



Shri Ram College of Commerce

**Annual Gender Sensitization Plan
2017-18**



“The strength of a woman is not measured by the impact that all her hardships in life have had on her; but the strength of a woman is measured by the extent of her refusal to allow those hardships to dictate her and who she becomes” – C. Joybell C.

It is commonly said that women are the backbone of the economy. However, in light of the statistics published in various reports in 2017, these seem like empty words. India slipped 21 places to rank at 108th place out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum’s annual Gender Gap Report. This large setback is said to be caused because of less participation of women in the economy, and disparagingly low wages. A few other reasons stated for this concerning decline are the widening gender gaps in terms of political empowerment, life expectancy, and basic literacy. The WEF outlines India’s greatest challenges to be economic participation and opportunity, on which the country ranked 139, and health and survival, where the country ranked 141.

The Human Development Index assesses countries on three basic dimensions of human development, a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. India’s HDI value for 2017 is 0.640 on a scale of 0 to 1, which puts the country in the medium category of human development. India lost a whopping 26.8% of its HDI value because of inequalities, partly in terms of gender. Only 39% of women had completed a secondary level of education, and women held only 11.6% of all parliamentary seats.

A revolutionary initiative undertaken by the country was that the annual Economic Survey of 2017-18 had a pink theme, to signify the government’s support towards women empowerment and development. The Survey addressed the deep rooted societal issues and their impact on the economic agency of women in the country. The Chief Economic Advisor of the Finance Ministry, Mr. Arvind Subramanian, stated that the pink colour was a symbolic move in the bid to further the cause of women empowerment.

The Women’s Development Cell of Shri Ram College of Commerce, in solidarity with the government’s aim of gender equality, has made it its annual aim to speak out about so-called ‘taboos’ and encourage women to put their health first. Women’s health is something that is often overlooked, disregarded and not taken seriously, not just by others, but by women themselves. It is high time women make their health a priority and go for regular check-ups.

To encourage women to seek medical help at appropriate times, and to provide a platform for women to openly discuss hushed-up topics and medical issues freely, the Women’s Development Cell is planning to organize an interactive session on the topic ‘Taboos are injurious to health: Discussing women health issues and fighting stereotypes’. The session will be an initiative of the Women’s Development Cell and

the Gender Champions of Shri Ram College of Commerce, and will be conducted in collaboration with HAIYYA and Dr. Safe Hands. The eminent speakers

who will conduct the session and address queries from the audience will be Dr. Ashish Arora and Dr. Deepti Nalgirkar.

In 2017, the Women Development Cell's Plan of Action will revolve around women's health, and this session will be a step forward in the betterment of the same. The Cell hopes to reach greater heights every year, and continue making a difference one small step at a time.

