

MEET AND GREET, THIS WOMEN'S DAY

Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT organised a round table conversation on 'Women Leadership in Higher Education Institutions' titled 'Meet and Greet, This Women's Day' as part of International Women's Day 2025 programme, at the Centre on 05th March, 2025. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology, Dr. M Junaid Bushiri.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE
Cochin University of Science & Technology

Let's Meet and Greet, This Women's Day
for A Round Table Conversation :
Women Leadership in Higher Education Institutions

INAUGURATION:
Dr. M Junaid Bushiri
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Cochin University of Science & Technology

ACCELERATE ACTION; THIS WOMEN'S DAY!!!

Let's Converse on:

- Shaping Expectations
- Setting Career Goals
- Capacity Building
- Nurturing Leadership
- Building Professional Strategies
- Networking and Political Connections
- Physical Fitness and Mental Well-being
- Assimilating into Male Dominated Spaces
- Social and Cultural Environment
- Policy Initiatives
- And Much More ...

Date
March 05, 2025

Time
1.45 PM

REGISTER NOW!!!

Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

PATRONS

Dr. Asha Gopalakrishnan
Senior Professor, Dept. Statistics &
Honorary Director
Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Dr. Sangeetha K Pratap
Associate Professor, School of Management Studies &
Honorary Assistant Director
Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

CO-ORDINATORS

Dr. Anitha P
Research Associate
Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Ms. Mary Manju
Research Assistant
Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
Let's Meet and Greet, This Women's Day
for A Round Table Conversation :
Women Leadership in Higher Education Institutions

Organized by
Women's Studies Centre
Cochin University of Science and Technology
On March 05, 2025, 1.45 PM @ Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Inaugural Session

Welcome address
Dr. Sangeetha K Pratap
Associate Professor, School of Management Studies &
Honorary Assistant Director, Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Presidential Address
Dr. Asha Gopalakrishnan
Senior Professor, Dept. Statistics &
Honorary Director, Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Inauguration & Inaugural Address
Dr. M Junaid Bushiri
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CUSAT

Prize Distribution for Quiz Programme:
'Know the Women Around You -Stronger Her, Healthier Future'

Felicitations

Dr. Arun A U
Registrar, CUSAT

Dr. Sam Thomas
Dean and Faculty of Social Science & Director, IQAC, CUSAT

Dr. Honey John
Professor, Dept. of Polymer Science and Rubber Technology &
Director, Joint University Centre for Nano materials and Devices, CUSAT

Dr. Saritha G Bhat
Senior Professor, Department of Biotechnology &
Co-ordinator, Centre for Integrated Studies, CUSAT

Dr. Sobha Cyrus
Principal, School of Engineering, CUSAT

Dr. Valsamma Joseph
Director, National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health, CUSAT

Special Invitee
Dr. Daya Pascal
Nodal Officer, District Mental Health Program, Ernakulam

Vote of Thanks
Dr. Vani Kesari A
Professor and Honorary Director, Prof. N R Madhava Menon Interdisciplinary
Centre for Research Ethics and Protocols &
Advisory Committee Member, Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT

Round Table Conversation Lead by Dr. Daya Pascal

Women's Day 2025 # AccelerateAction
For ALL Women And Girls : Rights, Equality, Empowerment

Women's Day 2025 # AccelerateAction
For ALL Women And Girls : Rights, Equality, Empowerment

Brochure of Let's meet and greet

The programme commenced at 1.45 PM with welcome address by Dr. Sangeetha K Prathap, Associate Professor, School of Management Studies and Honorary Assistant Director, Women's Studies Centre. Dr. Asha Gopalakrishnan, Senior Professor, Department of Statistics and Honorary Director, Women's Studies Centre presided over the meeting. She gave a brief overview of the activities of Women's Studies Centre emphasising the need for various departments of CUSAT to collaborate with the Centre by offering suitable courses.



Photos of meet and greet

Dr. Junaid Bushiri, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, he acknowledged the active participation of women in the University in all areas of operation. He said that women successfully undertake multiple roles making commendable sacrifices amidst several challenges, converting these into opportunities. He appreciated the initiative taken by Women's Studies Centre to bring the women faculty members of CUSAT together to converse on important matters relating to leadership and urged the meeting to discuss the challenges in taking leadership roles among female teachers.



Dr. Junaid Bushiri, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor inaugurating the 'Let's Meet and Greet' programme

Dr. Arun A U, Registrar, CUSAT and Dr. Sam Thomas, Dean and Faculty of Social Science & Director, IQAC, CUSAT offered felicitations. Dr. Arun A U spoke about the need for inclusive participation to gather opinion and perspectives from various facets of

leadership in educational institutions and to include male counterparts also in such discussions.



Dr.Arun A U, Registrar, CUSAT

Dr. Sam Thomas presented some vital statistics relating to women participation in leadership in academics highlighting the pyramid like structure with almost 90% in the bottom layer. Very few assume higher responsibilities. He appreciated the topics chosen for discussion urging the participants to deliberate on the strategies for improving participation of women in leadership.



Dr. Sam Thomas, Dean and Faculty of Social Science & Director, IQAC

Dr. Honey John, Professor, Department of Polymer Science and Rubber Technology & Director, Inter University Centre for Nano materials and devices, CUSAT spoke about the women's role in shaping the world, undertaking multiple tasks as demanded by the societal concerns, yet delivering higher responsibilities in academics. Dr. Sarita G Bhat, Senior Professor, Department of Biotechnology & Co-ordinator, Centre for Integrated Studies, CUSAT spoke about the sensitisation, building awareness and motivation to

bring about change in perception about women in leadership. She also pointed at the informal decision making processes through social networks where men dominate.



Dr. Honey John, Professor felicitates

Dr.Sarita G Bhat, Senior Professor felicitates

Dr.Sobha Cyrus, Professor, School of Engineering, CUSAT shared her experiences with thrust on unity and co-ordination among female faculty members to meet, exchange ideas and impart support in their leadership journey. Dr.Valsamma Joseph, Professor, National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health, CUSAT spoke about the stereotyping of roles and hurdles for women in taking responsibilities suggesting that in the entangled system the way forward is consultative leadership supported by empowered men.



Dr.Sobha Cyrus addressing the session

Dr.Valsamma Joseph addressing the session

Dr. VaniKesari A, Professor and Honorary Director, Prof. N R MadhavaMenon Interdisciplinary Centre for Research Ethics and Protocols and Advisory Committee

Member, Women's Studies Centre spoke about the importance of such meetings and conversations, increased representation in leadership roles and administrators with no gender bias. She proposed vote of thanks for the inaugural meeting. Ms. Mary Manju, Research Assistant co-ordinated the proceedings of the meeting serving as master of ceremony.



Dr. VaniKesari delivering vote of thanks

The Round Table Conversation

The round table conversation was initiated by Dr. Daya Pascal, Psychiatrist and Nodal Officer, District Mental Health Program, Ernakulam. She gave an overview of the challenges for women in leadership, striking the balance between work stress and societal demands. The participants deliberated on important aspects of leadership faced by them in the academic work environment.



Photos of Lets meet and greet

The discussions centred on the following:

1. Managing time allocation for family and work.
2. Gender discrimination at work place.
3. Physical and emotional struggles in life.
4. Meeting Societal expectations, check list.
5. Unwritten rules for women, responsibilities and duties thrust upon women.
6. Maintaining relationship with colleagues, both men and women.
7. Managing academic and administrative responsibilities.
8. Networking, collaboration, unity and bonding.
9. Unwinding for releasing stress and tensions.
10. Need for institutions to become women friendly.
11. Mind-set and attitudinal change creating women inclusive policies and practices.
12. Women considering themselves privileged doing multiple roles – attitude issues.
13. Defining success through enhancing visibility of work.
14. Silencing of unpleasant voices, especially women's.
15. Women entrusted with back end jobs, male counterparts taking advantage.

Dr. Daya Pascal gave valuable inputs to bring about mind-set shifts and change in perspectives with regard to quality, building expectations, sharing of family responsibilities and duties, enhancing visibility, expressing emotions, team work and realising the realities. She also gave suggestions on improvements at institutional level to support women through day-care centres with additional shifts, appreciating and recognition programmes, sessions for men at home and workplace to sensitise them, open and friendly relationships and social groups.



Photos of meet and greet

Dr. Smarty Mukundan, Associate Professor, School of Management Studies, CUSAT concluded the conversation insisting on managing 'me time' to rediscover the losing identity of women engaged in multiple roles. She thanked Dr. Daya Pascal for adding colour to the meet and the participants for their valuable views and advices. The meeting concluded by 4.30PM.

No: of Participants: 32

Venue: Women's Studies Centre, CUSAT