

Food and Accommodation:

working lunch will be arranged for all the registered participants on both days of the seminar. All outstation participants will be provided accommodation for two days on prior request and payment basis.

TA/DA

No TA/DA will be paid.

Who can participate?

Academicians, Experts, Researchers, Scholars, College and University teachers working on the various themes and also those NGOs actively involved and working at grassroot level will be the participants for the seminar.

How to reach Gandhigram:

The Institute is located on NH-7 (Dindigul to Madurai Road). It is 12km away from Dindigul bus stand, 2km from Ambathurai Railway Station and 15km from Dindigul Railway Station. The nearest Airport is Madurai located in a distance of about 80 kms

Date and Venue: 27.03.2025 to 28.03.2025 at Kural Arangam, Department of Tamil, GRI, Gandhigram.

Registration fee

Out station	Local	Others
Rs.500	Rs.300	Rs.500

Important Dates:

1. Last date for Registration: 24.03.2025
2. Last date for sending Abstract: 25.03.2025
3. Last for sending full paper: 26.03.2025

Google Registration form:

<https://forms.gle/ueBJ4QzYd6mTebc2A>

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron : **Prof.N.Panchanatham**
Vice- Chancellor
GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram-624 302

Patron : **Prof.L.Rathakrishnan**
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Seminar Director : **Dr.P.Anandharajakumar**
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Dept. of Rural Development

Dr.E.Arumuga Gandhi, Guest Faculty,
Dept. of Rural Development

Dr.K. Tamilvanan, Guest Faculty,
Dept. of Rural Development

Secretarial Support:

Mr.V.Srinivasan, Professional Assistant, CSSI

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Jointly organize

**Two Day National Seminar on
Women Participation in
Local Self Governance:
Challenges and Opportunities**

27 - 28 March 2025



**THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**
Gandhigram -624 302 Dindigul District Tamilnadu
(Ministry of Education, (Shiksha Mantralaya), Govt. of India)
Accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade (3rd Cycle)

**Venue : Kural Arangam,
Department of Tamil, GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram**

About the Institute:

Gandhigram was born in 1947. A team of dedicated disciples and contemporaries of Gandhiji, Dr. T.S. Soundram and Dr. G. Ramachandran, developed Gandhigram, the home of many rural development programmes. The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) was founded in 1956 with undying faith and deep devotion to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary concept of Nai Talim system of education. Today, GRI is nationally and internationally recognized for its contribution to rural development through its multi-faceted academic programmes. In fact, the New Education Policy of the country reflects the principles evolved here in developing the concept of a Rural University. Duly recognizing its monumental contributions, the Institute was accredited with Five Star status by NAAC in February 2002 and Re-accredited with "A+" Grade status in September 2016.

Concept Note

Women constitute about half of the human population. They play a significant role in the development of our society. Every woman has her own job or duty in this modern society. A woman has to take care of her own personal life and if she is mother, she has to take care of her children's life too. Women play a dual role in politics –as voters and political representatives. On the voting front, though adult franchise was granted in 1937, it was the progressive spirit that pervaded the making of the Constitution that made it a reality. The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights to men and women as voter and citizens. Generally, in India, registration and participation of women as contestants is less than that of men. In recent past, records show that there has been an increase in percentage of women who vote. Such participation is also contingent on the mobilisation efforts of political parties, NGOs, Action Groups. Again, a note of caution is required, lest it be assumed that

political participation always indicates political awareness among the community of the importance of women exercising their franchise. In all the elections held since Independence, women had voting rights. The percentage of seats won against the seats contested is showing a declining trend only because the number of women contesting elections has increased sharply. However, it may be seen that voting by women in all tiers of Government has always been a feature of the Indian polity since 1947. The paternalistic family and male dominated political structures do not provide space for women in decision making bodies. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act mandated reservation of one-third seats in the village, Panchayat union and District Panchayat elected bodies in India. As a consequence, women had not advanced much politically and economically. This amendment provided for reservation of one third of seats for women at the level of local governance in urban areas. There is also one-third reservation for women for posts of chairpersons in these local bodies. This amendment has initiated a powerful strategy of affirmative action for providing the structural framework for women's participation in political decision making and provided an opportunity to bring women to be forefront and centre of development and development of a new grass root level leadership. There are about one million elected women representatives in local bodies in India.

In the light of the above, Dept. of Rural Development and the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) of The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) intending to organize a two day National Seminar on '**Women Participation in Local Governance: Challenges and Opportunities**'. This seminar will provide an opportunity and a platform for academicians; researchers and social activists to discuss the issues of women in India which would bring out a broad based, multi-pronged public policy for women upliftment and well being.

Objectives:

- To explore various dimensions (social, cultural, economic, political, legal etc.) of deprivation, marginalization and inclusion of women at grass root level.
- To identify the impact of 73rd & 74th Amendment Act at local Self Governance
- To discuss the issues of elected women representatives in local Governance
- To discuss the issues of SC/ST women representatives in local Governance
- To suggest appropriate policy solutions, including the legal reforms for more inclusive development of women at grass root level.

Sub-theme of the Seminar: The seminar will provide a platform to academicians, intellectuals, social activists, stakeholders, and researchers to focus on the following aspects.

1. Participation of Women in Local Governance
2. Peoples participation in Gram Sabha
3. Decentralized Development and Women Leadership
4. Empowerment of Women representatives in Local Governance
5. Inclusive Growth and Development of elected women representatives.
6. Social Auditing of Village Panchayat
7. Other relevant themes.

Call for papers:

Papers are invited from academicians, experts, researchers, scholars and University teachers working on above mentioned themes. Soft copies of Abstracts not exceeding 300 words or one printed page shall be mailed to mani.chella@gmail.com on or before 15.03.2025.

Paper Presentation and Publication:

Selected papers will be invited for presentation at the seminar and abstracts will be published in the Seminar Proceedings and later as an edited volume by the reputed publishers with ISBN. Authors of papers selected for publication will have to pay Rs.500/- as publishing cost which will be collected later.