



SPEECH

OF

SMT ANUPAMA SINGH,
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ON THE OCCASION OF
INAUGURATION OF THE WOMEN STUDIES
&
RESEARCH CENTRE

AT

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, 05 SEP, 2009

Today, let me start by congratulating Rajiv Gandhi University to have taken a great step to establish the Women Studies & Research Centre.

This will introduce people to a new area of thought and knowledge from "The women's perspective". I am sure it will become a centre of excellence of research and documentation on women's issues. The establishment of this centre I believe was a long standing demand of the faculty members of this University. I would also take this opportunity to congratulate our Respected Vice Chancellor Prof K C Belliappa and Dr Sucheta Sen Chaudhuri, Director of this Centre for their untiring efforts in establishing the Women Studies & Research Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know a society or a state excels because of its womenfolk. The role of women in society is of utmost importance. It is she who inculcates culture, ethics, and a value system, in other members of the family especially children. Therefore, we can never ever underestimate their role in bringing about change in the society. Women everywhere have their own problems and restrictions and we owe it to society to be able to analyze the status of woman and then finally to work towards formulating remedies for the problems that they face. I am sure that this centre will draw the attention of the people and policy makers towards women reservation, legal rights, and rights as an individual.

Ladies & gentlemen, our studies should always be need driven, connecting local context so that we can be, first of all useful to the indigenous population. Whatever studies we carry out, should not be a generalized view, but localized and preferably, need based. They should reflect the difficult lives and world of the women in the State and also speak of their experience. Our endeavor should be to provide the much needed alternative perspectives on the context of education, health care and financial empowerment.

While documenting the important aspects of womens lives, we should draw attention to the crucial ways in which our women, from different tribes, negotiate their everyday struggle for survival as well as their space in the family unit and society.

Dedicated to the cause of gender sensitization programmes as well as serious academic research, the centre should also formulate effective strategies to deal with domestic violence, mental health, mental distress and traditional women healers can be important and interesting field of studies.

While engaging in the studies and analyses of the status of women in society with respect to health, education and other factors, we should also highlight the importance and benefits of increasing decision making power of the women in the family.

In days to come, the centre should organize workshops involving policy makers and administrators. To drive forward its objectives, it should organize seminars and other activities at the district level involving the political leadership of the area and the grass root administrators.

Friends, as you are aware, Muskan Society is working for the cause of socially deprived people, for women up-liftment, child care, health and education. You will be happy to know, the society inspite of being in a nascent stage, has been striving to improve the living conditions of the women, through promoting income generation activities and projects. Special focus has always been for destitute, young innocent widows and orphans, so that such women may view themselves as equals in society. Efforts are there to improve health status of women through sustainable health facilities and better health care, sanitation and environment. With the establishment of the centre, I am sure we will be able to work in more organized manner and with focused objectives.

Before, I conclude, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Rajiv Gandhi University fraternity in giving me this opportunity to participate in the inaugural function of this very important centre. Under the active guidance of our Respected Vice Chancellor Prof Belliappa and Dr Chaudhuri's leadership, the centre will definitely make a mark in achieving its objectives and in making a better society tomorrow.

Thank you very much