

In compliance with vision of Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, the Women Empowerment cell/ Mahila Addhyan Kendra was established in the University on 31.05.2021. The cell aims to contribute towards upliftment of women in society. The specific objectives are to motivate females towards education, health, self- respect and financial independence. Additionally it aims towards spreading awareness about social practices against women and their legal rights. Special emphasis is given to women belonging to rural areas.

To achieve these objectives, a committee was formed to supervise and plan activities and events towards achievement of this mandate. The core committee comprises of Prof Puneeta Manik (Covener), Dr Rameshwari Singhal (Co convenor), Prof Monika Agarwal, Prof Shalini Gupta, Prof Vibha Singh, Dr Suchi Tripathi, Dr Hemlata, Dr Nisha Mani Pandey, Dr Deepti Shastri, Dr Shivanjali Raghuvanshi, Dr Rhythm, Dr Gitika Nanda, Dr Parul Jain and Dr Anugrah Charan. The cell is required to work in three directions with organization of awareness drives, social outreach programs and conduction of programs monthly on designated days. The University is active in conducting various programs throughout the year, which align with the programs given by Governor office and also with women empowerment. As part of social outreach programs, the cell organizes events like health and dental check up camps, self-breast examination, plantation drive, awareness on personal hygiene, oral health awareness, hand hygiene, menstrual hygiene, malnutrition and anemia, breast feeding, breast and cervical cancers, sanitary napkin disposal, Covid-19 and fungal infections and psychological counseling in rural areas on a regular basis for females and children in 10 adopted villages. As a measure of women empowerment on financial front, initiatives such as **Nivedita** (a sewing teaching school to slum dweller women and socioeconomically weak women/girls for creating employment avenues) and **Dhanvantri mahila udhyamita kendra** (for production and sale of masalas, papad, achaar etc.) have been undertaken. For awareness drives, **Janjagriti abhiyan** (general health and hygiene awareness), adolescent health & menstrual hygiene initiatives, counselling and rehabilitation of child abuse/rape victims through **Samadhan initiative** and initiatives in collaboration with other NGO's like Arogya Bharti, Rotary club, etc. are undertaken.

In the year 2022, the core committee of WEC organized a week long program from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> March to mark the International Women's day celebration.

The cell was inaugurated by the Honorable Governor following which activities like panel discussion on menstrual hygiene, debate on the topic "Matriarchal society: is it a better way of living?", nukkad natak on "Antenatal health for healthy pregnancy", awareness and check-up campaigns on breast cancer for employees of KGMU, a cultural program showcasing talents of women and pink think for resolution of complaints were organized.