

WOMEN'S STUDY UNIT
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE, KOTTARAKARA
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Women's Study Unit flagged off its activities for the academic year 2019-20 with its inaugural function held on 13th August 2019. The inaugural function was held in collaboration with Kudumbasree Mission, Kollam who came to the campus to mark the beginning of the Snehita@Campus initiative. The gathering was welcomed by Dr. Fergy John. The Presidential Address was delivered by **Dr. Suman Alexander**. Mrs. Beena. R introduced the concept of "Snehita@campus" to the gathering. Snehitha is a gender help desk working under the Kudumbasree mission. The aim of this subdivision is to provide an ever ready helping hand to women and children. They are trained to offer awareness classes and counseling sessions to troubled women and children. Our college was the first college in the district to be visited by Snehitha. The inaugural address was delivered by Smt. **Adv. Ayisha Potti MLA**.



The felicitations were offered by Mrs. Sakunthala Shekar (Chairperson, Kudumbasree) and Mrs. Bindhu Prakash(Community Counsellor, Kudumbasree). The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Sukanya Vijayan. The inaugural session was followed by an awareness class by Mrs. Sukanya Vijayan on gender sensitization. Even though the discourse of gender equality has permeated all levels of our society, it is yet to manifest as a practical reality in our everyday life. The aim of the awareness class organized by Snehita was to impart this awareness to the students of our college. The speakers repeatedly emphasized the fact that gender inequality is a patriarchal construct. They gave practical advice on implementing gender equality in all spaces of human interaction like home, college and workspace. The students of the college responded enthusiastically to this very interactive session and pledged to take measures to make the world a more hospitable place for women.



The two -day Onam Celebrations in the college began on 4th September 2019 with a charity sale . The eight departments of the college took part in the sale with great enthusiasm.

The charity proceeds were collected department wise. The programme started with the welcome speech delivered by WSU Convenor Fergy John, Assistant Professor, Dept of Physics. The Principal, Dr. Suman Alexander inaugurated the function with an enlightening message on the necessity of charity. Ms. Reshma Elizabeth Mathew proposed the vote of thanks. The first sale was received by the Principal. The students brought organic vegetables, home-made food and handicrafts as part of the sale. The sale was a huge success; the faculty members, non-teaching staff and students were active participants of the sale. The sale ended by 3 pm and the department which collected the maximum amount of money was the Commerce Department.



The Athapookalam exhibition was held the next day. All departments were directed to prepare floral carpets for display in allotted classrooms. The chief guest for the day was the Manager of the institution. Rev. Fr. Prof. Baby Thomas. The Manager, along with the Principal Dr. Suman Alexander, gave the Onam message in all the departments. They appreciated the effort put by all the students of the college to prepare the athapookalams.



An experience sharing and motivational session by Ms. Melina Jansen, Research Scholar, Catholic University of Applied Science, Aachen, Germany was arranged by the Women's Study Unit on 28th October 2019. Dr. Fergy John welcomed the gatherings. Ms. Melina Jansen spoke to postgraduate students about the opportunities for higher education available in Germany. She spoke in detail about her the education system in Germany. She also spoke about the lifestyle of women and shared how women experience more independence and self-sufficiency compared to Indian women. She also shared her experiences of travelling in India as a foreigner and also encouraged the students to travel beyond the borders of the country and expand their horizons.

A 6 month tailoring course for the female students was introduced on 15th October 2019. Since the majority of the students come from economically backward families, the objective was to impart a supplementary skill to our students, which can help them in gaining financial independence in the short term. A nominal registration fee was collected from interested students

and classes were taken during lunch break. The training instructor Aswathy S taught the students stitching of various garments and embroidery.

A seminar on Cyber Bullying and College Girl Students was organized by the IQAC in co-ordination with Women's Study Unit on 19th November 2019. The welcome speech was given by Dr. Jean Jose, Co-ordinator, IQAC. The presidential address was delivered by the principal Dr. Suman Alexander. Felicitations were offered by administrator of the college Rev. Fr. J. Mathewkutty. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Fergy John. The invited speaker, **Shri. P.R.Koshy**, Deputy Commandant, Border Security Force, spoke about the dangers of faced by girl students in the cyberspace. He spoke extensively about how the cyberspace is simultaneously a space of freedom and crime. Along with offering unlimited access to networking with people over the world, the internet is also unfortunately an prey ground for sexual predators and scam artists. Hence, he advised the students to exercise caution while interacting over the web and asked students to enjoy the pleasures of freedom responsibly.





The activities for the academic year ended prematurely due to the covid-19 lockdown on March 24.

WSU Convenors

Dr. Fergy John

Mrs Geethu Thomas