

ONE-DAY LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAM ON “BREAKING BARRIERS: UNDERSTANDING GENDER EQUITY AND GIRLS’ RIGHTS”

B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology’s Crescent Legal Aid Committee recently spearheaded a meaningful outreach activity titled “Breaking Barriers: Understanding Gender Equity and Girls’ Rights”, which was held on October 8, 2024 at Rajeswari Vedachalam Government Arts and Science College, Chengalpattu. The one-day legal awareness program was designed to empower students and the broader college community with essential knowledge on gender equity and girls’ rights, addressing issues facing women’s rights in India. The event featured a ceremonial inauguration and distinguished sessions that connected gender equity with everyday realities.

A notable highlight was the handing over of five sanitary napkin vending and disposal machines, emphasizing women’s health, hygiene, and dignity within educational institutions. Sessions included insights on gender equity through Tamil literature, discussions on domestic violence laws, helplines, and support mechanisms for issues such as stalking and forced marriages. The event was a collaborative effort involving Crescent School of Law’s Legal Aid Committee, faculty coordinators, and student coordinators, under the guidance of the Dean of Crescent School of Law, Dr. C. Chockalingam.



Figure XVII(3.5)-5_Welcoming Guest

Event Highlights

- **Ceremonial Start:**

The event began with the “Tamil Thai Vazhthu” and a lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the formal inauguration. The Dean delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of gender equity and quoting renowned social reformers for inspiration.

- **Guest Felicitations and Presidential Address:**

Mrs. A.S. Kumari, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Women’s Commission, delivered the presidential address. She discussed gender equity laws, dowry prevention, sexual harassment, and the importance of self-respect, drawing insights from social reformer Thanthai Periyar.



Figure XVII(3.5)-6_Handing Over of Sanitary Napkin Vending & Disposal Machine

- A key focus of the event was the handing over of five sanitary napkin vending and disposal machine to Rajeswari Vedachalam Government Arts and Science College, Chengalpattu. This initiative, generously sponsored by both faculty and student coordinators, underscored the program’s commitment to promoting women’s health and hygiene in educational institutions.
- The machine was officially handed over by the Dean, alongside faculty and student organizers, symbolizing proactive steps toward addressing menstrual health challenges faced by young women. The initiative not only provides

necessary hygiene resources but also contributes to the ongoing efforts to normalize conversations around menstrual health, which is essential for achieving gender equity.

Key Sessions

1. Session by Mr. P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu:

Addressing gender equity, Mr. Babu utilized Tamil literature to underscore cultural values related to gender equity and highlighted the fundamental rights of women.

2. Session by Mrs. Poongodi Prakash:

Mrs. Prakash discussed domestic violence laws, helpline services, and provided information on support mechanisms for issues like stalking and forced marriages.



Figure XVII(3.5)-7_Girl Students Participation