is that workplace harassment of women. There are so many cases of rape, kidnapping of girl, dowry harassment, and so on. For these reasons, they require empowerment of all kinds in order to protect themselves and to secure their purity and dignity. To sum up, women empowerment can not be possible unless women come with and help to self-empower themselves. There is a need to reduce poverty, promote education of women, and prevent and eliminate violence against women.

My hearty felicitations and congratulations to all women commission members in AICUF. This issue brings out many articles highlighting the achievements of great women who have brought about social change in the past and in the present. Modern women leaders have started using social networks for empowering and enlightening women. On this International Women’s Day, AICUF members and readers of Rally must resolve to take efforts for the protection and welfare of women. May the celebrations inculcate in every member of our society the highest respect for women.

Rally 

# Still A Long Way To Women Empowerment!



Dr.G.John  
National Animator



**INEQUALITIES** between men and women and the consequent cry for equal status are as old as modern civilization itself. Discrimination against women has also been age-old all over the world. Reformers and rational thinkers have been demanding equality for both the sexes in matters of education, employment, inheritance, marriage, politics and in the field of religion. Their quest for equality has given birth to the formation of many women's associations and launching of women movements.

The last century witnessed a sea-change in our attitude towards women development. Governments, monopolized by men, have started taking issues of women development seriously. They have understood that if women are not brought within the realm of developmental process, it is not possible to aim for sustainable development. Women development and empowerment is very crucial to overall human development. Women are the drivers of Human Development and neglecting them is like building a bridge without a proper foundation.

Despite all this change in our attitude and approach to women development, there seems to be a lop sided and skewed result. Some countries were able to grow higher in the field of women development and some countries fare very poorly, including India. India that tries to portray itself as an emerging superpower and a force to reckon with, is not only very slow, but its indicators paint a very dismal picture. Its indicators are nowhere near what the developed countries have achieved concerning women development. We seem to compete with the poorest and smallest countries. Even some of the poor countries have registered better indicators of growth concerning women.

India always boasts of rich cultural heritage where women are worshipped and adored but we are the nation that subjects women to cruel customs and traditions like sati and dowry. It is hard to fathom how slow moving the cultural exchange of the world is when you find out that there are several places across the country where harmful customs of the ancient world coexist with modern appliances and



thought. In the name of culture and tradition we not only deny women equal rights, but also inflict lot of injuries that make us exclaim “it happens only in India”.

What is abnormal in other parts of the world, including some of the terrorist-war-torn nations, is normal in India. You hear of gang rapes, abduction of women and children, selling of children as sex slaves, mutilation of female genitals, female infanticide and some of worst superstitions only in those countries that are war-torn or poverty-stricken. It is hard to find the occurrences of these instances in a modern and civilized country. But you can find all these happening in India. As a nation we don't have the right to call ourselves 'a civilized society' when these occurrences are normal day to day happenings like taking a cup of tea on the road side stall. Gender discrimination is the least of worries for women in India, known otherwise as the fourth most dangerous country in the world for women. Other instances of violence against women has an astonishing and grim variety to it – with acid throwing, domestic violence stemming out of dowry, rape, harassment and an assortment of others.

Our politicians and legislatures are making statements in the media day in and day out that India is growing and developing and soon

India is going to be a developed nation. They make inspiring speeches and taglines like 'India 20-20', 'Make India' (with Lion as a symbol), 'Start up India' 'Young India' and so on. All these help only sell the political parties that engage in vote bank politics. But the real growth and development is still eluding. Certain growth indicators like Gender Development Index(GDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII), Human Development Index (HDI) etc indicate that we are not on the process of real development. If we grow like this, it may take another five hundred years to become a developed nation, surely not soon, within hundred years.

#### Glaring Gap in Gender

S. No	Country	GDI	HDI		Life Exp		Mean Yrs Schooling	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
1	Norway	0.996	0.944	0.940	79.5	83.5	12.7	12.5
2	India	0.795	0.660	0.525	66.6	69.5	7.2	3.6
3	Bangladesh	0.917	0.590	0.541	70.2	72.9	5.5	4.5
4	Bhutan	0.897	0.638	0.572	69.2	69.8	4.1	2.0
5	Maldives	0.937	0.723	0.678	75.8	77.8	6.0	5.7
6	Nepal	0.908	0.574	0.521	68.2	71.1	4.5	2.3
7	Pakistan	0.726	0.601	0.436	65.3	67.2	6.2	3.1
8	Srilanka	0.948	0.769	0.730	71.5	78.2	10.9	10.7
Respective figures for Group of Nations								
1	Developing countries	0.899	0.686	0.617	68.0	71.7	7.3	5.4
2	Europe and Central Asia	0.945	0.760	0.719	68.5	76.1	10.0	9.0
3	Latin America and the Caribbean	0.976	0.754	0.736	71.7	78.2	8.1	8.0
4	South Asia	0.801	0.655	0.525	67.1	69.9	6.9	3.7
5	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.872	0.550	0.480	57.1	59.7	6.0	4.2
6	World	0.924	0.725	0.670	69.5	73.5	7.9	6.2

The figures in the above table clearly indicates that we are not competing with the best performing nations. Rather, we are competing against some of the worst performing nations and even there we fare very poorly. In both Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI) India is placed at the bottom among 188 countries.

The GDI measures differences between male and female achievements in three basic dimensions of human development viz a) health, measured by female and male life expectancy at birth; b) education, measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and female and male mean years of schooling for adults ages 25 and older; and c) equitable command over economic resources, measured by female and male estimated earned income. To calculate the GDI, the HDI is calculated separately for females and for males using the same methodology as in the HDI.

India's GDI is 0.795 which is worse than some of the SAARC nations like Bangladesh (0.917), Maldives(0.937), Srilanka (0.948) and we are only slightly better than Pakistan (0.726). Instead of finding ourselves among the best in the field, we are found among the worst in the field. Norway which ranks first in GDI has all the other parameters that are 'owners' pride and everybody's envy'. Their performance in 'mean school years' 'life expectancy at birth' and Human Development Index are breath taking and India is nowhere near. There is much

difference in these parameter between male and female.

But look at the figures for India! all the figures paint a very dismal and disturbing picture. Figures for female is better only in case of 'life expectancy at birth' but this is not because of our intervention and policy decision but because of the nature's gift to womanhood. We are worse than some of the least and poor nations like sub-Saharan nation. We have not fared even better than the average figures of developing countries. The difference between male and female is glaring like anything. The mean years schooling for female is only a 3.6 years as against 7.2 years for males. Likewise, the HDI for females in India is 0.525 as against 0.6660 for males.

**Glaring Gap in Gender**


No	Country	GII	Rank	Mortality Rate	Adolescent birth rate	% Share of seats in parliament	% Female Labour force participation rate
1	Norway	0.067	1	4	7.8	39.6	61.2
2	India	0.563	130	190	32.8	12.2	27.0
3	Bangladesh	0.503	111	170	80.6	20.0	57.4
4	Bhutan	0.457	97	120	40.9	8.3	66.7
5	Maldives	0.243	49	31	4.2	5.9	56.2
6	Nepal	0.489	108	190	73.7	29.5	79.9
7	Pakistan	0.536	121	170	27.3	19.7	24.6
8	Srilanka	0.370	72	29	16.9	5.8	35.1
<b>Respective figures for Group of Nations</b>							
1	Developing countries	0.478		225	51.5	20.2	49.5
2	Europe and Central Asia	0.300		28	30.8	19.0	46.6
3	Latin America and the Caribbean	0.415		85	68.3	27.0	53.7
4	South Asia	0.536		183	38.7	17.5	29.8
5	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.575		506	109.7	22.5	65.4
6	World	0.449		210	47.4	21.8	50.3

In Gender Inequality Index(GII) we are placed at 130<sup>th</sup> among 188 countries. We are the worst among the neighbours. The Gender Inequality Index(GII) measures achievement between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. It shows the loss in potential human development due to disparity between female and male achievements in two dimensions, empowerment and economic status, and reflects a country's position relative to normative ideals for the key dimension of women's health. Overall, the GII reflects how women are disadvantaged in these dimensions.

Our women in India are still at the bottom of the pyramid of development. Look at the maternal mortality rate which is 190. This means we are losing 190 women every year per 100000 live births due to pregnancy related causes. The adolescent birth rate in India is 32.8. which measures the number of births to women aged 15–19 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years. Is it not a symptom of backwardness? Is it not a shame for India to have such a dismal figures? Our percentage of female labour force participation is 27 only. This means 73 percent of women in India are dependent on the income of the family/husbands/sons. This is a pathetic situation. We have figures that are worse than least developed, poverty stricken and war-torn, religious fanatic nations.

The percentage share of women in our parliament is only 12.2 as against the world average of 21.8. This is better even countries like Pakistan (19.7 %) where women are found behind 'burkas'. Compare all these figures with the best performing nations like Norway to understand where we stand and where we have failed. These countries that are having best indicators are doing well because the gap between sexes is very narrow. For instance, In Norway, the Mean School

years of schooling is 12.7 for males and it is 12.5 for females. Their percentage of women labour force participation rate is 61.2. They have maternal mortality rate of only 4 per 100000 live births as against India's 190. Norway women's percentage share in parliament is 39.6.

The stark reality is that there is wider gap between female and male in the development parameters of India when compared to developed nations or best performing nations. Unless this discrepancy in women development is taken care of, we will never be in the competition to find ourselves in the company of 'developed nations'. One thing is for sure we can understand from these indicators. We are neither 'Tigers' nor 'Lions' concerning women development and women empowerment but minnows. We have nothing to boast of in these areas and nothing to credible to achieve in the near future. Time is the answer! Rally 





# Forgotten and Forsaken India's Daughter

P V Joseph Buan Sing  
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**WHEN ANNA HAZARE** began his hunger strike on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to demand the Indian government to enact a stringent anti-corruption law, many prominent figures in the country joined him and it became a nationwide protest in support. The fast ended after three days, a day after the government bowed down to Hazare's demands. His name and fame spread far and wide, some people even hail him as the Modern Mahatma Gandhi. Later, one of his followers, Arvind Kejriwal, before becoming the Chief Minister of Delhi, on several occasions was on a hunger strike protesting against inflated electricity and water bills in Delhi. He was able to attract thousands of people from all classes. These are some of the famous contemporary Indians who popularised 'fasting' as a non-violent method to protest against the Government.

On the other hand, in a small corner part of India, there is a young lady who has been fasting for the past fifteen years and yet the Government of India has not listened to her request. Her one and single demand is the repeal

of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act 1958 or AFSPA from the state of Manipur and other parts of the northeast India. Irom Sharmila Chanu, a few people call her as the "Iron Lady of Manipur"



or the local people lovingly call her "Mengoubi" (the fair one), is a civil activist, political activist, and a poet. She turns 44 on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. She was born in the heart of Manipur, India. She studied till Class XII.

Her struggle of an indefinite hunger strike began on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2000, when ten civilians, who were waiting for a bus at the stop, were allegedly shot and killed by the Assam Rifles, one of the Indian Paramilitary forces operating in

the state, in Malom, Manipur. They were gunned down by the security forces through the power granted to them by AFSPA. Sharmila, then 28-year-old daughter of a Grade IV veterinary worker, began to fast in protest of the killings, taking neither food nor water and now she is force fed via tubes. Her non-violent protest which began in 2000 continues till today. She is the world's longest hunger striker.

AFSPA is approved by the Parliament of India. This Act gives the armed forces a special power to search, raid, shoot or arrest anyone without a warrant on mere suspicion of planning a terrorist act or in order to maintain public order. They enjoy impunity for these acts i.e. no legal action can be taken against them for such actions. If the arrested person dies in army custody, he or she will be declared a 'terrorist' killed while on the run.

In addition, there are rapes of hundreds of women. The alleged rape on the killing of Thangjam Manorama Devi in 2001 is only one of them. On 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, during a 'South India Level Seminar

on AFSPA: National, People's and Women's Security' organized at Indian Social Institute (ISI) Bangalore, Mr R N Ravi, former Director of Intelligence Bureau for the North East, delivered a report *"Ever since AFSPA was imposed in 1958, 8,983 people have been killed in Manipur, 6,023 in Assam and 2,803 in Mizoram..."* In fact, the reality is much more frightening and lethal than the facts and figures suggest. Moreover; one cannot forget the number of young girls getting raped, wives becoming widows, children turning into orphans, youth remaining illiterate due to the closing down of schools, houses burnt and turning into ashes, and so on.

In a case before the Supreme Court of India, a little over 1,600 cases of fake encounters have been mentioned. The Supreme Court (SC) appointed high-power commission, headed by the retired SC Judge Santosh Hegde, probing six cases of alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur, has found in their report that these were not genuine encounters and the victims did not have any criminal records.

In 2013, the Justice Verma Commission recommended the Government to bring sexual crimes committed by the armed forces should be judged under the same act that applies to the civilians. However, the law has not been diluted. 'Mr R. N. Ravi,

former head of the Intelligence Bureau for the North East is on record that AFSPA is the biggest obstacle to peace in the region. Former Home Secretary, Mr G. K. Pillai came out openly against the Act. But the army is opposed to change.

In the past 15 years of this remarkable, non-violent protest, Irom Sharmila, is supported by many social activists, NGOs, students' organisations from all the



country, and yet the Government is not willing to accept her plea. She is rather often misunderstood as a separatist or anti-nationalist. She has been regularly released and re-arrested every year since her hunger strike began under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 309, a person who "attempts to commit suicide" is punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or with both.

Why is the Government not ready to repeal AFSPA? Some possible reasons:

1. To annihilate the insurgency groups and stop ethnic conflicts: If you visit Manipur state you

would have wondered and asked, "Who rules India: The elected representatives or the army or the militants?" The second question is, "Who is the real threat to peace and security for the civilians: the army or the militants?" According to the ruling system in India, the civilians are elected to rule the country, not the army. The elected civilians have the responsibility to ensure the security forces work under the Constitution. But the problem in the northeast and Jammu and Kashmir, where AFSPA is imposed the army dictates and controls over the day to day function of life in the society. The democratic state becomes a military rule state.

2. No political influence: The seven sisters of the northeast India have only 24 Lok Sabha Constituencies whereas Uttar Pradesh alone has 80, West Bengal has 42, Tamil Nadu has 39 and Gujarat 26 respectively. Therefore, the Central Government (UPA or NDA) does not care about the burning issues in the northeast region.

Finally, could it be because Irom Sharmila is a woman and tribal from northeast India that the Government does not care about her demand? Not only the Government has forgotten and forsaken her, even the national media have ignored her cause. Will any one listen to the agony of this poor woman?



# Woman who are you? What are you?



J. Bernadette Cynthia  
Sastra University



**YOU SEE** millions of women every day, at home, at work, in the streets and all over. Have you ever tried to ponder in depth as to what is going on in their mind? Have you ever witnessed the battles of a woman's heart. There should be one thing clear to everyone. Women are born to express and not to impress. Women are daughters, sisters, wives, aunts, mothers and grandmothers. They are tailor-made, every role they play is taken up as a new challenge and they do it perfectly.

Most of the women are being subjected to mental torture more than physical torture. They say that a woman makes herself happy by serving her family and catering to their needs. But what about her dreams? Like everyone she is also human and she has passion and desire. In this process of catering to the needs of her loved ones, is she forced to give up her dreams? You can take the example of your own mother. She takes care of you and your family members and serves you without expecting anything in return. But

do you really know what she wanted out of life? Do you know her passion and what she really wanted to be? It's high time that women become independent in life.

Boldness, audacity, determination and patience describe the perfect woman. Be who you are and do what you want. Nobody has the right to stop you from being who you are. As a woman one goes through so much in life. You don't have the freedom to wear what you like, speak what you want and do what you want to do. Society has transformed us into processed robots by giving its own definition of a woman. But always make it a point in your mind that you are what you define. Never worry about people who try to degrade us by making us live our life the way they want. We should rather be living our life the way we want.

From the ocean depths to the highest peaks, women are ruling every nook and corner of the world, be it a Parliament or a space ship or a science lab. There



is never a shortage of women in all excelling fields. They can nail any genre of their interest equal to or even better than men. Take the instance of Mary Kom, world champion in women's boxing. She was able to snatch five gold medals after undergoing cesarean section. What do you think has inspired her so much? It was none other than her lovely family that has inspired her to reach the skies and grab her cloud nine moment. Likewise every family should recognize and be strong enough to encourage their loved ones especially women in taking up challenging positions. You might even be having a Kiran Bedi in your home silent and unnoticed. You will never know. Or you can even be the first of your own kind. Billie Jean King, a female tennis champion, the US tennis legend and the winner of 20 Wimbledon titles famously beat Bobby Rigs in 1973 for a 100,000 dollar cash prize in the "Battle of the sexes" after he said to her that men were superior athletes. She has said "I thought it would set us back 50 years if I didn't win that match. It would ruin the women's reputa-

tion and affect all women's self esteem". Note that this was said almost half a century ago. Then try to imagine the determination of women at present.

All these women have made a mark in the world that would change people's conventional thinking for decades and even centuries. These true life stories inspire us and make us contribute to society no matter what. Don't forget the words of Indira Gandhi. "Satisfaction lies in the effort; not in the attainment". If you have succeeded in your efforts you can triumph. If you haven't then you will not regret that you haven't tried. Don't try to restrict yourself and convince that you won't be able to do it. It always seems impossible until it's done. As a woman don't expect your mom to feed you and your husband to caress you till death. You should be able to live on your own. Never put a full stop to your dreams and never compel yourself into being what others expect of you. Think about what you really want out of life. Life is too short to have regrets. There is no point in hiding yourself behind a mask. If a girl wants

to be a great boxer then it's the duty of her family to help her go for it. If a girl wants to be a respectable army general then let her grab it. A girl should never be bound by social chains that cling so hard that it smothers her dreams and buries it alive before being expressed. Laws and traditions that hold back women, hold back the entire society. There is a famous saying "What you are, is God's gift to you; What you become is your gift to God". It's one's duty and responsibility to realize one's talent and purpose of creation. You are not born to be confined within four walls. Go out there and make use of yourself. Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Love yourself first and everything else falls in line. Don't try to make yourself perfect. Well behaved women seldom make history. It's okay to be imperfect. Just keep one thing in your mind always. You can never get back the past nor dominate the future. It is the present that matters. So get up from your couches and clear yourself off, of the chains and bring your best to leave your mark.



**What they deserve**



**What they get these days**

Rally

# Why Economic Empowerment?



**THE ECONOMIC** empowerment of women is a powerful strategy to address violence against women. Empowered women can better access employment, financial resources, and other market opportunities providing them with some of the tools necessary to enable them to extricate themselves from violent relationships, access support services, and rebuild their lives. Women's employment and decent work is a key factor in increasing their autonomy and security. It can help boost their bargaining power in the household, and empower them to more fully participate in community and public life, preventing their isolation and fostering dignity and overall well-being.

## Why Now?

In 1995, 189 governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – a visionary blueprint for gender equality and women's full and equal participation in all spheres of life. This document emphasized the lack of adequate information on the scope, causes, and consequences of violence against women. Governments were urged to generate solutions to fill this information gap and implement effective laws, policies, and action plans to prevent and address violence against women and girls. Twenty years later, it is time to step back, evaluate progress made, be honest about failures, and look ahead to ensure that violence against women ends once and for all.

In line with UN Women's Beijing+20 Campaign, the Knowledge Gateway, in collaboration with the UN Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality and the New School University has dedicated three weeks to this e-discussion on Women's economic empowerment to end violence against women. It aims to encourage input on innovative approaches, projects, and strategies. The objective is to generate ideas, suggestions, and good practices that can better inform the work of Governments, civil society, and the UN around the world. The discussion will examine both the micro and macro, local and national effects of violence against women and attempt to identify key areas for action.

## The Huge Cost of India's Discrimination against Women

Gender inequality may have reduced the country's economic growth by almost 4 percent annually over the past 10 years.

Imagine a country where the most powerful political figure, two billionaires, three of the most dominant regional politicians, several



prominent CEOs, and half of local government representatives are women. Now imagine that, in that same country, one-third of adult women are illiterate, spousal rape is not illegal, and sex-selective abortion and female infanticide are still widely practiced.

It may be hard to reconcile these two realities, but modern India somehow manages to be, at the same time, the land of Indira Gandhi and Mother Theresa and of child brides and dowry deaths.

The standing of women in Indian society received unprecedented national and international attention following the brutal gang rape and subsequent death of a young woman in Delhi. The incident sparked widespread public protests in the Indian capital and gained further attention after one of the accused perpetrators was found hanged in jail on Monday. While the tragedy has led to some long-overdue reforms, it is far too early to declare it a turning point for the fate of the majority of India's women.

There are, of course, strong normative and humanitarian reasons to guarantee full gender equality and sufficient legal protection for women in India, as elsewhere. But the economic and political consequences - the material costs - of gender discrimination are often overlooked.

Consider this: India's female labor participation rate was just 29 percent in 2010, according to the International Labor Organization, representing a slight decline over the previous two years. This decline can be attributed to a number of factors, including increases in female higher education, rising household incomes, erroneous data, and limited opportunity in sectors that traditionally employ women. Re-entering the workforce after childbirth also remains difficult. India's profile nevertheless compares very unfavorably to the 68 percent female labor participation in China, and among G20 economies, only Turkey (28 percent) and Saudi Arabia (17 percent) lag behind.

Women thus constitute just a quarter of India's 473 million strong workforce, although as the jour-

nalist Rupa Subramanya notes, that does not count the substantial, if immeasurable, contributions they make in the domestic realm. True parity in terms of employment - the addition of about 203 million women to the Indian workforce, given sufficient demand for such labor - would boost the economy by roughly \$900 billion, assuming consistent levels of productivity. Under those circumstances, India's average annual growth over the past decade could have been 11.6 percent instead of 7.7 percent. Women's inequality may, in other words, have cost India's economy almost 4 percent of annual growth over the past 10 years.

The consequences have been immense. Naturally, the most important result of a divergent outcome would have been the enormous social and economic benefits for over a half billion women. India's evolution into a middle-income country could also have been more easily assured. Politically, this would also have granted India much more international leverage: it would have become a more attractive destination for global investment, and comparisons with China's magnificent growth would perhaps have seemed less far-fetched.

Beyond cultural norms and the absence of mandated family planning, a few factors have contributed to India's inability to increase women's employment. While the country has made admirable gains in improving some aspects of welfare - life expectancy, for example, has risen dramatically - and may even be ahead of the curve in terms of women's political empowerment, education remains a challenge.

The ratio of female to male enrollment in primary education is effectively equal, and females constitute some 48 percent of secondary school students. However, in terms of higher education, the numbers diverge sharply: just 42 percent of Indian college students are female. Education, along with fertility, has a direct impact on changing cultural norms. Women are also disproportionately disadvantaged by a lack of opportunity in the manufacturing sector, with the vast majority still employed in agricultural pursuits.

And India's labor laws protect existing workers - primarily men - at the expense of aspiring ones, which include most women. Manish Sabharwal, an Indian human resource entrepreneur, says that this may explain why an estimated 97 percent of working women have jobs in the informal sector.

As with many other things in India, there are signs that real changes are afoot, and the question is really how fast and to what extent they will occur. A 2007 study, for example, found that access to cable television in rural India was correlated to decreases in the acceptability of domestic violence, the prefer-

ence for sons, and fertility, as well as increases in women's autonomy and school enrollment.

Nonetheless, in time, many of the factors commonly cited as limitations to India's growth potential - poor infrastructure, corruption, antiquated labor laws - may become easier to tackle than pervasive gender inequality. The government has taken some well-meaning, if controversial, steps to advance the positions of women, such as the recent decision to develop an all-women's bank. But to really overcome gender inequality, India will require changes to its society that are more than cosmetic.

Compiled and Edited by Julia



## Why Women Cry

**A LITTLE BOY** asked his mother, "Why are you crying?" "Because I'm a woman," she told him.

"I don't understand," he said. His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will."

Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?"

God said, "When I made the woman she had to be special.

I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world,  
yet gentle enough to give comfort.

I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly.

And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see my son," said God, "the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair.

The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."



Source : [www.scrapbook.com](http://www.scrapbook.com) › Resources › Poems › God

# Know Thy Power, Oh Woman !



**Sr. A. M. Jansi FSAG**  
Gonzaga College of Arts and Science for Women,  
Kathampallam, Krishnagiri Dst., Tamil Nadu.

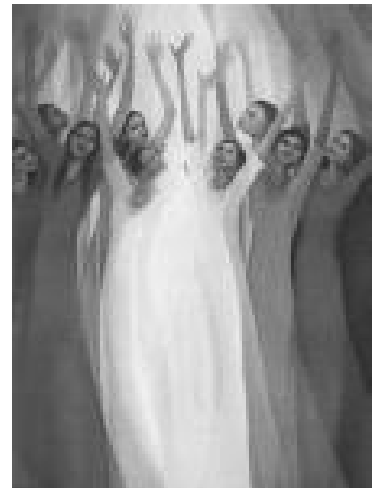
**OH AFFECTIONATE** beauty queen on earth  
Energetic mind of healthy hill  
Your charm is gifted by God at birth  
Is beaming radiant sunshine still

Oh born in days fresh and peace  
When doubt arose I remember well  
At the very beginning existence cease  
Mortal immortal pains of darkness fell

Since birth you bear unbearable yoke  
Dejected lonely cloud, shedding tears  
Sexual ignorant helpless pains provoke  
Corrupt and impure imperfections for years

Not frailty or fallibility common to mankind  
Understand the partial mind thrive behind  
How do they call you as second sex in kind  
Labeled by the insecure men's blind mind

Know thy power, O scorching sun!  
Long held notions is your domestic roles  
Subordinate is the wickedness of men  
Chained at the bars of your house poles





Men in guise husband and fathers  
Bread winners and nobles are ignoble  
Women ascribed as baby machines  
Hard work of the House wife is invaluable

Religion and caste cause women's oppression  
No way for your blossoming of personhood  
Woman Goddess is only a deception  
Resurrect from the tomb of feministic falshood

You are the ocean of strength treasure  
But motioned as emotional creature  
Logical analytic is man's nature  
Created slogan of the oppressive culture



Break the bars of wretched days  
Bride pricing tag by fighting your way  
You were a Barbie doll on those days  
Find and build your independent sway

Gain ownership over your own body  
Ban commodities of your images gaudy  
Thin shapely is an ideal female body  
Been an object of blind fascination dear lady

Come O Women to breed new beginnings  
Discard the ephemeral externals Oh Brilliant!  
Nurture unconquerable creed enchanting  
March on for your liberation O Valliant!

Rally 

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Woman is the magnificent creation of god, a multi faceted personality with the power of benevolence, adjustability, integrity and tolerance. She is companion of man, gifted with equal mental faculty, a protector and provider, the embodiment of love OUR WOMEN have a great part to play in the progress of our country, as the mental and physical contact of women with life is much more lasting and comprehensive than that of men. For nothing was it said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". In the apron string of women is hidden the revolutionary energy, which can establish paradise on this earth – Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

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# GOD EMPOWERS YOU !!!

Allwin Dsouza  
St. Andrews College



**THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE** there are stories of women whose courageous choices and actions

made possible a new world for themselves and others. There is the woman who argued that “even the dogs get to eat the crumbs under the table” as she begged for healing for her daughter. There is the widow who gave all she had to the temple treasury, putting the wealthy to shame. There is the widow whose hospitality in feeding the prophet Elijah was rewarded with a jug of oil and jar of meal that were never empty. There was the woman who had the audacity to anoint Jesus’ feet with oil and wipe them with her hair. There was Mary Magdalene, first witness to the resurrection, who proclaimed the Good News despite disbelieving disciples, and Mary, who said yes to Jesus being born within her. These are women of biblical times whose witness has shaped the faith we live today. They dared to act, confident that, like their brothers, they were created in the image of God. Many women around the world today live in circumstances that make it difficult, if not impossible, to act with such confidence. A recent United Nations report documents an increase in violence against women at every level. Rape as a weapon of war, bride burnings, sex trafficking, and honor killings are but a few of the violations women suffer simply because they are women.

**E m p o w e r i n g** women to choose life in today’s culture is to empower each of us to act to transform a world

ravaged by war, hunger, and disease. Promoting gender equality — seeking ways for women and men to have equal opportunities and equal roles in decision making in church and society — is to promote human equality in a world healed and reconciled to the heart of God.

How do you view God’s power in your life? True empowerment begins and ends with Him. There’s quite a bit of discussion today about empowering women. We want our daughters to grow up strong and capable and confident. We trot out as role models the women who’ve reached positions of power or influence as CEOs, judges, presidents, athletes and newsmakers. And movies, TV shows and books show us tough, hard-working, two-fisted female heroines who can take down a villain in a few quick moves.

So, when you get to the Bible story about Deborah, a woman in the thick of battle, well, surely she’s an “empowered woman.” Maybe... if you see it the way God does.

Here’s an example.

Deborah’s empowerment came from God, not by any merit or ambition of her own. In Judges 4 and 5, we find five characteristics of a truly empowered woman (or man).

1. Faithful: Deborah is faithful to God in using her gifts (Judges 4:4-5). She is a prophetess; it was her gifting and calling to speak with God and communicate His message to the people. She faithfully exercised that gift at her “office” under a palm tree, wisely judging the needs and issues of God’s people.



-Deborah wasn't the only one who provided this example. You can find others—men and women—in Scripture who exhibit these characteristics in different ways. Think of David or Joshua, Moses, Mary, Esther, Peter or Paul. Take a few minutes to dig into some of your favorite Bible stories and look for the ways God empowered His people.

2. Confident: Deborah is confident in God’s plan (Judges 4:6-7). She spells it out to Barak as fact; she’s fully convinced and confident that God will do exactly as He says and she encourages others to have the same confidence.

How does this view of an empowered person, man or woman, fit with what you see in your world?

3. Wise: Deborah was wise enough to both delegate and motivate. She delegated the military leadership to the man with those skills (Judges 4:6); she didn’t try to do it all herself. She also had the wisdom to motivate a doubtful Barak (Judges 4:8-9, 14-15) to move forward since the Lord was on their side.

True empowerment really begins and ends with God. Without Him, we are nothing. How do you view His power in your life?

4. Truthful: Deborah was a truth-speaker, even when she had to say the hard things. In Judges 4:9, she has to be pretty upfront with Barak about the doubt that would keep him from getting the honor.

Deborah’s amazing experience with God began with her faithfulness. Her faith in what God said was unshakeable and she believed and acted on it. God calls each of us to be faithful—faithful in belief and action, faithful in serving with all He’s given to us. And He pours His power into us to accomplish all He wants to do.

5. Humble: Deborah was not self-seeking; she didn’t grab all the glory for herself or push herself to the front of the victory. In Judges 5, her victory song directs all honor and praise back to God. She acknowledges the contributions of others (Jael, Barak, herself) but never in a way that detracts from the Lord who empowered them.

God will empower and bestow you with hundreds of gifts, HE needs You And YOU are HIS beautiful creation for HE says Genesis 2:23 , “At last! This is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. So Friends, Are you going to Allow God to EMPOWER YOU?

For HE LOVES YOU !! 

Source: <https://www.idisciple.org/post/deborah-an-empowered-woman>

1. “Destiny is a name often given in retrospect to choices that had dramatic consequences.”

– J. K. Rowling

2. “I could not, at any age, be content to take my place by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

# THIS IS ME..

Himiksha Chopra  
Mumbai

**I MAY BE** the 'saree' kind or the 'skirt' kind  
But I wear my heart on my sleeve  
I may be the 'homemaker' type or the 'breadwinner' type  
But I 'labour' through my day and night  
I may be the 'yes to all' sort or the 'no to all' sort  
But I end up doing everything that needs to get done  
I may be the 'Calvin Klein' shopper or the 'Nirali' shopper  
But there are people I value higher than my purchases  
I may be the 'masterchef' breed or the 'dial-a-pizza' breed  
But I believe that good thoughts provide true nourishment  
I may be the 'fair skin' make or the 'wheatish complexion' make  
But my ethics are much beyond than skin-deep  
Don't judge me..don't jacket me..  
I am a little girl each time I cry myself to sleep..  
I am a daughter each time I move away from my parents..  
I am a sister each time I provide the much needed advice..  
I am a wife each time I save the last bite of the chocolate..  
I am a mother each time I clean up the mess that someone else creates..  
But you will need the woman in me..  
In every smile and every mile...  
In every tear and every cheer...!!!  
Cheers to Womanhood!



Rally 

# SCAR

Vidya Venkatesh  
St. Xavier's College

**SHE RISES** up like a star,  
In the hope that she forgets her childhood scar.

But the world being a mean place,  
Keeps reminding her every time, on her face.

Will she ever live a normal life again?  
Or is it going to be a life full of bargain?

Rapes and sexual abuse of minors send chills down our spines. Media called them rape victims. But now they are called 'survivors'. But has there been change in the mindset of people? Is the society accepting them? Can these survivors ever live the life that they led before? Is it right for them to continue such a life for no fault of theirs?



Rally 

# Feminism and the Fourth Estate

Anandita Bhalerao

**THE OXFORD** English Dictionary defines feminism as ‘The advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of equality of the sexes’. To put it simply, feminism is the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes.

The past year or two has witnessed growing mainstream coverage of feminism and feminist issues. Today, we see more and more brands aligning themselves with the cause of ‘women empowerment’. However, in most of these cases we are presented with a diluted, packaged version of feminism that only exists to serve their agenda. Media, which has aptly been called the Fourth Estate, plays a vital role in shaping the opinions of citizens of the state. However, it does not always use that power for the good. With the advent of social media, anybody with a camera and Internet access can upload a video on ‘feminism’, which can then snowball into the next viral sensation, and the voices of people with no knowledge on the subject can ring the loudest.

Take, for example, the controversial ‘My Choice’ video starring Deepika Padukone. The video received widespread backlash on social media because of the lines

“My choice

To marry, or not to marry

To have sex before marriage, to have sex out of marriage, or to not have sex

My choice

To love temporarily, or to lust forever”.

Most of the comments criticizing it, however, missed the point. Although through its Vogue Empower series, the magazine claimed to be on a mission to empower women everywhere, the resultant videos seemed only to target the urban, privileged class that forms its readership. A huge chunk of India’s female population does not have the kind of privilege that making the aforementioned choices entails. As Swetha Dandapani of *Feminism in India* writes, “It is inappropriate to piggy-back on a movement that is trying to bring attention to real issues.” Another point to be noted is that Vogue magazine, along with countless other beauty and fashion magazines, earns its revenue by exploiting the insecurities of women everywhere. Additionally, it has a history of Photoshopping models to fit a certain socially accepted norm of beauty. If it really believed in “My choice; to be a size 0 or a size 15”, it could start by having size 15 models in its own pages.

All this is not to say that no good has ever come of brands making use of feminist messages to sell their products. Some brands have used the advertising platform to drive home powerful messages. Ariel’s ‘Share The Load’ series showed how stereotypes and gender roles hurt everyone. ‘Always’, the American brand of feminine hygiene products, came out with the ‘Like a Girl’ advertisement where subjects in front of a camera were asked to depict what certain phrases like “Play like a girl” meant to them. It was a touching video with an impactful message- When did ‘like a girl’ become an insult?

It can be argued that feminism gaining the mainstream attention it deserves is exactly what generations of feminists have been fighting for. However, in my opinion, the half-baked feminism that the media has been projecting only serves to reinforce the image of feminists as angry, man-hating women, and confuses feminism with misandry (hatred for men). In this respect, the old adage holds true- half knowledge is worse than no knowledge. What we need is a commitment from brands using feminism and women empowerment to sell their products- a commitment to affirmative action, better-informed, responsible and more inclusive, advertisements.

Rally 

# GENDER JUSTICE

Manjusha Vijayakumar  
St.Xaviers College

**GENDER** issue is a highly dubious topic in the light of why it is still being witnessed in this era. It is an issue which has been pondered over for years and years but yet there is no specific or explicit reason for this disparity. But in the recent years there has been a change in the way we women are looked upon. We have started receiving recognition for our work as any other person and not on the basis of the sex we belong to. If we take a glimpse of the previous years we realize how women have developed a niche for themselves in different walks of life. They have been brave enough to break open the glass ceiling above and soar high enough to the resentment of other people around them. From the president of India to the heads of companies like Biocon, ICICI bank, Axis bank, PepsiCo and so on all have been women. According to a survey sixty percent of the world university graduates are women.

And yet women continue to be underrepresented in most of these organizations especially at the senior levels. Though there are many examples of women who have made it to that position but if we look at the whole spectrum it is yet to make a mark. So it is high time that we ponder over it and shift our discussions towards resolving this issue. We should find an answer as to why women are bound to limit themselves beyond a certain level. Be it in media or the corporate world women are always one step behind the men.

According to me the best way to resolve is by educating these people at the source itself. One should be taught from childhood itself that a man and a woman are equal in all respects. It takes courage and determination to set up companies which is gender balanced and such people should be encouraged and rewarded. But yet there are people who are completely dissent with these facts, so we should take the initiative of creating awareness about it.

The era which we are in now is undergoing a tumultuous change in the social, political and economic reforms and is possibly the best time to scrutinize such issues. There have been voices over these issues and there has been a reconstruction of opinions where people are accepting the prevalence of such disparities and are willing to emphasize. So let us all reframe and rethink our opinions and work for an unbiased place.

Rally 



# Inspirational Stories of Women Who have Fought for Gender Equality

Marilyn Pereira ,SYBCOM  
St. Andrews college

## MAVIS MENDONCA SMITH

An incident of a six-year-old raped at an Indian private school in Bengaluru last year shocked the country. In retaliation, Mavis Mendonca Smith who has lived in the city all her life, started Win Bangalore Back (on Facebook) with a few friends. The group aimed at bringing vital issues to the forefront, and ensure necessary action was being taken to keep the city and its residents safe particularly women. In just a few days, the group gained 20,000 members (it stands today at over 25,000 members). Smith along with other co-founders went on to organise a demonstration – Red Brigade – where 2000 people showed up to fight for women’s rights against violence. The group has established a strong relationship with Bengaluru’s police commissioner’s office, and works as a platform where women can (and do) report harassment incidents.



## MASIH ALINEJAD

An Iranian journalist, Masih Alinejad started the My Stealthy Freedom campaign in 2014, in an attempt to free Iranian women forcibly being made to wear a head covering, and instead leave the decision up to them. Alinejad, who grew up in Iran was coerced into wearing a hijab at the age of seven. She even revealed that a few years ago, she was almost attacked while reporting from the Parliament, because of a few spare strands of hair that escaped her cover. The New York-based journalist posted a photo of herself without her hijab, and asked other women to share their own “moments of stealthy freedom”. Hundreds of photos of women with uncovered hair poured in from Iran and across the world, Alinejad created a Facebook page dedicated to these women who had risked their lives and reputations. The page currently boasts 777, 759 likes. Alinejad is currently reporting on Iranian politics and is an avid supporter on women’s rights and equality. This year, her efforts were inaugurated with The Women’s Rights Award at the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy.



## Kalki Subramaniam

The first transgender woman to star in a major film in 2011, Tamil actress, writer, filmmaker Kalki Subramaniam has established a strong transgender rights community with a global reach. In spite of being a common target for bullies in school, Subramaniam went on to earn two master’s degrees, and encourages transgender students to stay in school through her organisation, Sahodari Foundation, that supports transgender education. She also employs Facebook to find employment opportunities for educated and qualified transgender people, and helps create workplaces where transgender employees feel safe and accepted.



## **ANNIE CLARK AND ANDREA PINO**

In 2009 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Annie Clark started a blind reporting box system for rape survivors after being assaulted. Three years later, Andrea Pino used the same system to report her own attack. The duo connected on Facebook, and realised that rape in universities were more common than perceived. After filing a federal complaint against the university, they used Facebook to provide support and resources to several other women in colleges, and eventually founded End Rape On Campus as an organised online forum that operates out of California.



### **Gioia Gottini**

After struggling to establish her own profession, Gioia Gottini realised how hard it was for women in Italy to start their own companies. In March 2013, the career coach reached out to self-made female entrepreneurs in Turin through Facebook. Gottini used the group to set up monthly meetings and daily online support for women. Last year, she was invited to speak about her efforts at a TedXWomen talk, after which she expanded the group to other Italian cities. Today this organisation is collectively known as Rete al Femminile: it features 30 groups across Italy that helped several women start their own ventures to achieve financial independence.

When a woman in Nairobi, Kenya was stripped in public for wearing a skirt on the grounds that she was indecently dressed, a group of women started a campaign called MyDressMyChoice. Their work (a peaceful protest, and a petition) helped change the law to register stripping as an illegal sexual offence. Following this success, eight of the founders registered Her Voice, an organisation that dedicates its efforts to fighting gender-based violence and providing support to victims via Facebook. The NGO helps victims in taking legal action against assaulters as well as relocation. It also visits courtrooms to advocate for justice in cases of gender violence, and seeks to promote more positive attitudes toward women by bringing male role models to speak to boys in Nairobi schools.



### **Shoana Solomon**

Last year, after observing how Ebola-induced panic was leading to a bias against Africans in the US, Shoana Solomon started a movement to fight the discrimination. A student teased the Liberian-American entrepreneur's nine-year-old daughter on her first day of school (Solomon's family had recently relocated from Monrovia, Liberia to Delaware), saying she was carrying a disease. Solomon realised that this was only a small example of judgments that others were facing. After viewing a Facebook post that talked about doing something to disperse such opinions, Solomon along with three Liberian women started a campaign #IAmALiberianNotAVirus. What started simply as a photo with a signboard quickly became one of the top 15 campaigns in 2014. Eventually a Facebook page was formed to share the campaign's impact that not only helped disperse some of the stereotypes, but also brought a community together during a hard time.





## **SAMANTHA CRISTOFORETTI**

**European Space Agency**

For those women looking to enter the largely male-dominated profession of astronauts, Samantha Cristoforetti's Facebook page is well worth a visit: this Italian flight engineer – the first Italian woman in space, she orbits around the Earth every 92 minutes! And she shares her experiences on Facebook to motivate more women to join the field. In 2009, Cristoforetti was one of the six people chosen out of 8,000 applicants to join the European Space Agency as an astronaut, after which she spent five rigorous years training across the world to finally launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Cristoforetti, who is aboard the International Space Station till May, this year aims to make her experience more relatable to women across the world by telling them how 'normal' it can be. She is conducting science and technology research in weightlessness as part of her mission, which she calls 'Futura' to honour the pursuit of building a future in space for human beings.



## **Mayumi Taniguchi**

An associate professor at Osaka International University for international law on women's rights and gender law, Mayumi Taniguchi is also the founder of All Japan Obachan Party, a group advocating for more women in Japanese government and other gender equality causes. Two years ago, Taniguchi wrote a Facebook post about 'old men' dominating Japanese politics, and received an incredible response. Frustrated by the lack of women in major political positions in the country, and spurred by the likes, she created a Facebook group for her unofficial political party, the All Japan Obachan Party. The word 'obachan' is used to refer to middle-aged or elderly women in a derogatory way, and Taniguchi decided to spin a twist to it to empower women's voices in Japanese politics. Though her campaign was not taken seriously at the start, today it has developed into a full-fledged initiative for women to share their political opinions (something Japanese women are not generally encouraged to do) with close to 5,000 members. Local meetings are held to check women's representation across districts and candidates are questioned on key women's issues. Taniguchi will also participate in the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, and plans to organise an international conference to be held next year with other members from her group.



## **Carol Rossetti**

Over 200,000 people subscribe to Carol Rossetti's Facebook page to view her illustrations (in Portuguese, Spanish and English) of issues faced by women across the globe. Rossetti who would post one drawing on Facebook every day to attract work was appalled, last year, by plus-size women being shamed for their bodies in Brazil. The 26-year-old from Belo Horizonte then created a character called Marina to spread the message of "wearing what you feel like to feel comfortable in your own body." After putting up several gender-focused sketches, her project 'Women' was born. Rossetti's work showcases real-life stories of women, and continues to be inspired by people visiting her page to view a drawing they can relate to. This year, the illustrator shall be publishing a book of her works, also titled 'Women'.



Source : <https://in.pinterest.com/pin/>

Rally 

# WHY ME?

**Bertilla Alphonso**  
St. Xavier's College,  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

I tried to go to sleep tonight  
But the darkness crept instead of light  
The morn' chatters all gone away  
The nightly ghost upon me lay

To make the terrible memories disappear  
To bring back my hearts innocent cheer  
I tried to shut my thoughts away  
Dream and go to a land faraway

My mind it cried and my heart it wailed  
But the more I tried the more I failed  
And it finally all comes back to me  
It's never going to end it seems

So dark the memories I tried to hide  
The feelings still fresh in my mind  
How my body was invaded and my skin felt abuse  
Now all I do is cry away my blues

The perpetrators were caught and the culprits punished  
But my heart it sought for the inner peace  
My life it never stayed the same  
Each day I spent my heart to tame

I tried to be okay  
I tried to leave it all behind  
To some extent I succeeded  
But these nights they made me fail

Laying awake in bed at night  
With tears rolling down my cheek  
I still don't know what could make the past right  
I still can't help but ask myself why  
When anyone it could've been  
Why did it have to be me?

Rally 

1. "Whatever you do, be different – that was the advice my mother gave me, and I can't think of better advice for an entrepreneur. If you're different, you will stand out." – Anita Roddick
2. "A lot of people are afraid to say what they want. That's why they don't get what they want." – Madonna
3. "A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." – Eleanor Roosevelt (Photo credit: U.S. Federal Government)
4. "A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." – Eleanor Roosevelt
5. "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much." – Mother Teresa



# JNU Row: What is the Outrage All About?

With the Jawaharlal Nehru University issue taking several twists and turns, The Hindu takes a look at how the issue started and where.

## The debate around Afzal Guru

Earlier, students from the Jawaharlal Nehru University organised an event on Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru who was hanged in 2013. This was to be done the day after Guru's third death anniversary.

The event organisers had pasted posters across the campus inviting students to gather for a protest march against "Judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat" and in solidarity with the "struggle" of Kashmiri migrants at the Sabarmati dhaba in the campus.

Afzal Guru, the mastermind behind the Parliament attacks in 2001, was hanged in 2013.

The programme called "A country without a post office — against the judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhatt", was supposed to showcase the protest through poetry, art and music.

This set off the row, with the Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staging a protest to demand expulsion of the organisers.

The university administration ordered a "disciplinary" enquiry and said the event organisers "went ahead without permission."

'Anti-India' slogans

ABVP members alleged that the protest march consisted of students shouting 'anti-India' slogans. A purported video from the event shows students shouting anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans. Students in the video are heard saying slogans like: "Kashmir ki

azai tak bharat ki azadi tak, janh rahegi jari".

Students say:

The students who were part of the committee that organised an event to mark the death anniversary of Afzal Guru said that none of them were part of the group that was shouting slogans.

A student who was a part of the event organising committee, told The Hindu: "The programme was a cultural evening organised to question the working of the Supreme Court. It was also meant to bring the grievances of the Kashmiri citizens to light. The struggles of 'self-determination' must be openly spoken about. Considering this is a democratic republic, why should dissent be suppressed?"

A case of sedition against several unknown students was lodged at Vasant Kunj (North) police station. It was registered under IPC Sections 124A (sedition), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons with a common intention).

The university also initiated action, barring eight students from academic activity pending an enquiry, though they would be allowed to stay as guests in the hostels.

Arrest of Kanhaiya Kumar

JNU Students Union president Kanhaiya Kumar was arrested on sedition charges after allegations of 'anti-national' sloganeering against him surfaced. He was ordered to three days of police custody.

JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar. Photo: Sandeep Saxena

**Why did the police take action?**

The police struck after videos of the alleged protest went viral. Home Minister Rajnath Singh talked to Delhi Police Commissioner B.S. Bassi and released a statement: "If anyone raises anti-India slogans, tries to raise questions on the country's unity and integrity, they will not be spared."

**Students protest 'police raj' within campus**

Students of JNU gave a shutdown call, saying that they will not allow classes to be held on the campus till students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar is released. JNU teachers too, joined the students in boycotting classes and said they would take classes on "nationalism" in the varsity lawns.

The university teachers had earlier rallied behind its protesting students and questioned the administration's decision to allow the police crackdown on the campus even as they appealed to the public not to "brand" the institution as "anti-national" but they had not joined the strike earlier.

**'Fake' Twitter handle**

Rajnath Singh alleged that JNU students had the backing of Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed. But, his statement was based "fake tweet" from an unverified Twitter account. The account has posted funny messages in the past, with many on the social media considering it as a parody account. The account @HafeezSaeedJUD is no longer in use.

When contacted, a senior officer who handles the Delhi Police Twitter account said, "What proof is there that it was a parody account? Our domain is not to check parody accounts but to red-flag any incendiary content on social media. The law is very clear on this, Internet is just a medium of communication. Idea was to caution young people and students to not get carried away by such messages."

**A student gets assaulted at the Patiala House court complex on February 15. Photo: PTI** On February 14, the Patiala House courts witnessed violence as a mob, wearing lawyer's robe, slapped and kicked the

"As I was leaving the court I saw a man raising anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans. I lost my cool, like any patriot, and asked him to shut up. And when I turned, he attacked me with an object."

Mr Sharma doesn't know what he was hit with, but the people around him got "offended seeing the

MLA being attacked" and started beating up the attacker, read "anti-national". "The problem of this country at present is that terrorism and being anti-national are considered being progressive. And JNU is promoting this kind of ideology and producing anti-nationals. JNU should be sealed," Mr. Sharma said.

**Rahul Gandhi's role**

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi criticised the BJP government, accusing it of "bullying" the prestigious institution. Soon after visiting the JNU campus Mr. Gandhi called an emergency meeting at his residence where he discussed ways to "tie up" every compelling issue the students are facing in India today and place them in its anti-BJP narrative.

Rahul Gandhi met President Pranab Mukherjee over the JNU row and the alleged targeting of students in various parts of the country. Accompanied by senior leaders and also the young MPs of the party, the Congress vice president highlighted the "lawlessness" in Delhi in the wake of Patiala House court attacks and the way the government has handled the JNU row.

**Kanhaiya Kumar thrashed**

In a shocking sequel to the incidents of February 15 in the Patiala House courts complex, violence was unleashed barely moments before a hearing on sedition charges against JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar was to start at 2 p.m.

The Delhi Police again filled the role of a "silent spectator" as attackers defied the Supreme Court's order for restricted entry to the trial court complex, bashed up Mr. Kumar en route to his court hearing and hurled the choicest abuse, gravel and a jagged end of a flowerpot piece at a six-member team of senior advocates, including Kapil Sibal, hand-picked by the Supreme Court to verify and report back on the ground situation in the court complex.

**Three ABVP members resign**

Three members of the RSS student wing, Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarti Parishad (ABVP), have resigned from their positions in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) unit of the party, citing ideological differences. In a letter jointly issued by the three students, they have "dissociated themselves" from any further activity of ABVP. The letter adds that they cannot be the "mouthpiece" of a government that has un-

leashed oppression on student community.

Kanhaiya Kumar released from Tihar

A court in New Delhi ordered release of the JNUSU president from the Tihar jail after he furnished bail bond of Rs. 10,000 in the sedition case, a day after he was granted six months' interim bail by the Delhi High Court.

Mr. Kumar was granted interim bail for six months by high court which had observed that FIR lodged in connection with an on-campus event that led to his arrest on sedition charge suggested it "is a case of raising anti-national slogans which do have the effect of threatening national integrity".

'We want freedom in India, not freedom from India'

Addressing a huge gathering of students on the campus, soon after release from Tihar Jail, Mr. Kumar said: "It is not azadi from India, it is azadi in India [we want]... from the corrupt practices that are going on inside the country." Mr. Kumar made his fiery speech at the same place where he had addressed students just a day before his arrest.

Here's what The Hindu has published over the years about Sedition laws:

Why our universities are in ferment

The Sangh Parivar's student wing across campuses has been given the responsibility of raising the slogan of anti-nationalism wherever democratic aspirations are expressed.

Sedition and the government

Section 124-A of the IPC, pertaining to sedition, negates the right to dissent, which is an essential condition of any reasonable government. Viewed thus, it is Section 124-A that is 'anti-India'.

Sources <http://www.thehindu.com/specials/in-depth/jawaharlal-nehru-university-row-what-is-the-outrage-all-about/article8244872.ece>

Landmark sedition cases in India

Sedition was not a part of the original Indian Penal Code(IPC) enacted in 1860 and was introduced in 1870. Since then, the law has been applied several times and has undergone several interpretations. Here are some of the sedition cases that have made an impact.

Queen Empress Vs. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1897)

This was the first instance where the law on sedition, specifically the Section 124 (a) from the Indian Penal Code was defined and applied. The Privy Council was of the view that acts like incitement to violence and insurrection were immaterial while deciding the culpability of a person charged with sedition.

Niharendu Dutt Majumdar Vs. King Emperor (1942)

The Federal Court held that "public disorder or the reasonable anticipation or likelihood of public disorder is the gist of the offence". These judges were of the view that sedition implies resistance or lawlessness in some form. If there is no incitement to violence, there is no sedition.

Kedar Nath Singh vs State Of Bihar (1962)

This was the first case of sedition tried under independent India. The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court interpreted the law in line with the 1842 case - a person can be charged with sedition only if there is incitement to violence in his speech or writing or an intention to create disorder.

Shreya Singhal vs U.O.I on (2015)

The court ruled that a person could not be tried for sedition unless their speech, however offensive, annoying or inconvenient, had an established connection with any incitement to disrupt public order. Offences against the State, 2014

- Total 512 cases against the state

- As many as 872 persons were arrested

A. Sedition (under Section 124A IPC)

- Of 512, 47 cases were reported under sedition

- 58 arrested

- 73% of cases in two states: Jharkhand (18) and Bihar (16)

Kerala (5), West Bengal (2), Odisha (2), Andhra Pradesh (1), Assam (1), Chhattisgarh (1), Himachal Pradesh (1)

B. Waging war/collecting arms to wage war (under Sections 121, 121A, 122 & 123)

- 129 cases

- 166 persons arrested

- 75% of cases in three states: Assam (55), Meghalaya (32) and Manipur (10)

Rally 

# Corporal Punishment of Children

“Develop Sensitivity and not stupidity while handling children says Child Rights Activist Arthur love”

**No CHILD** should be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment according to article of 27 in Indian Constitution.

The most urgent need of the hours is to protect the children from child abuse and to curb the corporal punishment of the children.

Corporal punishment is counterproductive and brings a permanent fear in the minds of children. The Corporal punishment is not only a violation of child rights but also an endorsement of idea of non-violence.

The Government observes that subjecting a child to pain, fear and humiliation is a serious criminal offence liable for prosecution through the judicial order. Corporal punishment has been strongly condemned by the Supreme Court. As per the protection of child rights act of 1993 the right to educational act in August 2009 says that there can be ‘No physical punishment can be meted out to the child whatever may be the form’. Further the right to education act aimed to create a learning process with a free atmosphere: free from fear and stress. Each child must be treated with dignity.

Many children were the victims of child torture and children could not raise their voice or defend their fundamental rights, because of revenge by teachers. Corporal punishment caused death and suicide in some cases.

1. Corporal punishment is a widely used practice and a deliberate infliction of pain and that is strictly prohibited by law, as per Supreme Court order dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

2. No teacher has the right to raise hands on children and they must not use the sharp words to ridicule sarcasm. The modern teachers are very rude and mechanical in their approach rather than humane and systematic while handling the children. Some of the schools were also neglecting the academic

side by exploiting the parents and disappointing the children in the name of recognized English medium, though the permission is granted to run only in Kannada medium.

3. According to the declaration of rights of a child 1959, states that the child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity needs a Special Safe Guard and legal protection. The Constitution of India recognize the vulnerable position of children and the right to protection article in the constitution No. 14, 16, 15, 16, 23 and 24. The children must be treated as children but not as adults. The child accepts spontaneous love and tolerance from the teacher. So it is not a crime to defend innocent children against corporal Punishment.

The writer is an Educational Expert and Child Rights Activist. Rally

Rtn. S. Arthur Love



# 12 Extraordinary Indian Women Who Broke The Norms And Achieved Greatness

Rohit Bhattacharya

**IT'S A SAD** but unavoidable fact that things have almost always been harder for women in India. Despite certain sections of society becoming more open to the idea of equality between the sexes, there remains a deep rooted misogyny in the country. Despite these odds however, there have been women who have displayed unbelievable courage and a will to move forward in the face of cultural and social rejection. From Prem Mathur, the first female commercial pilot in India, to Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, who became President of the UN General Assembly, these women have changed the landscape of India for the better.

Here are some Indian women who broke the norms at a time when it was completely unheard of.

**1. Justic Anna Chandy:** The first female judge in India

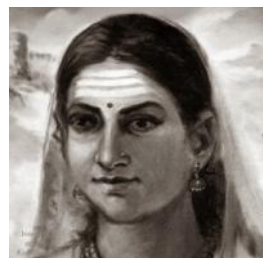
Born in 1905 in Trivandrum, Chandy was the first woman to get a law degree in her state. While practising as a barrister, she also promoted the cause of women's rights, founding the



magazine Shrimati, that she also edited. In 1959, she was appointed as a judge in the Kerala High Court, a position she remained in for 9 years.

[Source - Navrangindia](#)

**2. Kittur Rani Chenamma:** One of the earliest women to fight for independence



In 1824, Kittur led an armed rebellion against the British East India Company in response to the Doctrine of Lapse. She was martyred and is remembered to this day as

one of the earliest Indian rulers to have fought for independence. Her tremendous courage, swiftness of action and open defiance of the Brits was something that had never been seen before.

[Source - Karnatakatravel](#)

**3. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit:** First Indian President of the United Nations General Assembly

The sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, Vijaya was born in 1900. Her work as an Indian diplomat and politician brought her a lot of attention, especially considering she was the first Indian woman to hold a cabinet post. In 1953, she was appointed the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly. She was a stalwart and an inspiration in the human rights movement worldwide.



[Source - Npg](#)

**4. Savitribai Phule:** One of the first female teachers for girls in India

One of the first women teaching girl students in India, Savitribai endured stones and cow dung being pelted at her and being orally abused while walking on streets, just because she was a woman teacher who taught girls and boys equally. During the 1850s and 60s, she welcomed untouchables around her. She encouraged women's education and their liberation from the cultural patterns of the male-dominated society at a time when feminism meant nothing in Indian culture.



[Source - Sainiworld](#)

5. Anandi Gopal Joshi: First Indian woman to get a degree in Western medicine

Anandi was married off at the young age of 9, and while this would put an end to most dreams at that time, her husband actually encouraged her to get an education. In the late 1800s, this was almost unheard of, but she managed to fly to the US, with the support of her husband, and end up becoming the first Indian woman to obtain a degree in Western medicine. In



her efforts, she discussed the persecution she and her husband had endured, and stressed the need for female doctors in India.

Source - The Better India

6. Begum Hazrat Mahal: Was a pivotal figure in the Indian Rebellion of 1857

Born in 1820, Begum handled several of the affairs of state for Awadh, along with her husband. She played a major role in the Rebellion of 1857, but was exiled when the British recaptured Lucknow. While in exile, she drew everyone's attention towards the demolition of temples and mosques by the British to make way for the construction of roads, as well as highlighting other injustices purported by the English.



Source - Outlook India

7. Sunitha Krishnan: Started one of the most effective anti trafficking organisations despite facing death threats



Born in 1972, Sunitha works as an inspiration to people to work towards betterment. She runs Prajwala, a non-governmental organization that rescues, rehabilitates

and reintegrates sex-trafficked victims into society. At the age of 15, she was gangraped, but this incident only increased her resolve to work in the areas of anti-human trafficking, psychiatric rehabilitation and social policy to bring about awareness regarding sex trafficking. She is regularly consulted not just by the Indian authorities, but also by the United Nations and the US government.

Source - Al Jazeera

8. Prem Mathur: India's first woman pilot

Captain Prem Mathur obtained her commercial pilot's license in 1947 from Allahabad Flying Club. At the time, it was unheard of for a woman to be a pilot in India. Finally, she was accepted by Deccan Airways in Hyderabad, and even passed the interview with flying colours. However, there was massive public rejection of a woman pilot in command at the time, and she was forced to fly for private airlines. A few years ago, she finally flew with the Indian Airlines.



Source - Scoopnest

9. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: Fought for freedom as well as the revival of arts and culture in India

Born in 1903, Kamaladevi accomplished more things for India in terms of country, society and culture than any of us can imagine. She fought for the freedom of India, worked in social reform, especially in the field of women's rights and the upliftment of women in



the country, facing severe protest and backlash in the process. The National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Central Cottage Industries Emporium and the Crafts Council of India, all exist thanks to her belief in the power of culture to change society.

Source - Iloveindia



**10. Jhansi Ki Rani: A symbol of resistance against the British**

Born in 1828, Rani Lakshmbai has always been one of the most iconic and powerful female figures in the minds of the people of the country. Her resistance of the British and the ferocity with which she battled has become stuff of legend, and her military prowess in general was considered beyond par. She was martyred in 1858, during the battle of Kotah .



[Source - Wikimedia](#)

**11. Sucheta Kriplani: One of the few women to help draft the Indian Constitution**

Born in 1908, Sucheta was a celebrated freedom fighter, working with Gandhi during the height of the Quit India Movement. She was also one of the few women elected onto the Constituent Assembly and helped draft the Indian Constitution, this during a time when women in public



office was a seldom seen thing. She was also the founder of All India Mahilla Congress, established in 1940, and served as the first woman Chief Minister of India (U.P. Government) between 1963-67.

[Source - Focusnews](#)

**12. Durgabai Deshmukh: Started Andhra Mahilla Sabha in 1937 to fight for women's rights**

Durgabai was born in 1909 in Andhra Pradesh, and was married off at the incredibly young age of 8, but later left her husband to work. She displayed a keen sense of duty, ambition and belief in a better country however, working in the INC, helping with Gandhi's Satyagraha activities and enacting several social welfare laws. She fought hard for women's rights and drafted a national policy on social welfare while she was part of the Planning Commission.



[Source - Wikimedia](#)

Savitribai Phule was born on 3 January 1831, at Naigaon, in Maharashtra, British India.

Died 10 March 1897

Savitribai Jyotirao Phule (3 January 1831 – 10 March 1897) was an Indian social reformer and poet. Along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule, she played an important role in improving women's rights in India during British rule. The couple founded the first women's school at Bhide Wada in Pune in 1848. She also worked to abolish discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender.



**Early life**

Savitribai Phule was born in 1831 in Naigaon, Maharashtra. Her family were farmers. At the age of nine, she was married to twelve-year-old Jyotirao Phule in 1840.[citation needed] Savitribai and Jyotirao had no children of their own. However, the couple adopted Yashavantrao, who was the son of a widowed Brahmin.

**Career as a social reformer**

**Statue of Savitribai Phule and her husband, Jyotirao Phule**

Savitribai worked as both an educational reformer and social reformer, especially for women. During the 19th century, arranged marriages before the age of maturity was the norm in the Hindu society of Maharashtra. Since mortality rates were high, many young girls often became widows even before attaining maturity. Due to social and cultural practices of the times, widow remarriage was out of question and therefore prospects for the young widows were poor. The 1881 Kolhapur gazetteer records that widows at that time used to shave their heads, and wear simple red saris and had to lead a very austere life with little joy.[4] Savitribai and Jyotirao were moved by the plight of these girls. They organized a strike against the barbers to persuade them to stop shaving the heads of widows.[citation needed]

Also, these helpless women, with no way to refuse this treatment, were easy prey for sexual exploitation, including rape, often by male members of the extended family. Widows who became pregnant would resort to suicide or killing the newborn for fear of being ostracized by the society.[citation needed] Once, Jyotirao stopped a pregnant lady from committing suicide, promising her to give her child his name after it was born. Savitribai accepted the lady in her house and helped her deliver the child. Savitribai and Jyotirao later adopted this child and named him Yashwantrao. He grew up to become a doctor. Savitribai and her husband established a center for caring for pregnant rape victims and delivering their children. The care center was called “Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha “ ( Infanticide prohibition house). Savitri ran the home and considered all the children born in the home her own.[citation needed]

Moved by the treatment of the untouchables, who were refused drinking water meant for the upper

caste, the Phule couple opened the well in their own house in 1868 for these communities . Wayne has described Phule as “one of the first-generation modern Indian feminists, and an important contributor to world feminism in general, as she was both addressing and challenging not simply the question of gender in isolation but also issues related to caste and casteist patriarchy.”[2]

#### Death

Bust of Savitri Phule in the grounds of Pune Municipal Corporation

Savitribai Phule and her adopted son, Yashwant, opened a clinic to treat those affected by the worldwide Third Pandemic of the bubonic plague when it appeared in the area around Pune in 1897. The clinic was established at Sasane Mala, Hadapsar, near Pune, but out of the city in an area free of infection. Savitribai personally took patients to the clinic where her son treated them. While caring for the patients, she contracted the disease herself. She died from it on 10 March 1897 while serving a plague patient.

Rally 

1. How wrong it is for a woman to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than to create it herself. - Anais Nin
2. I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't. - Audre Lorde
3. I think God made a woman to be strong and not to be trampled under the feet of men. - Little Richard
4. “When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.” – Helen Keller
5. “Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.” – Margaret Thatcher
6. “If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.” – Katharine Hepburn
7. “Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” – Maya Angelou
8. “Being an intellectual creates a lot of questions and no answers. You can fill your life up with ideas and still go home lonely. All you really have that really matters are feelings. That's what music is to me.” – Janis Joplin
9. “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.” – Anais Nin
10. “If you don't like being a doormat then get off the floor.” – Al Anon

Rally 

# STUDENTS SPEAK OUT ...

## A-Z OF A WOMAN

**WOMAN,**

Rohit  
Chennai

- A – An Adorable form of Beauty
- B – Brook of Endless Love
- C – Caring Mother, Sister, Friend
- D – Dare to Stand before Her Will Power
- E – Everlasting Affection
- F – Fills you with the Aura of Love
- G – Gives up anything for Her Love
- H – Heights of Generosity
- I – Intelligence Overloaded
- J – Jealousy is never their Motto
- K – Knows What, How to and Where to do
- L – Lots of Love, Living for the lives of other
- M – MY MOTHER, the ultimate form of infinite Love
- N – No one can identify what she has in Her Heart
- O – Overwhelmed with Positivity
- P – Proud at the Victory of Others
- Q – Quality at Her work, the perfectionist
- R – Reality Thinkers
- S – Selfless Sacrifice
- T – Tension is not Her Intention
- U – Unity is What She wishes at Home or the Country or Anywhere
- V – Versatile in taking Decisions
- W – Workaholic
- X – Xerox of Her cannot be found
- Y – You and me are here just because of Her
- Z – Zeals cannot be Achieved without Her Support.



# WOMAN.... WHO?...MAN?...

What was your reaction, seeing a woman conductor, or a cab driver for the first time? Did you begin with “though *being a woman.....*” Stop! What is it like being a man then ? Living in a patriarchal country, I feel that gender discrimination is in our blood and thoughts right from the very moment we stepped out from our mother’s womb.

Why should we respect women? Is it just because she plays an important role in reproduction by giving birth, or being our sister or just because she is another human being “LIKE” man? No, when will people begin to respect women as women and not because of the role she plays and thoughts we perceive a woman to be.

What is women empowerment? Have you people heard about anything called “man empowerment? Empowerment comes for the stigmatized, that it is for the people who lack in something, but I strongly believe that opportunities should be equally shared among men and women. This is what empowerment really means to be.

Yes I am a Feminist and not a Femi-Nazi, And I think that only when a man begins to treat a woman for what she is, the *change* can take place - a world filled with Equality. Rally

Martin Philips J

# WOMAN

D.Jones

A woman is all the happiness you have got in the entire world. Mother is always the first woman in a man’s life. There is no one to match the love and affection of a mother. A mother always shows love and protects her son from everything. A wife creates happiness and also looks after the family. A wife becomes half of the man and that is why a wife is said to be a better half of man.

A woman not only does the laundry, cooking, etc. She is the one who makes sure the family is led in a good way. She nurtures her child. She has love and affection towards everyone in the family. You may be powerful but that’s nothing in front of a woman’s love. Rally

# SHOW RESPECT

Leander Lokesh

As we celebrate Women’s Day’ don’t forget to show your love and respect towards women. Thank those women who made your life cheerful. If your sister had helped you in writing your assignment, don’t forget to offer her help in return. Make them feel special on this occasion. They have their rights and should be treated equal to men. They are the home-makers, friends, leaders and so on. A family without a woman is like a tree without its roots. A good woman is rare to find like diamonds, so keep them safe and sound. Rally

Rally



# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

[dreamstime.com](http://dreamstime.com)

March 2016

# THE REAL WOMEN

Shyam S

We hail from the country where anything beautiful, immortal and requires worship is named after women. Our ancestors had given the women their rightful place. The much protested and debated so called 'Men domination' came only in the middle. Nowadays one can't keep on saying men dominate women. Women are excelling in all spheres except those which require extreme physical work. But there is no need for women to underestimate herself because of this reason. But men domination cannot be stopped by change in men's attitude. The much needed thing in ending 'men domination' is that there must be change in mindset of women. Over the years women have believed that they are inferior to men and have found it comfortable to give 'I am a woman' reason for everything. There is no use in organizing protests and creating women groups which only protest. The real protest must be within the heart of every woman to throw away her shyness and prove that she is no less to her complementary gender.

Rally 



www.flickr.com



[maitri-india.tumblr.com](http://maitri-india.tumblr.com)

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND A THOUGHT OF BOY ABOUT A GIRL

Ganesh R

A teenage boy thinks his mother as 'God' and his sisters as 'Angels'. But when he thinks about girls, surely 90% of them or portray them as lead girls. Women have the freedom to wear according to their style. We have no rights to stop them. So we should not judge a person especially a girl by her dressing sense. When we see the history of Tamil Nadu, women were worshipped as Gods and they have equal rights like men. But later men started to suppress women. They too have heart and love like anybody else. Men should support women for their life improvement. We must treat each and every woman as our mothers and sisters. This single thought can change the mindset of people. The development of a nation not only lies in the hands of men. It also lies in the hands of women. So for nation development, we must strive for women empowerment by giving them education and giving them equal rights.

Rally 

# Women

Melvin M.B.



When God created man and woman he wanted them to be supportive to each other and to be equal. But we know that women are not treated equally to men in society. We should understand that women are the most beautiful creation of God. Men cannot survive without the help of women. When I write about women the personality who comes to my mind is Hilary Clinton. Most of you may not know about her. She is the candidate for the next US Presidential elections. When we go back in time and analyse the US Presidential election, we know that it is fully dominated by men. In a situation like this Hilary Clinton tries to win the election. According to me with her will and her strong determination she can win any election. Her aims and ideas are far better than the other men candidates. She should be considered as a role model for the women society.

Rally 

## WOMEN

Sahil Kumar

Women play really a very important part in a person's life, it may be a man's life or may be a woman. A woman plays different role and their roles are really important, imagining a world without them is totally impossible. Just think of your mother who carried you in her womb, even with so much pain she never gave up. It is said that while giving birth to a child a woman feels the pain, only a woman has that courage to suffer the pain and still smile. We say women are weak physically, they are emotionally strong but seriously the will power they have is truly exceptional. In today's world women are there in every field of work and life and they have always proven themselves. A woman is never the less than a man in today's context. Women can be told as wo-men which means supporters of men, there is even a saying which defines this belief that "behind every successful man there is a woman." We say men are more successful, but remember when men go weak mentally in their willing power there comes a woman who supports them in every situation. Saying men are successful does not mean women are not. There are successful women and they have faced a lot of struggle. Discrimination, offence, harassment, demotivation and much more but the best part is they have overcome all this and shown the world what a woman can do. Why should they face this struggle? Why can't we support than? Surely India is not free from discrimination of women. Let us just start from our own house, let us not tolerate the injustice happening in front of us. Let us respect women and help them with their rights. We talk about equality but surely there is no equality. Let us change the thinking and the mindset of men and women. Let us learn to respect women and fight for the rights of women. Your mom, sister, friends too are women, think about them and care for women!

Rally 



## **A WOMAN'S WORTH**

**She gave life. She is a wife.  
She is a mother and she is a friend.  
She is a sister a survivor to the end.  
Appreciate her, we don't dare.  
Ask her worries, we don't care.  
Wipe away her tears, they are invisible as air.**

**She works cooks and clean.  
She laughs, helps comfort, and hides her pain.  
When you struggle she pulls you through**

**All this is she and what do we do?  
Complain and create a mess.  
Provide stress and leave her feeling depressed..  
Push her away and ignore her advice.  
Tell her she is nothing without thinking twice.**

**She was raped tortured and abused.  
Told she was nothing and would always be used just for pleasure forget her pain.**

**She swallows her pride, put her feelings aside.  
Does as needed in order for you to be free.  
Ignores your ignorance and tolerates your flaws.  
You call her Bitch, Slut, Hoe and Tramp  
She answers with pride dignity and a complete loss of self.  
You call her nothing.  
I call her Strong, Smart, Sensual, Caring, Giving, Surviving, Tolerant and powerful  
I call her WOMAN!**

Rally

Source: <http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/a-womans-worth>

1. "The day will come when men will recognize woman as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, will there be the perfect comradeship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race."  
– Susan B. Anthony
2. "We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever."  
– Susan B. Anthony
3. "I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint – and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you." – Oprah Winfrey
4. "It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union.... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less." – Susan B. Anthony
5. "A strong woman understands that the gifts such as logic, decisiveness, and strength are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection. She values and uses all of her gifts."  
– Nancy Rathburn

## FORM IV (See Rule 8)

Statement about ownership and other particular of *RALLY* to be published in first issue every year after the last day of February.

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I, S. Emmanuel, s.j. hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.



# UJALI '15 REPORT

Grace D' Souza  
Woman's Commission Coordinator

**Women: That's what UJALI has always been about.**

It celebrates and supports Women Empowerment year after year at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. UJALI is a Women's Commission, AICUF Maharashtra, initiative. Women ask for freedom, for justice, for equality, for respect. Not too much, we hope. Then after years and years of getting experts on these subjects to talk to us, after organizing workshops and having feminists over, after a million attempts...why did there still exist the general apathy towards the subject? It was like words on being repeated, numbed the ears of their listeners. So this year, we decided to shake it up. We decided to strike the basic human cord within each being with such a force that it would resound long enough to stir up the soul. We decided to call survivors and give them THE VOICE.

The housemaids, bar dancers, tribal women and self help groups found themselves, perhaps for the first time, on stage with mikes in their hand. It was time to learn something from the women who were barely accepted by society. The weeks prior to UJALI saw a flurry of activity as interviews were conducted to select volunteers for the four departments: Events, Hospitality, Publicity and Souvenirs. Around 90 students worked to give these women a Voice. Mamta Didi, who was almost 60, and still working as a housemaid came to St. Xavier's College on the 1st of September '15. She spoke to us about her alcoholic husband and the trials faced in raising three children while being subjected to social stigma. Her strength and resilience unnerved us. We fell in love with the woman she was. The session focused more on the interactive part as we wanted the audience to take active interest in another person's life. We came to show sympathy, we went back taking courage.

The Women from the Warli Tribe placed in the Palghar District of Maharashtra had an exhibition on the 2nd of September at St. Xavier's College. The exhibition was followed by a workshop on Warli Art to acquaint the students with their culture. The students followed the women's counsel on drawing geometric figures with rice paste to express everyday Warli life. An interactive session followed where the women answered how it felt to come into civilization and whether society accepted them. All their girl children are now being educated. It is a step forward for the tribe. They taught us the essence of community and of being at peace with Rehabilitated bar girls came to college on the 3rd of September to tell us about their experience. This was the star event of UJALI. Students flooded the hall to hear them speak. They spoke openly about sexuality and systems, about men and poetry and the fragility of hearts. The hall resounded with peals of the national anthems led by one of the women very spontaneously. Their stories stirred, touched and changed. A well deserved standing ovation was given. They asked us to stop classifying women and 'good' and 'bad' based on their sexual experience. We whole heartedly agreed. This was a visit on the 4th of September to the slums of Bandra to visit a pocket of women who had formed groups. They beat the odds to continue working and generating an income so that they could feed, clothe and educate the children.

We learnt about the intricate working of this complicated system. And how the women evolved to understand it. This is empowerment in the truest sense. We are proud of such initiatives. In conclusion, these women taught us bravery and the power of will and changed our definitions.

We hope we've ignited a spark that will spread faster and wider than a forest fire. 



# The History of All India Catholic University Federation

UNIT I – 1924 -1936

## No. 2

An Accolade to the movement and Rally

The Third Annual session of the Catholic Young Men's Guild, Trichinopoly, 13-14 January 1927 was presided over by M. R. Ry. S. Arputhaswamy Avl., B.A. L.T., Member of the Legislature Council, Madras. In this auspicious occasion he applauded the great achievement of Rally and CYMG in the following way:

"Third Anniversary of our existence as an organized union of Catholic Young Men is an achievement. We hope no one will tax us with exaggerated notions for making this deliberate statement, which happens to apply to our Guild and its mouthpiece, Rally. We are moreover level-headed enough not to boast of it as a feast, though we feel quite disposed to give thanks to God for the fact. We even believe it is a fact well worth thanking for, because we are convinced by our own experience that it has done some good. The good done by an association like our own is perhaps easier to feel than to describe."

Extension

There are two pointers to understand the extension that was taking place in the stipulated period;

- Geographical Extension
- Thematic Extension

Geographical Extension:

The growth continues to network with other like-minded groups and so in 1929 CYMG was merged with the MCYL (Malabar Catholic Youth League, which was founded in 1915 by Fr. Honore SJ) and renamed as CYMF. In the 30's, the world and India in particular realised the value of being united, the echo of that was felt through civil disobedience movement in India with the famous Dandi March in which the students, youths, peasants and workers took part.

Actually CYM Guild began as an association consisting of the students of St. Joseph's college and such of the Old Boys as happened to reside in Trichinopoly and consequently included the following groups: the Boarding house, the semi-boarding, the St. Mary's Tope, the Redeemer's parish and the Cathedral parish. Its development beyond Trichinopoly was at the time contemplated as an ideal which during the years which followed was rapidly fulfilled. Several outside centres enthusiastically welcomed the guild idea and formed study clubs and affiliated them to the guild at Trichinopoly. Of these the more important were Palamcottah, Tanjore, Mylapore.

CYMG thus moved away from Trichy and branched out to other parts of Tamil Nadu and states of Karnataka & Kerala. In the middle 30's some of the questions discussed in St. Joseph's Study Club, Bangalore, were "Is there salvation outside the Catholic Church?" ;in the Catholic Young Men's Association, Trivandrum, discussion was on "The Crucifixion and the Holy Cross" and St. Thomas Aquinas study club of Tuticorin discussed "Confession".

The following report gives us an idea how CYMG and MYCL got gelled with each other in the year 1930 and the extension that spread its tentacles in other states.(Box no. 4)

The study club Report

The study club forms the basis of our organization of the catholic youth and we attach the highest importance to its healthy life, efficient working, and steady growth. It affords the training ground for our Catholic young men to study, in the form of friendly debates, the principles of Catholicism and their bearing on the problems of life so that they may become enlightened Catholics and useful members of the community. Valuing, as we do, so greatly the work of these study clubs, it is a matter of great

satisfaction that our study clubs have shown a remarkable record of zealous and praise-worthy activity which, to chronicles here, would be to exceed the limits of a report. Among the subjects discussed I may mention the following: "Religion and Science," "Education and Religion", "Catholics and Politics", "The Effects of the Caste System", "The Divinity of Our Lord." I have selected these out of 14 subjects discussed by only one of our study clubs.

The study clubs of our Vth and VIth Form students, call for a special word of praise. The Benjamins of the Guild, they have upheld our best traditions by their youthful earnestness and sustained enthusiasm in conducting meetings at once practical, lively and business like. The study clubs of far-off Saigon and Kuala Lumpur, of Loyola, Palamoottah, Mylapore, and Holy Redeemer's deserve our special congratulations for carrying on faithfully the traditions of the Catholic Young Men's Guild. To all our study club members, and their respective secretaries, and more particularly to their spiritual counselors who guide their charge at no small personal inconvenience, I tender, on behalf of the Guild, our sincere thanks together with our earnest wish that they will continue their work with unabated real and thoroughness: more than ever India needs well-grounded Catholic Young Men.

In this connection, I must mention that an endeavour is being; made, through the kind and valuable initiative of Rev. Fr. Ferroli, S. J. of St. Aloysius College, to start a study club at Mangalore, which, as the regional unit of S. Canara, will form a valuable link in the chain of Catholic Youth organization. Nearer home, I have some hopes that the Cathedral Parish will succeed in starting one for the members of the Anglo-Indian Community, and that Rev. Fr. Gnanapragasam, S. J. of the Training School, Cantonment will establish a link between his training school study club and ours. I shall conclude my report on our study clubs by the remark that study clubs are meant, not merely for Catholic students, but for all Catholics, wherever they can form a small group, a living cell, and train themselves to some form of Catholic Action by concerted study and organised action.

### III. The Federation

The catholic Young Men's Guild, and the

Malabar Catholic Students' League, functioning from their inception as two distinct associations of Catholic Youth, took, during the period under review, the significant, yet natural step of establishing a Federation which would cement the union of two regiments fighting under the same Leader, Christ the King, and would prepare the way for the union of similar associations in the Presidency and beyond. Without sacrificing either their individually or their autonomy, the two Associations have achieved a closer understanding, and to maintain unity of purpose, have adopted the King's Rally as the organ of the Federation.

Its foundation was laid when the 13th Annual Convention of the M.C.Y.,. at Alwaye passed a momentous and unanimous resolution in favour of the Federation, and it became an established fact when on the 10th July 1929 the CYM Guild whole-heartedly welcomed the resolution, thereby formally accepting the gesture of co-operation made at Alwaye. To give the newly created Federation a material form and outward expression a committee of the office-bearers of the MYCL and CYMG met on the 14th July to draw up a scheme, and to frame the rules that were to govern the Federation in its present stage. This is an event, which, I am sure, will prove of far-reaching consequence both as a unifying and consolidating force of Catholic Youth, and as preparing the way for the ultimate realization of a great though far-off ideal of a Federation of the Indian Catholic Youth, modeled on the national organizations which do such great honour to the Church in the great Western countries.

### IV. Meetings

Besides the weekly meetings of the study clubs already mentioned. 12 general meetings were held, 8 Guild meetings, and 4 Federation meetings. Of the Guild meetings, two were debates one of which was held in the town, and the other in the College. Among the subjects debated or dealt with in the course of these meetings, I may indicate the following:

- Catholics and Citizenship
- The Roman Reconciliation
- Catholic Fellowship
- Methods of Christianizing Vernacular Literature
- Catholic Action in Rural Areas
- Catholicism—the Religion of Stability and Progress
- The Ethics of Prohibition

## The Bombay Bigamy Case

### “Impressions of My European Tour” .

The meetings were regularly well attended and the debates, often lively, were always instructive. I must gratulate the members on their great interest in and zeal for the work of the Guild.

### V. The Kingship Prize

A generous donor whose modesty compels us to conceal his name has established the Kingship Prize of the value of Rs. 20, to be awarded to the best essay written by the members of the Federation. The subject of this year's competition open to all senior B. A. and B. A. (Hons.) student members was: “In case an All-India C. Y. M. Association seems desirable, what, in your view, should be the nature, organization and purpose of such an Association?” The prize has been awarded to Mr. V. Antonisamy, IV U.C. St. Joseph's College, to whom we offer our congratulations.

### VI. The King's Rally

The King's Rally has now been adopted as the organ of the Federation and it faithfully chronicles the works of study clubs and other activities that are of interest to Catholic young men. Besides serving as the link between the scattered groups of Catholics, it supplies well-informed articles on social questions of practical value, and I may state with some amount of pardonable pride, that the King's Rally has been quoted by other papers of known repute even outside India thus showing that it is appreciated beyond the circle of the student population. Regarding its circulation, I may say that, without pretending to a large circulation, it is having an increased reading public; yet it beloves every member and well-wisher of our organization, to patronize and to propagate it to a still wider circle. That a paper of such recent growth should have established for itself a place in Catholic journalism in South India, is due almost entirely to our President, Rev. Fr. P. Carty, S. J., who in the midst of other onerous duties has to snatch the time to sit in the editorial chair.

### VII. Finances

We began with a credit balance of Rs. 719-15-2. Subscriptions and donations come to Rs. 1637-9-10. The disbursements for printing postage, etc. amount to Rs. 1643-8-1 thus leaving a credit balance of Rs. 714-

0-11. I confess that we have a slender balance to our credit, but I console myself by the reflection that the whole world suffers now from an acute financial depression. While I am in no mood to lament over our slender purse so long as our members keep staunch to the cause, I feel confident that our cause is sufficiently inspiring to induce our friends and well-wishers to give us greater and more substantial signs of their good will, by general contributions to the cause of the Catholic Youth in India. In this connection, let me pay a tribute of our admiration and gratitude to that selfless worker and shrewd financier Rev. Br. M. A. Xavier, S. J. the Manager, who has contributed not a little to the success and smooth working of our Association.

### VIII. Conclusion

I conclude by first thanking Divine Providence for the abundant blessings and solid success vouchsafed to us, and then the kindly Rector of this College for his uniform and unfailing sympathy and assistance. He is such a master in the art of encouraging good will, chiefly the good-will young men, that we are at a loss to know how to thank him for it. I wish to thank all the Rev. Fathers who, either as lecturers, contributors or as spiritual counselors, have shown their active sympathy towards our cause, and more particularly Rev. D. Honore, S. J., the Jubilarian of this year, to whom after God, we owe our Federation. The only sorrow I feel at this moment is that, very much against our wishes, his sabysmal modesty has prevented us from celebrating his Jubilee whilst we celebrate the first anniversary of his Federation. As dutiful children we obey his ruling though with subdued regrets. He cannot find fault with my words : his ruling is that we should not celebrate his Jubilee, not that we should not express our heartfelt regret for not being permitted to celebrate it.

I thank you all, Rev. Fathers, Ladies and Genglemen, for having so graciously responded to our invitation. I thank particularly Rev. Fr. Cambouives and his Band of artists for so readily consenting to enhance our celebration with those enticing harmonies of which they possess the enviable secret.

Hirudayasamy, General Secretary.

19th October, 1930.

Rally 

(To be continued....)

# REFLECTION

## A Girl Who Asked Why

THIS STORY HAPPENED REALLY LONG TIME BACK, BUT IT IS STILL VERY RELEVANT...

**GIRLS WERE** taught to cook, to take care of the family, and then married off. Studying was off-limits to girls. In those times, there lived a girl. She was a little different. She always had lots of questions in her mind. When she was little, her mother wanted her to learn cooking. The girl asked her mother, “Why should I learn to cook?” Mother said, “So that you can feed yourself when required.” The girl said “Fair enough” and learned to cook. After some time, her mother wanted to teach her household work. The girl again asked, “Why?”

Mother said “So that you can be self-dependent.” The girl said “Fair enough!” and she learned the household chores.

Then one day, her parents told her that they will be marrying her off soon.

She asked, “Why?” “Because all girls get married at this age” said the parents.

“Everyone does, and so should I? That’s not a good reason. I am not going to get married.”

The girl’s determination surprised her parents. Other parents could have forced the girl into marriage, but her parents didn’t.

So, now the girl had enough time in hands. As her father was a teacher, she joined her father’s academy. There she learned several hymns and their meanings. She asked her questions and learned even more. Soon, she surpassed her father in knowledge.

One day, an invitation arrived. It was from the king. The invitation was for the brightest scholar in the academy. As it happened, the king wanted to compile all the knowledge in the universe into books. To get the inputs, he had invited scholars and philosophers from all over the world.

There was a discussion in the academy about who to send for this conference. After a lot of thought, they all agreed that the girl is the brightest scholar in the academy. So, the girl was sent to the conference.

When the girl reached the conference venue, she was taken aback by the grandeur. She noticed a large number of men, but hardly any woman among the delegates.

She climbed the Dias to take

her seat. Suddenly, there was huge uproar — people in the audience were staring at her.

“A woman, who thinks she can sit on the scholars’ panel? “Preposterous!” screamed someone.

“Look at her clothes, so provoking. I don’t think she is a female of good reputation.” declared another.

“Stop her! It’s a sin against god.”

Everybody looked at the king for a solution.

The king pondered for a moment.

“Girl, there is some misunderstanding. A woman can’t sit on the scholars’ panel, unless she is accompanied by a man.”

“Pardon me, Your Grace! But I was invited to join



the discussion” said the Girl.

“I don’t remember inviting you.” said the King.

“You sent the invitation for the brightest scholar in my academy. I am the brightest in my academy. On the invite there was nothing about only male scholars being allowed” answered the girl.

The king gave little chuckle.

“You have made a good point. I have no objection” said the king.

“But I don’t think a woman can join the discussion” murmured one of the women in the audience.

“Why?” asked the girl.

“You will not feel comfortable around so many men” answered another woman.

“I have no problem — my focus is on my work, not men”.

“You don’t have to do this. You are not bad looking, you can marry some wealthy gentleman.” advised one elderly.

The girl ignored him.

“Let us have a discussion. If the scholars have objections, they can debate with her. If she wins, she can join the panel” said the king.

Several liked the solution. They were sure that the girl will be humiliated by scholars.

The scholars on the Dias discussed among themselves, and selected an elderly scholar as their representative.

“So, by joining the discussion, what you want to prove? That women are better than men?” asked the elderly scholar.

“No,sir. I don’t want to prove anything. I am here to join the discussion, to quench my thirst for the knowledge like all of you” said the girl, fearlessly.

“But greater knowledge is not for women” said the elderly scholar.

“I beg your pardon, sir, but why?” asked the girl.

“Because female intellect is weaker than men” said the elderly scholar.

“Says who, sir?”

“It is written in the hymns.”

“May I ask, who wrote those hymns?”asked the girl.”The hymns were written by our forefathers” said the elderly scholar.

“By forefathers you mean, our male ancestors?” asked the girl, again.

“Yes, of course. By our male ancestors” said the elderly scholar.

“How did our forefathers know that women have weaker intellect?””They noticed” said the elderly scholar, irritated. “But how, my lord? Give me an example, how did they notice?” asked the girl again.”I don’t remember” said the elderly scholar.

“Doesn’t matter. Why don’t any of you scholars ask me questions to prove my weaker intellect.”

Many scholars thought of asking her questions, but feared seeing her immense confidence.

“You ask too many questions, girl!” shouted the elderly scholar. He was furious.

The atmosphere was tense.

“Sir, answer her. Why is a female’s intellect weaker than a male?” said the king.

“I need to study, Your Grace, to come up with an example” said the elderly scholar.

“Then I can’t stop her from joining the scholars’ panel. She has come here on her own merit. I will allow her to sit on the panel until you come up with a convincing example” said the king.

People were still doubtful about girl’s worthiness. But as the discussion progressed, all doubts vanished.Days passed. The girl took part in several discussions, asked many questions and answered many others. Other scholars were astonished by her brilliance.

When the final draft of the book was compiled, many hymns which were composed by the girl were included.Nobody knows for sure what happened to the girl thereafter.

Some say, she constructed a book of her own hymns. Some say, she opened an academy for girls. Different people,different stories. But everybody agrees that the girl “who asked why” became the first female scholar.

Rally 

# AICUF KARNATAKA



Swachh COLLEGE-Campus Cleaning



Exposure Programme



Planting of herbs and medicinal plants



North East students feeling at home



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## AICUF National Summer Programmes



1. National Summer Exposure camp for Leadership Training  
Dates : 19th May (Thursday) evening to 23rd May (Monday) 5 p.m.  
Venue: AICUF HOUSE, 52 STERLING ROAD, NUNGAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI-34  
Participants: Each state 6 students (3 boys and 3 girls)

2. National Summer camp for Women Leadership  
Dates: 27th May (Friday) evening 5 p.m. to 30th May 5p.m. (Monday)  
Venue: AICUF HOUSE, 52 STERLING ROAD, NUNGAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI-34  
Participants: Each state 5 students (only Girls)