GENDER STUDIES CENTRE

Academic Year 2025–2026

Introduction

The Centre for Gender Studies at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women promotes gender awareness, inclusivity, and social responsibility through academic initiatives, expert lectures, competitions, and awareness programmes. During the academic year 2025–2026, the Centre organized a series of activities that encouraged students to engage critically with issues of gender equality, representation, women's rights, and empowerment. These initiatives provided opportunities for creative expression, intellectual discussion, and meaningful engagement with contemporary gender-related issues.

Intramural Activities

1. Digital Poster Making Competition

Theme: United in Diversity, We Stand as One
Date: 22 September 2025

The Centre organized a Digital Poster Making Competition to encourage students to creatively express ideas of inclusivity, unity, and gender equality through digital art. Students from various programmes participated enthusiastically, creating posters using digital platforms such as Canva, Photoshop, and Illustrator. The entries reflected originality, innovation, and meaningful messages promoting diversity, social harmony, and inclusiveness. The competition provided a platform for students to combine artistic expression with social awareness while appreciating the importance of unity and cohesiveness.

2. Debate Competition

Topic: Is Social Media Advancing or Undermining Gender Equality?
Date: 24 September 2025

An intramural debate competition was organized to examine the influence of social media on gender representation, empowerment, and public opinion. A total of 12 students participated, presenting well-researched arguments from both affirmative and opposition perspectives. The competition encouraged intellectual discussion on the relationship between gender and technology in contemporary society. The judges appreciated the participants for their confidence, clarity of thought, and analytical skills. The Affirmative team emerged as the overall winners. The event strengthened students' critical-thinking, public-speaking, and analytical abilities.

3. Portray Women Right – Media Portrayal of Women Recreation Challenge

Date: 29 December 2025

The Centre organized an intramural competition titled "Portray Women Right" to create awareness about gender sensitivity and women's empowerment through critical analysis of media portrayals of women. A total of nine students participated in the Digital Advertisement Recreation and Lyric/Scene Rewriting competitions. Through creative digital and literary expressions, participants challenged gender stereotypes and presented alternative narratives promoting equality and inclusiveness. The event encouraged students to explore media representation critically and communicate meaningful social messages through creativity and innovation.

4. International Women's Day Celebrations

Events: Smashing Stereotypes (ADZAP) and Metaphors of Womanhood (Online Photography Competition)
Date: 6 March 2026

As part of International Women's Day celebrations, the Centre organized interdepartmental competitions featuring "Smashing Stereotypes" ADZAP and "Metaphors of Womanhood" Online Photography Competition. A total of 42 students from various departments participated enthusiastically. Through creative performances and visual presentations, students explored themes of gender equality, women's identities, and empowerment. The activities encouraged participants to challenge societal stereotypes, celebrate womanhood, and promote inclusivity through creative expression and meaningful engagement.

Expert Talks

The Centre organized a series of expert talks to enhance students' understanding of gender equality, women's rights, legal awareness, and empowerment. Eminent resource persons shared their knowledge and perspectives, encouraging students to become more informed and socially responsible individuals.

Date	Topic	Resource Person
11 August 2025	Gender Equality Begins with Me	Dr. Nameirakpam Taibangnganbi, Assistant Professor of Economics, Vels Institute, Chennai
5 January 2026	Know Your Rights: Laws Every Woman Should Know	Ms. Shobana Ramasubramanyan, Civil Law Advocate, Chennai
18 February 2026	The Role of Education in Empowering Women	Ms. Enitha Ramesh, Lawyer and Legal Training Associate, AWARE, Chennai

1. **Expert Talk – Gender Equality Begins with Me:** Dr. Nameirakpam Taibangnganbi, Assistant Professor of Economics, Vels Institute, Chennai, addressing students on the importance of practising gender equality in everyday life.



2. **Debate Competition:** Students engaging in a vibrant debate on the impact of social media on gender equality in the digital era.



3. **Expert Talk – Know Your Rights:** Ms. Shobana Ramasubramanyan, Civil Law Advocate, Chennai, creating awareness among students about women's legal rights and protections.



4. **Expert Talk – The Role of Education in Empowering Women:** Ms. Enitha Ramesh, Lawyer and Legal Training Associate, AWARE, Chennai, engaging students in an interactive session on education as a catalyst for women's empowerment.



5. **Smashing Stereotypes – ADZAP Competition:** Students presenting creative performances during the interdepartmental ADZAP competition as part of International Women's Day celebrations.



6. **Prize Distribution – Smashing Stereotypes:** The overall winners of the Smashing Stereotypes ADZAP competition receiving trophies in recognition of their outstanding performances.

