

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE
JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE

ANNUAL STUDENT SEMINAR

On

Gendered Realities in Times of Growing Authoritarianism

Call for Papers

The Women's Studies Centre of Jesus and Mary College is hosting a *student seminar* on **March 5th (Friday), 2021**. We welcome papers from Undergraduate and Graduate (in Masters programs) students on the theme **“Gendered Realities in Times of Growing Authoritarianism”**.

Concept Note:

Promotion of conservative values has been a crucial feature of authoritarian, totalitarian rule based on centralization of power and curbing of personal freedoms. At the global level, the contemporary rise of authoritarian regimes is facilitated by conditions of rapid social, political and economic changes. Their agendas often promise a return to the ‘security, stability and purity’ of a patriarchal order. The obsession of these political forces seeking to establish totalitarian rule on the so-called principle of ‘purity’ often plays on social structure and the history of a particular country. In India, spread of authoritarianism has often been followed by concerted attempts of the legislature, executive and judiciary as well as right wing opinion in the public sphere to restrict the physical, sexual and social freedom of women, and to promote a system based on caste and community endogamy. Attempts have also been observed to redefine the role of women in the public life of the nation and to restrict her to ‘reproductive’ work. As authoritarian might attempts to create unified ‘national’ communities, they often target ‘others’ who are marked as different for their efforts to highlight varied axes of exploitation, oppression of women, lack of inclusive growth, religious majoritarianism, regressive laws, repression of citizen rights, displacement, etc.; Therefore, the othering and harassment of political activists, religious minorities, sexual minorities, among others is rampant in current times. Authoritarian regimes and their mass propaganda often combine single minded pursuit of a cultural community with an intense dislike of organisations seeking to enlarge economic freedoms. Clearly, while the tide of strong state actions on political liberties and civil rights impacts all citizens, its impact is also experienced differently by men and women, by different communities, by different social segments, etc.

Interested students should send an abstract of two hundred words (200 words) to jmcwsc@gmail.com by **16th February (Tuesday) 2021, 11:59 pm**. Students to clearly **mention their full name, course, year and educational institution** in the email. The selected abstracts will be **notified by 18th February (Thursday) 2021**.

Some useful sub-themes include (the list is not exhaustive):

- 1) 'Woman' in Authoritarian Imagination
- 2) Contemporary Legal Judgements and its impact on Women's Freedom
- 3) 'Love Jihad' and Legislative Action
- 4) Welfare Schemes to curb physical and sexual freedom of women
- 5) Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- 6) Trade Unions, Women and Authoritarian state
- 7) Gender and Labour Reform Bills
- 8) Politics of Representation, Access and Privilege
- 9) Women and Citizenship
- 10) Women in the Farmer's Movement
- 11) Trumpism and the Woman Question in America
- 12) Masculinities and Authoritarianism
- 13) Expression of Dissent and Resistance
- 14) Women's Cyber Security and Digital Totalitarianism
- 15) Problem of Minorities and Marginalisation
- 16) Media and Gendered Constructions in Authoritarian Discourses
- 17) Police State, Caste Atrocities and Dalit Women

Guidelines:

- The final paper must not exceed **3000 words**.
- Participants will be given **15 minutes** to present their paper and **5 minutes** to respond to questions/comments, if any.