

**Special Lecture**  
**on**  
**Shri Subramania Bharathi – Empowerment of Women**

**Date** - 28.01.2015  
**Venue** - School of Tamil Studies, MKU  
**No. of Beneficiaries** - 63

Women’s Studies Centre organized a special lecture on ‘**Shri Subramania Bharathi - Empowerment of Women**’ on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Dr. C. Saradhambal, Director i/c of Women’s Studies Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University welcomed the gathering. In her welcome address she stated that “Education and Awareness about the society are very essential to Women Empowerment.” She also pointed out that Empowerment is a multi-faceted, Multi-dimensional and Multi layered concepts. She advised that every woman has to set some goals and want to achieve in their lives.



Dr. C. Saradhambal, Director i/c , Women’s Studies Centre welcomes the gathering

Dr. N. Rajasekar, Registrar, Madurai Kamaraj University, presided over the function. He sociologically dealt with the empowerment of women. He highlighted that the empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process of development of countries all over the world. Tamil Nadu has a glorious tradition of recognizing the importance of empowering women over

several centuries. The contribution of writers and social reformers like Bharathiar has been well documented. Women's empowerment is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources - material, intellectual resources – knowledge and financial resources - money and control over the decision-making in the home, community, society, nation, and to gain 'power'. He also stated that prohibition of dowry is one of the medicines for women empowerment. Practicing Dowry is being highly prevalent in many parts of the country, which has resulted to many consequences like dowry death, broken marriages, causing physical and psychological agony to a women.



Dr. N. Rajasekar, Registrar delivers the Presidential Address

As a concluding remark he stated that in 1961, the Government of India passed the Dowry Prohibition Act, making dowry demands in wedding arrangements is illegal. However, many cases of dowry-related domestic violence, suicides and murders have been reported till dates, he stressed that government should take appropriate steps for implementing the dowry prohibition act very seriously.

In the first session “Kalai Mamani” Professor Dr. G. Gnanasambandan, Emeritus professor, Thiagarajar College, Madurai gave a speech on “**Pennmaiyei Potruvom**”. He started his speech from birth to death of Bharathiar (1882 - 1921). His speech was with sense of humour stuffed with information and thought provoking. He stated that Bharathiar has written many songs on liberation of women.



Kalai Manani: Professor Dr. G. Gnanasambandan, Emeritus professor, Thiagarajar College, Madurai delivers a lecture on **“Penmaiyei Potruvom”**

A woman was given high intellect by the God who created this world. But some fools in this world ruined the development of intellect in women. He also pointed out that *“When women are empowered, nation is empowered”*. Women impose upon themselves a restriction which prevents them from being bold, taking initiative, going ahead and leading a team, though these are the very qualities that Bharathiar said about women.

This world will achieve excellence in knowledge and wisdom by holding men and women equal. He said that Bharathi always appealed for the eradication of gender differentiation, gender dissimilarity. He focused on women’s freedom and women's advantages. Bharathiar defended commanding rights for women. His poems demanded liberation for females then put a high class into their study. He imagined a smart Indian woman at the predecessor of society.

He viewed that the world will prosper in intelligence and ability if both sex are recognized equal. From his poetic parentage, the modern womanhood will become well-known with many learned high-level texts. They could set the spot for quite a few scientific inventions that smooth the advance of human life. These will take away all backward hypocritical assumptions in the whole society. Finally he pointed out that the Government of India has made Empowerment of Women as one of the principal objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and also declared 2001 as the year of ‘Women's Empowerment’ and he visualized a modern Indian woman at the vanguard of society.

In the second session a Tamil Literate Mr. Pon Chandrasekaran, Secretary, Gnana Peeda Ilakkiya Peravai, Madurai made his presentation on **“Bharathi Indru Irunthal”**. He traced historically the status of women. He also touched upon the various legislative provisions for women and how it is not being utilized by the women (33% reservation for women). He said that Bharati’s main theme was to free women who suffered inequality at the hands of men. In his times, women had no access to education, no freedom of speech or movement; they lived in darkness in a corner of the house, they followed and adhered to the qualities of “fear” and “shame” which “foolish” men established as virtues for women.



Pon. Chandra Sekaran, Secretary, Gnana Peeda Ilakkiya Peravai, Madurai delivers lecture on **“Bharathi Indru Irunthal”**

In his “New Woman” (*Pudumai Penn*) declared that women would learn many new sciences (*sastras*), they would destroy all of the old rules and foolish ties that controlled them; they would travel all over the world and bring all that is new of their learning to India, and work to make their country great. Our Constitution has conferred and guaranteed that all are equal before law and equal opportunities for men and women as fundamental rights. In order to give a fulfillment to empowerment of women and appropriate institutional mechanisms and interventions have been consciously built into the development design. Separate institutions for women and child development, departments at the Central and State levels, creation of the National Commission for women and also State Commission for women in several states are implemented, these are some of the important developments for the betterment and prosperity of women.

The position and status of women all over the world has risen incredibly from the 20th century. We find that it has been very low in 18th and 19th centuries in India and elsewhere when they were treated like 'objects' that can be bought and sold. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. Their dependence on men folk was total. Two Acts have also been enacted to emancipate women in India they are Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2006. The Domestic Violence Act recognizes that abuse be physical as well as mental.

We all know that girls are now doing better at school than boys. The annual results of Secondary and Higher Secondary Board examinations reveal this fact. More women are getting degrees than men, and are filling most new jobs in every field. On concluding his statement he says that, in spite of such drawbacks and hurdles that still prevail, Indian women especially educated are no longer hesitant or apologetic about claiming a share and visibility within the family, at work, in public places, and in the public discourse.

The special lecture came to end successfully with the vote of thanks by Dr.C. Subbulakshmi, Assistant Professor, Madurai Kamaraj University.