



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS-2024

Gender Sensitization Cell, SSSIHL

in Collaboration with

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences & Department of Education

SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus

On the occasion of '*International Women's Day- March 2024*', the *Gender Sensitization Cell, SSSIHL* in collaboration with the *Department of Humanities & Social Sciences* and the *Department of Education, SSSIHL*, Anantapur Campus organized a program on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 highlighting the diversified role women play in contemporary society with a special emphasis on the Government initiative '*Beti Bachao and Beti Padavo*'.

The first program by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences themed "Empowered Women- Empower Women" was brought out through a play entitled "*Trikarna Shuddhi - Stree Shakti*." This play delved into the profound concept of Trikarana Suddhi, which underscores the harmonization of thought, speech, and action. Through intricate storytelling and nuanced performances, the play served as a poignant testament to the significance of women's education and their invaluable contributions to societal progress. In addition to the captivating theatrical performance, a series of impactful videos were presented, meticulously crafted to reinforce the thematic underpinnings of the play. These videos further deepened the understanding of the audience, solidifying the celebration of women's empowerment and the vital role they play in shaping a harmonious and equitable society.

The students of the Department of Education then showcased a role-play under the theme "*A3: Aware, Arise, Act #Change for the Changemakers*." The purpose was to heighten awareness among students regarding the challenges confronted by women in today's society. The performance also aimed to educate students about various government schemes and facilities, with a primary focus on the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative addressing girl child education issues.

The play unfolded in three stages: Aware, Arise, and Act, highlighting the progression from awareness to empowerment, courage, confidence, and finally, action against societal injustices. It commenced by emphasizing the significance of International Women's Day and traced the development of women's roles from Vedic times through the medieval period to the modern era. The drama sheds light on the various forms of discrimination women encounter and aims to foster awareness to overcome such challenges. The drama underscored the transformative power of education in enabling women to build self-confidence to confront issues like harassment in the workplace, domestic violence, and the dowry system. Additionally, it emphasized the crucial role of mothers in fostering a mindset of gender equality in children.

The concluding scene emphasized that aspirations are not bound by gender and showcased how women can nurture children to embrace equality. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Revered founder Chancellor Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the play highlighted the greatness of women and their potential as future leaders.

The program ended with the concluding address by Prof. N. Srividya, Presiding officer, GSC & Director of the campus, underscoring the significance accorded to women within the institute, notably through the observance of International Women's Day and Ladies' Day on November 19th each year. She highlighted the esteemed chancellor's vision of establishing a dedicated campus for women, alongside an integrated educational system. Additionally, she noted that many students transferring from other universities expressed feeling secure and safe at SSSIHL. The Director cautioned students about the potential risks associated with social media, emphasizing that once individuals engage in online platforms, they become open books, necessitating vigilance and self-protection. Both the government and the institute are exploring methods to shield students from social media pitfalls, requesting them to utilize these platforms judiciously, minimize addiction, and avoid succumbing to negative influences while focusing on their academic goals.

She further advised students to take responsibility for their actions and not be swayed by external forces by illustrating the analogy of a sword's proper usage: mentors and guardians provide guidance, but it falls upon the students to employ it constructively rather than destructively. Quoting Swami's words that 'technology is tricknology,' the Director encouraged students to stay alert. She stressed the importance of being aware of incidents in their surroundings and cautioned that while it is commendable to rise, it is imperative to have the right awareness about potential paths and actions.

Addressing the theme of 'Equality,' the Director advocated for students for a comprehensive understanding, emphasizing multidimensional growth, financial independence, and self-empowerment without comparisons to men. She encouraged students not to confine themselves to studies alone but also to be aware of societal issues such as workplace harassment and cybercrimes. Advocating for responsible portrayal on social media, the students were advised to maintain dignity in their social media presence to avoid exploitation and cautioned against divulging personal information publicly.

In conclusion, Prof. Srividya stressed individual responsibility for safety and cautioned against irreparable actions, suggesting students tread prudently in all endeavors. Madam mentioned that Education, which is the foundation for holistic growth and empowerment, is a priceless gift provided freely by Revered Founder Chancellor Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

This collaborative effort between the DHSS, DEDN, and the GSC successfully created an immersive and enlightening experience, leaving an indelible mark on the occasion of International Women's Day. The program concluded with a vote of thanks followed by Bhajans and Mangala Aarthi.

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