

**Women's Studies Centre
Vidyasagar University, Midnapore**

One-Day Webinar on 15th December, 2021

‘Women Participants in the Movement towards India’s Independence: An Assessment’

Concept Note

Women’s contribution in the struggle for freedom occupies a prominent place in Indian history. Women leaders made their presence felt since the early phase of the 18th century which had set the background for their increased participation throughout the movement for India’s Independence. A conscious attempt by women throughout British India to participate in this pan-Indian phenomenon in various ways had been further supported by the social reforms of the 19th century. Abolition of Sati (1829), Widow Remarriage Act (1856), Child Marriage Act (1872), Banning of the tradition of the Devdasi (1925) and various other such reforms of that time helped women to participate actively in the emerging nationalist movement by freeing themselves from traditional practices and values. However, women’s role in freedom struggle has been variously interpreted through the patriarchal lens (Yuval-Davis, 1997). Colonial reforms questioned the traditional role of women in society but many a times it was an altered form of patriarchal subordination. Studies on Gender and colonialism in India are multidimensional and multi-layered whereby an effort is given to bring forth these two separate domains of study. Even after seventy-five years of Independence, questions on the issue of convergence and divergence of these two parallel streams still prevail. Research on participation of women in the struggle for Independence has mostly been reductionist and can be described as ‘history from above’ (Chandra, 1971). Publications are not as abundant as those related to men’s roles in the movement towards Independence. Archival resources, although scanty, have not been fully explored.

Against this backdrop, the Women’s Studies Centre, Vidyasagar University proposes to organise a One-Day Webinar on 15th December, 2021, inviting papers which could come under the following themes but not be limited to them:

- **Women’s question and India’s Independence**
- **Feminism and nationalism**
- **Women’s participation: regional and local experiences**
- **Women’s narratives about their participation in the movement for Indian Independence**
- **The post-Independence lives of women participants in the movement for Indian Independence**

Call for Papers

- The seminar invites proposals for presentations on any aspect of the broad theme.
- Please e-mail abstracts of no more than 250 words to the email addresses:
pujasree@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in
swatilekha.b@gmail.com

- Abstracts should include your name, designation, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, contact details along with the abstract title, introduction, relevance, methodology, main arguments of your proposed paper.

Timeline

- The deadline of submission of abstract is 30th November, 2021.
- The full papers must be submitted by 10th December, 2021.
- Acceptance of abstract will be communicated through e-mail

Webinar Coordinators

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All the participants (both paper presenters and listeners) are requested to register for the webinar using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/dJWdgcipdqHKvazT7>