



# Shri Ram College of Commerce

**Annual Gender Sensitization Plan  
2016-17**



“Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt” – Shirley Chisholm

The cause of women empowerment has seen its highs and lows throughout the years. In 2016, the World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Index put India at the 87th rank out of 144 countries. Gender Gap is the difference between men and women in social, political, intellectual, cultural, and economic standings. WEF’s report ranks countries on the progress they have made towards gender equality and parity on the basis of four parameters: health, education, economics, and politics. India’s rank is a reflection of its substandard status on these criteria.

Under the Human Development Report by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), India ranked 130 out of 190 countries on both Human Development and Gender Inequality indices. Even neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal ranked better than India in terms of achieving gender equality, despite performing worse on the overall Human Development Index. In India, the female workforce participation rate was only 27%, as compared to 79.9% for men. Only 12.2% of women occupied seats in the Parliament in 2016, and the Maternal Mortality Rate was a soaring 190.

In terms of new initiatives, the Union Cabinet Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi, introduced a draft for a new National Policy for Women, which will replace the old National Policy for the Empowerment of Women of 2001. The new policy seeks to address all forms of violence against women, as well as the emerging challenges being faced by Indian women.

To do its part in making the country a better and safer place for women, and to spread awareness about the injustice faced by women, the Women’s Development Cell of Shri Ram College of Commerce has drawn up a plan of action for the year, detailing its ideas and actions. The annual aim of the cell in 2016 is to provide a platform to allow people to speak up about underrepresented and unheard issues faced by women in different industries. With the objective of calling out subtle disparities between the treatment of men and women that often go ignored, the Cell, in collaboration with the Debating Society, SRCC, is going to hold an Intra-college Debate Competition. The motion of the debate will be ‘Should the Mako Mori test be a prerequisite for cinematic works to be nominated for awards’. The Cell hopes that the event will be a great success, and shall witness multiple teams fighting it out with words and facts and presenting a wide range of legitimate arguments.

The activities of the cell seek to bring light to prejudices that are so ingrained among us that we fail to even recognize them as discriminatory practices. The Women’s

Development Cell, in the first year since its establishment, has set up a vision for itself and hopes to conduct events that

aim to reach that vision. In the coming years, the Cell hopes to expand its reach, broaden its horizons, amplify its causes, and continue to work towards women empowerment.

