



# Shri Ram College of Commerce

Annual Gender Sensitization Plan  
2018-19



“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women” – Kofi Annan

India saw small improvements in the long-drawn fight for women empowerment in 2018. While they may seem insignificant, every small step forward should be celebrated and seen as encouragement to do better. While India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report remained 108th, the same as last year, it registered small improvements in wage equality. The country also fully closed its tertiary education enrolment gap for the first time, and continued to keep its primary and secondary education enrolment gaps closed for the third consecutive year.

However, there were innumerable counts on which India was still to see any semblance of betterment. India ranked third-lowest in the world in terms of health and survival, and continued to see low female participation in the workforce. At the prevalent rate of improvement, the WEF estimated that it would take the country 108 years to close the gender gap, and 202 years to eradicate discrimination and bring parity in the workplace. Clearly, efforts need to be ramped up and definite action needs to be taken at the earliest to improve these odds.

The Human Development Index, published by the United Nations Development Programme, operates on the belief that the progress of a country cannot be measured just by per capita income, but also needs to take health and education into account. India climbed one spot to rank 130 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index. As of 2014, an Adjusted HDI is also published, which takes into account gender inequality present in the countries. India loses out a significant portion of its HDI value because of this gender-adjustment criteria.

The Economic Survey of 2018-19 addressed a few key issues, talked about the progress India has made in the cause of women empowerment, and discussed a few strategies to make further improvements. The Ministry for Women and Child Development adopted 'Budgeting for Gender Equity' as its norm to ensure that the annual budget takes into account the needs of the women of the country. The Survey emphasized on the need for changes in behavior and attitudes towards women, and listed a few quantifiable achievements, such as the reduction in the Maternal Mortality Ratio and increase in the percentage of women holding bank accounts.

To help women become self-reliant in all spheres of life, the Women's Development Cell of Shri Ram College of Commerce has outlined its annual Plan of Action to strengthen the physical capacity of women and give them the ability to defend themselves from physical threats. To achieve this cause, the Cell, in collaboration with the Internal Complaints Committee of the college, is going to organize 'Aparajita - A Self Defense Workshop'. The workshop, sponsored by Amar Ujala, a Hindi

national daily newspaper, will witness massive participation from students, and will hopefully be a great success.

The Cell will continue to spread awareness about the twin causes of women empowerment and women development through such events, and hopes to encourage more people to join the cause throughout the year. There is strength in numbers, and the Women's Development Cell firmly believes that only by joining forces with everyone can this massive issue of gender inequality be eliminated once and for all.

