



VIDYA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thalakkottukara, Thrissur - 680 501
(Affiliated to APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University)

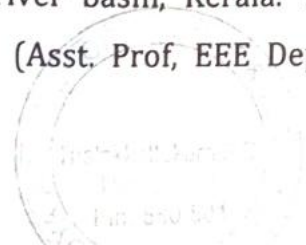
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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CELL

Annual Activity Report - 2023-24

The Women Empowerment Cell of Vidya Academy of Science & Technology, Thalakkottukara, organized two significant gender sensitization programmes during the academic year 2023-24, each preceded by a planning meeting of the cell members to ensure effective coordination and implementation. The first programme, a Seminar on "Healthy Relationships," was conducted on 8 February 2024 in collaboration with the Kerala Women's Commission, specifically targeting girl students of the college. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Saji C B, Principal, while Dr. Sudha Balagopalan, Dean - Academics, introduced the resource persons and highlighted the importance of understanding the dynamics of married life and healthy interpersonal relationships. The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Salkala K S (Convener, Vidya Women Empowerment Cell, Asst. Prof, MCA). The key resource persons for the session were Ms. Mala Ramanan, Counselor, Kerala Women's Commission, and Adv. Jayashree Velur, who together provided valuable insights into the dynamics of healthy relationships, emotional well-being, and the legal rights of women. The seminar addressed critical aspects of gender sensitization including awareness of gender equality in relationships, challenging societal norms, empowerment through knowledge of legal rights, and the importance of mental and emotional health. The event was coordinated by Ms. Salkala K S under the guidance of Dr. Sudha Balagopalan, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Abhilasha P S, Professor and HoD, CE Department.

The second programme of the year was an Invited Talk by Dr. Manju Vasudevan, Pollination Ecologist, held on 12 March 2024 as part of the International Women's Day celebrations. The talk provided a platform for women to express their thoughts and ideas, and to take charge of their own situations and destiny through knowledge and inspiration. Dr. Manju shared her extensive experiences in ecological research, particularly in the Western Ghats and other parts of India, and highlighted her contributions to asserting Community Forest Rights for forest-dwelling Adivasi and indigenous communities in the Chalakudy river basin, Kerala. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Akhila R (Asst. Prof, EEE Dept),



followed by a presidential address by Dr. Saji C B, Principal. Dr. Sudha Balagopalan introduced the chief guest and emphasized the broader importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. The session underscored key gender sensitization themes including creating a platform for women's expression, celebrating women in leadership and ecological research, empowerment through knowledge of community rights, and the promotion of gender equality in all spheres of life. The event was coordinated by Ms. Salkala K S under the guidance of Dr. Sudha Balagopalan, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Salkala K S. Taken together, the activities of the Women Empowerment Cell during 2023-24 successfully created meaningful spaces for awareness, dialogue, and inspiration, reinforcing the college's commitment to gender equity and women's empowerment.

