

Report on Gender Sensitization Initiatives at IHE 2023-2024

Gender sensitization is a cornerstone of fostering equality and inclusivity in educational institutions. At the Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi, we prioritize creating a safe, supportive, and empowering environment for all students and staff, irrespective of gender. This commitment is evident through the active participation of all stakeholders and a range of robust initiatives.

Infrastructure for Inclusivity and Safety

To ensure safety and accessibility, IHE has established the following measures:

1. **CCTV Surveillance:** The entire campus is CCTV enabled and is monitored through CCTV cameras round the clock and provides for surveillance of security in the college.
2. The college strives towards ensuring safety and security of each student in the institution and provides security by outsourcing the services to a competent security agency. Three security personnel (2 male and 1 female) are positioned at the entrance gate during the day.
3. **Common Room Facilities:** Dedicated common rooms provide safe spaces for students to relax and engage in informal discussions.
4. **Enabling Unit:** IHE supports persons with disabilities (PWD) through its Enabling Unit, which facilitates the inclusion of differently-abled students and staff in all aspects of campus life.

Awareness and Support Mechanisms

1. **Maitri Society:**

The Maitri Society is actively involved in raising awareness about menstruation, challenging taboos, and promoting menstrual hygiene. The society organizes campaigns, workshops, and discussions to break stigmas and educate students.



Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene



Coverage in newspaper

2. Internal Complaints Committee (ICC): IHE has an Internal Complaints Committee to address any cases of sexual harassment. This committee ensures a prompt and fair resolution process and promotes awareness about gender-based rights and grievance redressal mechanisms.



Awareness generation on Stop Sexual Harassment

3. National Service Scheme (NSS):
- Celebration of Girl Child Day and Women's Rights Day: NSS regularly organizes programs to highlight the significance of gender equality and celebrate the achievements of women.
 - Menstrual Hygiene Awareness: Awareness drives on menstrual hygiene are conducted to educate students about healthy practices and the importance of breaking menstrual taboos.
 - The NSS unit organized a collection drive to gather donations of sanitary pads from students, faculty, and community members at IHE. The collected sanitary pads were

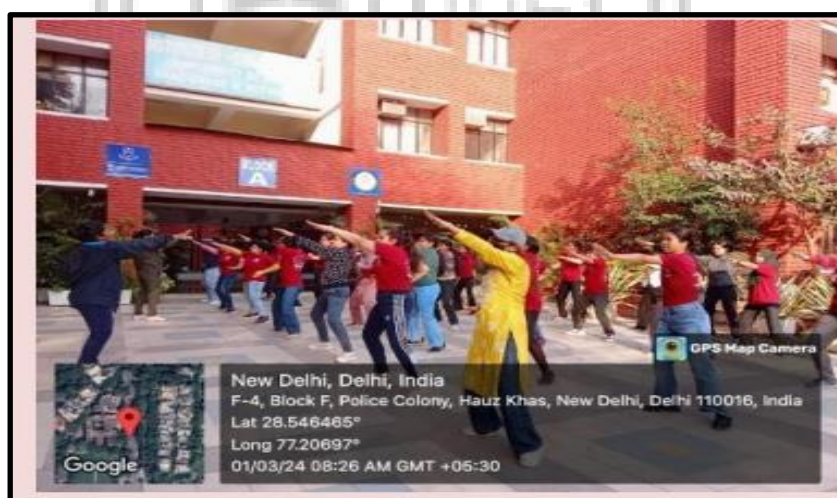
donated to Gyan Adhar Welfare Society, a local NGO working towards women's empowerment and menstrual hygiene awareness.



Donations of sanitary pads

4. Self-Defence Workshops:

A self-defence training in March 2024 in collaboration with Delhi Police Women Helpline was held in college premises. This was attended by students and extending the invitation to young girls and our PG students from Shahpur Jat village.



Self Defence Workshop


Courses offered related to gender sensitization by various departments

1. Gender, Media and Society in Home Science (Hons) semester V as a Discipline Specific Elective by the Department of Communication, Extension and Journalism
2. Gender and Social Change in Home Science (Prog) semester VII as a Discipline Specific Elective by the Department of Communication, Extension and Journalism
3. Gender Media and Studies as GE from Home Science Department by Communication, Extension and Journalism
4. Child rights and gender empowerment course by Department of Human development

5. Child rights and gender justice course by Department of Human development
6. Gender and Schooling by Bachelor in Elementary Education 4th year
7. Contemporary India by Bachelor in Elementary Education 1st year

F 4.9 GENDER AND SCHOOLING

Student Contact Hours : 90
 Maximum Marks : 50
 Internal Assessment : 15
 Annual Examination : 35



The objective of this course is to examine critically gender inequities in society using feminist theoretical frameworks; to learn to observe and analyse manifestations of gender inequities in the process of schooling and to develop strategies for intervention.

इस पाठ्यक्रम का उद्देश्य पारिवारिक विद्यार्थियों के संदर्भ में लिंग-भेद के कारणों को जानना व उसे परखना है। साथ ही विद्यालयी वातावरण में उपरोक्त लिंग-भेद को पहचानना और उनका निरोधन करना तथा बदलाव के लिए विभिन्न तरीकों का विकास करना भी इसका एक महत्त्वपूर्ण अंग है।

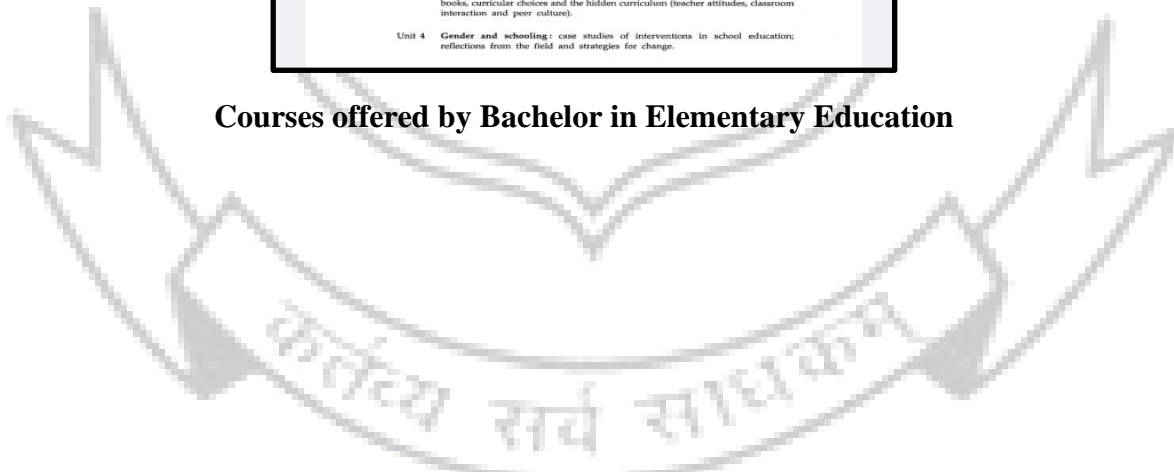
"Gender as a principle underlying distribution of resources and opportunities has become crucial in educational discourse. Education is an important resource which has been historically denied to the girl child. And yet, once the girl child is in class, gender influences her learning in a significant manner. This course, by addressing these issues, developed a very critical understanding of gender differences in society by analysing various feminist schools of thought and traditional practices. It helped us in understanding this issue in its totality and the role of socialisation in creating gender based differences."

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F 4.9 GENDER AND SCHOOLING

- Unit 1 **Sex and Gender:** psychological and sociological perspectives (Radical Feminist, Socialist - Feminist, Psychoanalytic and other Perspectives) and recent debates.
- Unit 2 **Social construction of Gender:** socialization, family and gender identity; the media, gender roles and stereotypes; caste, class, community and gender relations.
- Unit 3 **Gender inequalities in schooling:** organisation of schooling; gender bias in text books, curricular choices and the hidden curriculum (teacher attitudes, classroom interaction and peer culture).
- Unit 4 **Gender and schooling:** case studies of interventions in school education; reflections from the field and strategies for change.

Courses offered by Bachelor in Elementary Education



F 1.2 CONTEMPORARY INDIA

Unit 1	India as 'society'; 'civilization'; 'nation-state'; India's emergence from the freedom struggle as a nation-state.
Unit 2	The Constitution : its framework and scope; major social policies enshrined in the Constitution; provision related to childhood and education; concurrent status of education; National Policy on Education (1986).
Unit 3	Economic Issues : poverty and inequality; employment; private and public sector; new economic policy.
Unit 4	Political Issues : main features of the democratic system; central, state-level and local systems of government.
Unit 5	Social and Cultural Issues : major characteristics of India's pluralist make-up; gender-related issues; family and child-rearing in India (to be studied with the help of a project based on locally done field work).
Unit 6	Major Issues in Contemporary India (to be studied by class-room and individual projects) : childhood in India; environment and development; reservation as an egalitarian policy; social conflict.

Courses offered by Bachelor in Elementary Education

Projects related to Gender Sensitization

1. Mainstreaming Gender in climate adaptation: Assessment of climatic risks and development policies, programs and action from a gender lens by Prof Savita Aggarwal from Development Communication & Extension, January 2024-June 2026 funded by MOEFC-CUNDP, fund granted 39.99 lakhs

Paper Publications, Paper Presentations, Workshops and Talks

1. Emily F. Henderson, Nidhi S. Sabharwal, Anjali Thomas, Julie Mansuy, Ann Stewart, Sharmila Rathee, Renu Yadav, Nikita Samanta (2023), Gendering the Massification Generation: Higher Education Access and Choice in India, ISBN: 978-1032363004
2. Digital skills of urban women: An assessment of impact of gender responsive digital training, Aggarwal, S., Kher, Jagriti., & Vaid, N., 3rd International Conference on "Digital Transformation towards Sustainable Development in Future", Vision: Viksit Bharat@2047 Organized by Research Affairs Committee, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India. On 08th - 09th March, 2024.
3. Talk on Girls empowerment and gender equality by Suneeta Dhar on May 3, 2024

Action Plan 2024-2025

The Institute of Home Economics is committed to providing a safe and conducive academic environment for its students and employees, with a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment. As part of this commitment, an action plan has been developed to promote gender sensitization on campus through talks, workshops, and research projects, fostering a culture of inclusivity and equality. This includes ongoing projects such as *"Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Adaptation: Assessment of Climatic Risks and Development Policies, Programs, and Action from a Gender Lens"*, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and UNDP, this project (January 2024–June 2026) has been granted a fund of ₹39.99 lakhs and aims to analyse climate adaptation policies from a gender perspective.

In addition, the Institute will observe significant events such as Girl Child Day and International Women's Day, hosting programs and discussions that raise awareness and celebrate women's achievements. Self-defence workshops will be organized by the NSS to empower students with physical and mental skills for personal safety, while sensitization on menstrual hygiene will be conducted by the student society Maitri to promote awareness and break taboos around menstrual health.

The action plan also includes organizing monthly talks with guest speakers and experts on gender issues, such as gender-based violence, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender equality, alongside interactive workshops that address topics like gender stereotypes, sexual harassment, and inclusive language. Students will also be encouraged to undertake research projects on gender-related topics, with mentorship and support provided. The plan will be monitored through feedback surveys and assessments, with success indicators including increased participation, positive shifts in attitudes, and greater student involvement in gender equality initiatives. Ultimately, this action plan seeks to equip the college community with the knowledge and tools to challenge gender biases and create a more inclusive environment.

