

Key Points Emerging from the Consultation

The recommendations that emerged from the Consultation were about initiating studies in areas where there is either a lack of information or where changed contexts necessitate an examination of the new and emergent issues. It was suggested that these studies be planned as baseline surveys or first level investigations that would help determine future strategy directions. Recommendations in relation to workshops and the process of material preparation drew on the common understanding within the group that curriculum development and teaching of Women's Studies courses in new locations was a priority for many institutions and scholars at the present moment. In addition to the initiatives summarized above, a few other kinds of interventions in the field of Women's Studies were also suggested.

Studies to be taken up:

- **Student profiles** of those who opt for Women's Studies from sites where Women's Studies has been offered for at least 5 – 7 years. Also, take up a few case studies to understand how students who have passed out of the course look back on their experience of the course, how and whether they draw upon the course in their present life / career.
- **Gender Training Programmes carried out by NGOs:** One, to map the history of the emergence of "Gender Training" approach within the Development Sector through case studies of NGOs that have a longstanding history of working at the interface of the women's movement and development activism. Two, to collect and examine the Gender Training materials used by a range of institutions (from women's organizations to management consultancies to funders of development work) as well as their pedagogic practices.
- **Extension activities** of some select Women's Studies Centres to be understood in terms of the different frameworks within which they are being carried out, the impact they have on the Centres themselves as well as the groups with which they interact.
- **Comparative study** of the teaching within the Women's Studies Centre and within specific departments to understand how the two locations impact on the pedagogic transaction of Women's Studies. Also, conduct interviews with Women's Studies scholars working within specific disciplinary locations to understand their **pedagogic approach**.
- **Regional Language Materials:** Study of the process by which concepts developed as part of Women's Studies circulate through regional languages; understand what is involved in the process of translation of these concepts.
- **Gender Studies and New Pedagogies Project:** 6 studies towards developing curriculum for teaching at the Undergraduate level. (Ongoing)

Workshops / Discussions:

- In an effort at discussing the issues involved in the teaching of Women's Studies a **workshop on pedagogy** could be held where as a first level effort, Women's Studies Faculty could present their experience of teaching the courses at PG level.
- A discussion with the Convenors of **Refresher Courses in Women's Studies** would enable the planning of such Courses and also provide an insight into the issues involved in the process.
- A workshop to specifically discuss curriculum in **Women's Studies at the Undergraduate level** in order to also understand the conception of education at that particular stage in Higher Education. Participation in the workshop organized by Jadavpur University where a session on UG level curriculum is slated for discussion is envisaged as the first step in the planning of a larger workshop on the subject if necessary.

Preparation of Materials:

- Develop **Curricula** for Women's Studies courses at different levels within Higher Education. The process of putting together such materials for use at the M.Phil level is already underway at CWDS, Delhi, while the Gender Studies and New Pedagogies Programme at CSCS, Bangalore seeks to develop some materials for use at the Undergraduate level.
- Prepare **discipline-specific annotated bibliographies** of Women's Studies. Such an effort would help introduce feminist theorization within a particular discipline to all engaging with that specific discipline. It also would specifically meet the requirements of the Faculty from different disciplines who attend the Refresher Courses on Women's Studies.
- Prepare annotated **bibliographies** of Women's Studies materials available **in the regional languages**. It is envisaged that such bibliographies would not only be useful to the scholars working with the regional languages but would also help grasp the manner in which feminist concepts and vocabularies circulate through the regional languages.
- Develop **Women's Studies Readers** in English as well in the regional languages drawing on debates at the local level. Such Readers would not only meet the need for such materials at the local level but would also inflect the larger debates by bringing in a perspective from the vantage point of the local.
- **Videotape** some key lectures by Women's Studies scholars. Such visual recording could be used for teaching purposes apart from adding to the Women's

Studies archive where scholars / activists accessing them could use them in different ways. Such lectures could either be by invitation with a specific view to such videotaping or could be impromptu recording within the context of classroom teaching.

Other Kinds of Interventions:

- Understand the reasons why some **Women's Studies Centres**, especially within Universities are **non-functional** and to assess what kind of support would be needed for their revitalisation.
- Interact with the Faculty of autonomous colleges through their **Faculty Development Programmes**.