

**Bethune College**  
**Annual gender sensitization action plan 2021-2022**

Gender sensitization inculcates values of equality, diversity and inclusivity which are essential for creating a safe space for students as well as employees in a higher education institution.

The Women's Studies Centre is working on two publications dedicated to women's issues which will be important resources for all interested in the area.

The Certificate course in "Ethics and Value Education" is successfully continued for the undergraduate students every session where moral and ethical principles are discussed including Women's Rights.

The Human Rights Cell organizes events and publishes an online bulletin focusing on Women's issues. NSS volunteers are proactive in organizing seminars and gender sensitization programmes both inside and outside the college campus.

The Students' Activity Cell (SAC) of Bethune College helps the students to explore their co- and extra-curricular abilities along with their academic pursuit. The Cell also runs seven students' clubs for various co and extra-curricular activities.

The college aims to make students, teachers and office staff well aware of "Gender sensitization". Utilizing the expertise of different bodies, the college prepares an annual gender sensitization action plan at the beginning of every academic session and tries to execute the plan to its level best.

**ACTION PLAN (2021-2022)**

- Women's Studies Centre, Bethune College is working on the publication of a book that will contain articles from scholars of National and International repute.
- Debate competition(s) for students on "gender issues" may be organized.
- Creation of social media page (preferably Facebook) to provide social support to women.
- Yoga session/ Training in practices of mindfulness/ meditation/ stress management to be conducted.
- Continuing tele-counselling and online counselling sessions on a regular basis.
- Mental health assessment of students and staff of the college to be scheduled to assess some of their psychological attributes like personality, anxiety, stress etc.
- NSS unit of Bethune College proposes to conduct a Breast Cancer Awareness Program:
- Seminar on 'General Awareness about Female Reproductive Health' by an eminent gynecologist to be organized by Student's Activity cell in association with the NSS unit.
- NSS special camp for the session 2021-22 to be organized.
- International Women's Day jointly organized by Women Studies Centre and Department and NSS unit to be observed on the 8th of March 2022. They plan to host lectures to be delivered by the students of Women Studies Centre. 'Orthopedic issues of women' with special emphasis on bone health of women after COVID pandemic will be addressed by an orthopedic doctor.

- Health camp to be organized in the college campus. Training sessions on yoga, general and mental health for the students and staff of the college to be held.
- A survey regarding women and child health, hygiene and education followed by an awareness programme to be arranged for women and children of the nearby Goabagan slum.
- A street play 'Jagoron' will jointly be organized by the Human Rights Cell and NSS unit in the college to spread awareness about atrocities against women.
- A Street Play to arouse awareness on Women Rights to be organized by Human Rights Cell and NSS Bethune College with the students.
- A lecture on a great early Human Activist, reformist Savitribai Phule to be delivered by an eminent speaker. The lecture will be organized jointly by the Human Rights Cell and Ethics and Value Committee.
- Lectures to be organized on the contributions of women in various fields.
- Debate Workshop and demonstration of mock debate and Quiz for the students of Girls' schools proposed to be conducted.
- The college will also help to create Debate and Quiz Clubs at school level and conduct Debate and Quiz competition at the school level in that district.
- A workshop focused on female directors is planned to be conducted.
- A seminar on 'Challenges and opportunities of female entrepreneurs' to be conducted in association with Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata.

**A brief summary of all the activities undertaken and completed under gender sensitization program in 2020-2021:**

1. A webinar titled “Anatomy is Destiny” was organized (because of the outbreak of the pandemic and onset of the lockdown) in place of a seminar by Women’s Studies Centre, Bethune College, on 12th July, 2020. Resource persons included Prof. Sadhan Dasgupta and Debojyoti Bhattacharya who spoke from Freudian and transgender perspectives of gender issues.
2. A webinar on "Tribute to Rosalind Elsie Franklin: Pioneer in DNA structure determination" was organized on 27th July, 2020 by Department of Chemistry, Bethune College.
3. Edited book “Voices Beyond Silence: Issues and Insights” (ISBN: 978-81-948279-2) was published by Women’s Studies Centre, Bethune College, in November, 2020, having contributed by different eminent academicians and scholars.
4. A webinar related to women’s health was organized by the Women’s Studies Centre, Bethune College, in association with the Bengal Obstetric and Gynecological Society on 18th December, 2020.
5. A series of online lectures were held for the Ethics and Value Education course of students. One of the lectures was on "The Notion of Women Empowerment in Early Historic India" delivered by Dr. Chirantani Das, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bethune College, on 9th March, 2021.
6. A webinar on “Amader Katha” (Our Narrative) was hosted by teachers of Bethune College to mark International Women’s Day on 25th March, 2021.
7. Another Ethics and Value Education lecture was "Violation of Women's Rights in India" presented by Smt. Titi Mukherjee, Department of Women's Studies, Bethune College on 9th April, 2021.
8. Essay writing and Poster making competitions were organized for students observing International Women’s Day by Women’s Studies Centre, Bethune College, on 15th April 2021. Topic: “Relevance of studying Women’s studies in today’s context” and “Our narratives” respectively.
9. Ethics and Value Education course related lectures included an online lecture on "Sex/Gender Difference, Patriarchy and Ethics: Feminist view" following the designated curriculum on 5th May, 2021. Speaker: Dr. Gargi Goswami, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University
10. Webinar on "Career growth in workplace: Women vis-a-vis men" was organized on 19th April 2021, by Career Counselling Cell, Bethune College. Dr. Rupa Majumder, Director & Editor, Dev Sahitya Kutir, was invited to be the speaker.