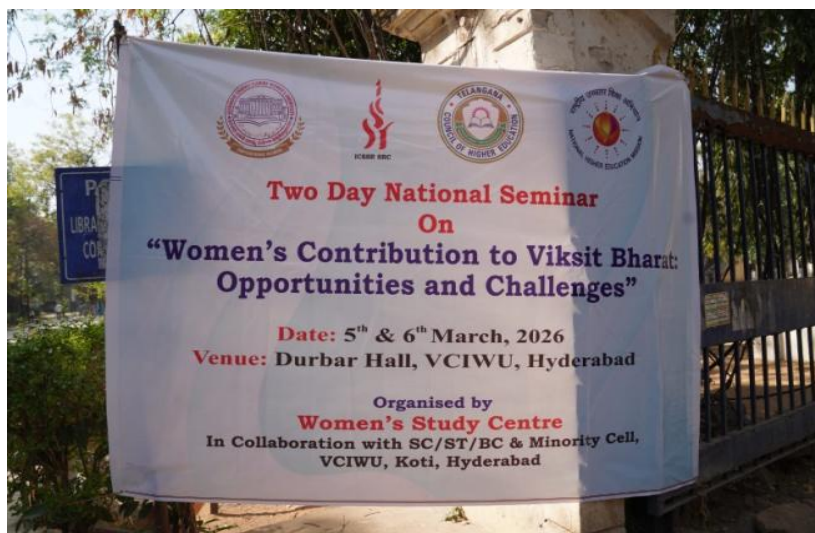


❖ NATIONAL SEMINAR ON: WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTION TO VIKSIT BHARAT : OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES”

A Report on the two day National Seminar March 5th & 6th 2026

'Women's Contribution to Viksit Bharat: Opportunities and Challenges', Conducted by Women's Study Centre, Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University.



The Women’s Study Centre of Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women’s University successfully organized a Two-Day National Seminar on “Women’s Contribution to Viksit Bharat: Opportunities and Challenges” on 5th and 6th March 2026. The seminar brought together academicians, policymakers, researchers, and students to deliberate on the crucial role of women in shaping an inclusive and progressive India.

The seminar aimed to provide an academic platform for discussions on women’s empowerment, gender equality, social inclusion, skill development, and the role of media and culture in shaping women’s participation in nation building. The event witnessed active participation from faculty members, scholars, and students from different institutions.

Inaugural Session

The seminar commenced with the inaugural session held at the Durbar Hall of the university. Eminent dignitaries and academicians addressed the gathering and emphasized the significance of women’s role in national development.

Chief Guest, Prof. V. Balakista Reddy highlighted that women have always played an important role in nation building, though their contributions were often underrecognized in the past. He noted that in contemporary India, women are increasingly contributing across sectors including education, governance, science, media, and entrepreneurship.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Surya Dhanunjay, emphasized that women’s education and empowerment are essential for sustainable social progress. He noted that when women are empowered through education

and opportunities, they contribute significantly to family welfare, community development, and the nation's economic growth.

The keynote address by Prof. Anuradha Jonnalagadda stressed the importance of breaking gender stereotypes and encouraged women to identify their interests, develop expertise, and contribute actively to society.

The inaugural session thus set the tone for the seminar by emphasizing that the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realized when women's contributions are recognized, supported, and strengthened.

Technical Session I – Social and Cultural Barriers

The first technical session focused on the social and cultural barriers that continue to affect women's participation in development by Ms. Rubeena Nafees Fatima, President, SAFA Society, Hyderabad.

The discussion highlighted challenges such as patriarchal social structures, genderdiscrimination, and limited access to education and economic opportunities. The session emphasized that these barriers often restrict women from realizing their full potential.

At the same time, the session stressed the importance of awareness, education, supportive policies, and societal transformation in addressing these issues and ensuring greater participation of women in all spheres of development.

Panel Discussion – Women's Contribution to Viksit Bharat

The panel discussion brought together experts like Rachana Mudraboina, Director on the Board Human Rights, Dr. Shanmukhi, Senior Clinical Psychologist, KIMS, Hyderabad, Dr. N. Sai Bhasker Reddy, expert, International Environment and Development and Dr. P. Vijay Kumar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Telugu, University of Hyderabad who are from fields such as human rights, psychology, environmental development, and literature. The panelists discussed the multidimensional nature of women's contributions to society.

The discussion highlighted the importance of mental well-being, environmental awareness, cultural representation, and protection of human rights in empowering women.

The panel collectively emphasized that women's participation is essential for inclusive and sustainable development and that gender equality is a key component of the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Technical Session II – Paper Presentations

The second day of the seminar began with paper presentations chaired by S. Abdul Thaha, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, MANUU, Hyderabad.

A total of 62 abstracts were received for the seminar, out of which 35 full papers were presented during the paper presentation session. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation, with a total of 338 participants, including faculty members, research scholars, students, and academicians.

The presented papers covered a wide range of themes such as women's empowerment, gender equality, sustainable development, social inclusion, and women's participation in economic and social development, contributing to meaningful academic discussions and exchange of ideas on women's role in nation building.

The session provided a valuable platform for academic exchange and encouraged meaningful discussions among researchers, faculty members, and students.

Technical Session III – Media, Culture and Representation

The third technical session focused on Media, Culture and Representation and featured noted filmmaker Sekhar Kammula.

The speaker shared valuable insights from his experience in cinema and storytelling. He explained how films and visual media influence societal attitudes and cultural understanding of gender roles. Drawing from his filmmaking journey, he discussed how cinema has the power not only to entertain but also to reflect social realities and initiate meaningful conversations about equality and dignity.

He emphasized that media representations often shape how women are perceived in society. While certain portrayals may reinforce stereotypes, cinema also has the ability to challenge these traditional narratives by presenting women as strong, independent, and multidimensional individuals. Through responsible storytelling, filmmakers can highlight women's aspirations, struggles, and achievements in a more authentic and empowering manner.

The session further stressed that inclusive and thoughtful narratives in cinema and media can contribute to the development of progressive social values. By portraying diverse female experiences and voices, media can inspire social change, encourage gender sensitivity, and promote greater awareness about equality. The session highlighted the important role that media and creative storytelling play in building a more equitable and gender-sensitive society, aligning with the broader vision of empowering women in the journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

Technical Session IV – Skill Development

The final technical session focused on Skill Development, delivered by Er. Prof. G. Surender Reddy National Convenor, Me@AI India Initiative.

He discussed the importance of equipping young women with digital skills, technological knowledge, and innovation capabilities in the rapidly evolving technological landscape. He encouraged students to explore opportunities in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

The session emphasized that skill development and technological empowerment are essential for women to actively participate in the future economy and contribute to national progress.

Valedictory Session

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session attended by distinguished guests including B. Vijayalakshmi, Registrar of the university; Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, Director, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Southern Regional Centre, Mamidi Hari Krishna, Director, BC Study Circle, as Guest of Honour; and Prof. G. Padmaja, Head & Dean, DSW, University of Hyderabad who delivered the valedictory address.

The speakers appreciated the Women's Study Centre of Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University for organizing the two-day national seminar on such a significant theme. They also acknowledged the efforts of the Director of the Women's Study Centre and the convenor of the seminar for successfully bringing together scholars, experts, and students for meaningful academic discussions.

The dignitaries highlighted that such seminars play an important role in creating awareness, promoting research, and encouraging dialogue on gender equality and social transformation.

They emphasized that women are at the center of social, cultural, and economic development and that empowering women through education, skill development, and equal opportunities is essential for building a progressive and inclusive society.

Er. Prof. Surender Reddy, National Convenor, Me@AI India Initiative and his team launched their AI Club at VCIWU. The session concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants, marking the successful completion of the seminar.

Conclusion

The two-day national seminar provided a valuable platform for academic dialogue and critical reflection on women's role in national development. The discussions reinforced the importance of gender equality, education, skill development, and social awareness in empowering women.

The seminar successfully facilitated exchange of ideas among scholars, experts, and students and contributed to a deeper understanding of the role women play in shaping the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The Women's Study Centre expresses its sincere gratitude to ICSSR, RUSA and TSCHE for their support in organizing this seminar and enabling meaningful discussions on women's empowerment and national development.





