



UKIERI
UK-India Education
and Research Initiative

Feminist **تعليم**

Teaching Feminisms, Transforming Lives

December 4th-9th, 2017 - Ambedkar University Delhi

February 18th-23rd, 2018 - University of Edinburgh



City through feminist *lens*



Feminist Taleem

Teaching Feminism: Transforming Lives

7/12/17: City through Feminist Lens 10 am to 2 pm

Most visitors to Delhi, tour around the city, given its rich history and cosmopolitanism; this proposed city tour is sight-seeing with a difference. What does the city of Delhi look like when feminists engage with the *sights/sites* of the city? There are many evocative landmarks and memories that can be a part of such a city walk/tour. Here, we propose to engage with some of them. We would like to draw attention to the ways in which the built environment, the infrastructure (or the lack of it), transport, organization of work, dwelling and leisure and the overall cultural context impact women's interactions with and in the city of Delhi.

The idea of this tour is located within the broader objective of the project—how the city of Delhi teaches women towards transforming their lives. This *teaching* happened through formal educational institutions, while also being a part of nationalist organizations or women's wings of political parties as well as creating women specific work based associations. One of the objectives of this tour is to suggest that feminist pedagogy is not practiced and learned only within classrooms, but through our lives, and where and in which contexts are these lived. It is also an attempt to understand how through being a part of protests and demonstrations feminist consciousness gets shaped. This tour is not a *complete story* of the city and the multiple ways in which it has shaped feminism; but a slice of it—as well as a beginning towards locating feminism and the nature of its practice in the historical and contemporary contexts of the life of and in the city.

10 am—Start from AUD to Indraprastha College, University of Delhi

1. 10.15 to 10.40 am Indraprastha College, Civil Lines: Introduction at the archive by Prof. Meena Bhargava

Indraprastha College for Women was founded in 1924 and is the oldest women's college of the University of Delhi. It began with three students, in a room on the second floor of an old, now heritage, mansion housing the Indraprastha Girls' Senior Secondary School, in Chhipiwara in the Jama Masjid area of Chandni Chowk, in the walled city of Old Delhi. After some years, the college moved to Chandrawali Bhawan in Civil Lines, and was moved again to 'Alipore house' at Alipur road (now Sham Nath Marg) to the office-cum-residence of the British Commander-in-Chief in 1938 where it exist until today. The parent school and the College both grew out of the efforts of a group of Philanthropists associated with the Theosophical society of India. They were inspired by Mrs. Annie Besant, also a theosophist, who believed in and promoted education for women in north India (available online at http://ipcollege.ac.in/Viewtopics.aspx?MenuId=History_381). Degree courses were introduced in 1930s, and in 1938 the University recognized Indraprastha College as a degree college.

More details and a full history of this college is available in Meena Bhargava and Kalyani Dutta, 2005, *Women, Education and Politics: The Women's Movement and Delhi's Indraprastha College*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi

2. 10.45-11 am Miranda House College and Hostel, Patel Chest Marg: Brief Interaction with Dr. Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Vice Principal, Miranda House

The Miranda House Hostel which started functioning from 1948, since the beginning of the college, was designed by the renowned architect Walter George, with the foundation stone laid by Lady Edwina Mountbatten, lends to the college a historical charm and a sense of legacy. Since 1948, it has been a residence for a multiple variety of students, in the most recent times (2014), one could read what it is like to be a MH Resident: <https://mhhmagazine.wordpress.com/2014/09/09/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-miranda-house-resident/>.

3. Pass by Delhi University Women's Association DUWA, Chhatra Marg

The story of DUWA goes back to the times when women did not generally move out much and were restricted to the four walls and confined to the domestic chores. Delhi University had a Men's Club but there was no such meeting place for women. Women members from the university were allowed to use the venue only on Wednesday's - a kind gesture certainly. Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh, a social activist, an advocate and the wife of the Vice Chancellor, had a vision - an association for the women fraternity of the Delhi University. With the generous support of the Vice Chancellor Prof. C. D. Deshmukh, DUWA became a reality in 1964. The kind of activities that DUWA organizes are: Kiddies Corner (Balwadi), Play & Recreation Centre, Pre Nursery School / Playschools. Literacy & Craft Classes for adult women, Hostel facilities, Library & Reading room, Reading project for differently-abled students with visual impairment, Sahyog Coaching Classes for economically weaker sections students, Vaatsalya- infant Care & day-care facility

For more details : <http://duwa.du.ac.in/index.html>

4. Pass by Arts Faculty area, Chhatra Marg—site of protest meetings, beginning of marches across the open campus of? University of Delhi, North Campus

More around activities at Arts Faculty <http://dubeat.com/category/campus-central-delhi-university/arts-faculty-du/>

Stop at AUD at 11.30/40 am for collecting lunch boxes

5. Pass by Lady Irwin College, Sikandra Road

From a modest beginning with 11 students in 1932, Lady Irwin College has provided higher education for generations of women. The college has an illustrious ancestry. It was established under the patronage of Lady Dorothy Irwin, by men and women concerned with national issues and the education of women. Among them were the Maharanis of Baroda and Bhopal, Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Annie Besant, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay, Margaret Cousins to name a few. Lady Irwin College is a premiere institution affiliated to University of Delhi for undergraduate and postgraduate education in Home Science institution affiliated University of Delhi. Besides courses, the college also offers other services like the Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Center - Houses play school, Crèche, Early intervention center in disabilities and day-care.

For more details : http://www.ladyirwin.edu.in/college_profile.aspx

6. Pass by All India Women's Conference, Bhagwan Das Road

All India Women's Conference (AIWC) was founded in 1927 in Poona and the Delhi chapter started from 1928. Playing a significant role in ensuring education for women, it also contributed significantly to legislative reforms in Sarda Act—raising the age of marriage for girls, universal adult franchise, Hindu Code Bill, Maternity Benefits Act. In 1932, the

All India Women's Education Fund Association was founded, which established the Lady Irwin College for Women in the same year. It also has hostel facilities for single working women in Delhi.

For more details : <http://aiwc.org.in/data/History.pdf>

Also Aparna Basu and Bharati Ray, 1990, *Women's Struggle: A History of Women's Conference, 1927-1990*, Manohar Publishers, Delhi

7. Pass by National Federation for Indian Women, Kasturba Gandhi Marg

NFIW was established in 1954 as a mass organization with several leaders of the former Mahila Atma Raksha Samiti, including Aruna Asaf Ali. Equal pay for equal work and struggling for the right to land for the peasant woman have been important issues that NFIW have aligned itself with.

For more details, please read Gargi Chakravorthy and Supriya Chottani, 2014, *Charting a New path: Early Years of the NFIW* People's Publishing House and Parvathi Menon, 2005, *Breaking Barriers: Stories of Twelve Women*. Left Word, New Delhi

8. 12.30 pm Young Women's Christian Association, Ashoka Road—introduced by Kalpana David

The YWCA of Delhi was established in 1912. In 1887, with a home for five women, was the beginning of hostels in India. In a city like Delhi where accommodation is both expensive as well as scarce, and the requirement for safe and accessible accommodation is the YWCA currently runs four Working Women's Hostels in four locations in Delhi.

For more details on these hostels please check <https://www.ywcaofdelhi.org/CHWW>

9. Pass by Centre for Women's Development Studies, Bhai Veer Singh Marg

The CWDS was established as an autonomous research institute in 1980 with initial support from International Labour Organization. The Founders of CWDS were authors of the Government of India Report *Towards Equality: Status of Women in India*, published in 1975, coinciding with the UN International Year for Women. Since its inception and subsequent recognition by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the CWDS has been committed to expanding the scope of gender perspectives within the social sciences, thus developing women's studies as an inter-disciplinary, problem-oriented field of rigorous research and policy intervention. Our vision is to produce creative, theoretically-informed and empirically-rich research that will help establish women and gender issues as critical, indispensable components of every aspect of education, development and state policy.

For more details : <http://www.cwds.ac.in/about-us/>

For past themes of CWDS calendar¹: <http://www.cwds.ac.in/publications/calendar/>

10. 1:00 pm Indian Women's Press Corps, Windsor Place—introduced by T K Rajlakshmi, Vice President IWPC and journalist at Frontline

Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) is an association of women journalists. Launched in 1994, it was set up to support women journalist in their professional work, in enhancing their knowledge and skills and to provide a forum for networking. It started with being a parallel to Press Club of India with facilities like a day-care centre, a library and a clippings service.

For more details : <http://www.iwpc.info/index.html>

Tea and snacks at IWPC

At 1.30 pm move towards **India Gate** and further to Jantar Mantar Road. The former being a site where protest marches used to end before 1990s and latter being the site where protest marches ended till this year 2017. Now the designated venue is Ramlila Grounds.

Tour ends at 2pm at Jantar Mantar Road

As feminists, we look, access, assess the city differently—this lens charts an-other history of the same city, Delhi

¹ The inauguration of the 2018 calendar is on 7/12/17 at 6pm at IIC where this team will be present