



### INTRODUCTION:

The main objective of the Women Development Cell of Gujarat Technological University is creating a congenial and safe working environment for all the female students, women faculty and staff of the university and all affiliated colleges. The WDC strives to create awareness and inculcate a strong sense of values among the younger generation so that they have a balanced view about the various gender issues that they face in their daily lives.

The cell is empowered to monitor the activities and address the issues concerning women at the collegiate women development cell. The cell, under the leadership of the chairperson **Prof. Usha Neelakantan** and active pivotal member **Prof. Rekha Nair** encourages the institutes to organize workshops on awareness of women's rights and their roles in the society, and motivational programmes to help female students develop their human skills, confidence and leadership qualities in all walks of life. The WDC of some colleges have celebrated Women's day on 8<sup>th</sup> March and conducted few seminars on women empowerment.

GTU recently organized a joint workshop with AICTE on **Measures to Tackle the Menace of Sexual Crime against Women** for all its affiliated colleges at the Conference Hall of the university on 21st December 2013. Dr. Ashok Patel (RO & Director, AICTE- Central Regional Office), Dr. Renu Bapna (Advisor-I, AICTE), Mrs. Meena Jagtap (Leading Lawyer and Social worker, Associated with NGO "DASTAK"), Miss. Ruzan Khambhata (Director of N Wave Tech Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad) were the speakers / delegates at the workshop.

Dr. G. P. Vadodaria Registrar GTU welcomed the gathering. Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, GTU addressed the august gathering on ways to tackle the menace of crime against women and ensured that GTU is offering a safe and healthy environment in all affiliated colleges.

Dr. Renu Bapna narrated all acts for Protection of Woman against Domestic Violence Act discussed preventive measures to tackle the crime against women through Gender sensitizing workshops, awareness programs, counseling students and interacting with parents periodically and training to girls in self-defence, Mrs. Meena Jagtap shared her experiences and discussed several cases filed by women and the way she handled them with right judgement in their favour, inside and outside the court. Miss. Ruzan Khambhata discussed technology enabled safety mechanism and device called HEART (Help Emergency Alert Rescue Terminal) through use of mobile to help women at the time of emergency and rescue them from entangled danger. More than **220 participants** including Trustees, Deans, Directors, Principals, Faculties and Administrative Officers of affiliated colleges participated in the workshop. The function ended with vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Usha Neelakantan, Chairperson, WDC, GTU.



WDC looks forward to join hands with the institutes to organize more workshops, field visits, camps and activities to promote the academic and individual growth of female students to emerge as competent professionals with embodiment of human ethics and enhanced confidence level.

Prepared by Prof. Usha Neelakantan,  
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