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| Event Name | : National Conference on Women Empowerment |
| From Date | : 19.12.2025 |
| To Date | : 19.12.2025 |
| Organised by | : Department of History |
| Academic Year | : 2025 – 2026 |

Report:

The National Conference on “**Women Empowerment**” commenced with the blessings of God. The inaugural session began with a prayer rendered by **Sr. Sowmiya**, invoking divine guidance for the success of the conference. The ceremonial lighting of the *Kuthuvilakku* by the dignitaries marked the auspicious beginning of the conference.

The programme was formally led by **Dr. Ganga V**, Assistant Professor of History, and **Ms. Kanatchi Kannikai V**, of IInd History, who coordinated the proceedings. **Ms. Dhanapackiam** ., Assistant Professor of History, delivered the welcome address, warmly greeting the dignitaries, faculty members, and students. Following this the dignitaries were honored with shawls and mementos as a token of gratitude and appreciation for their dedicated service.

The felicitation address was delivered by **Dr. (Sr.) Mary Josephine Anto**, the College Secretary, and **Dr. (Sr.) Arockia Jayaceli Ambrose**, the Principal of Auxilium College. They appreciated the invaluable contribution of the department and faculty in empowering young women through education over the years. They emphasized that education plays a vital role in shaping history and inspiring service to society. The students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the College Secretary and the Principal for their constant encouragement and support, which enabled them to excel and emerge as winners in various competitions.

In her address, the Principal highlighted that history is not merely the study of the past but a means to create history through committed service to humanity. She also felicitated the Head of the Department for her interest, commitment, and dedication towards the growth and holistic development of students. After which the vote of thanks was proposed by Sr.Sowmiya .

The **second session** was handled by **Ms. R. Nithya**, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Human Rights, from Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai. She delivered an inspiring talk on the theme “*Women as the Driving Force for Sustainable Development.*” She traced the history of voting rights of American women, highlighting women’s contributions in various fields, and emphasized

the need for inclusive development to achieve sustainability. She also spoke about the discrimination faced by women. Special emphasis was laid on the unpaid domestic work performed by women, which contributes significantly—nearly 50%—to the economy. She explained women's role in peace-building, conflict resolution, water management, forestry, agriculture, health care, and education, stressing that educating women leads to remarkable global progress. She concluded by urging the audience to break deep-rooted stereotypical thinking.

After a Lunch Break, the **third session** was delivered by **Ms. Charuta Nair**, Professor of Law, Christ Academy, Bangalore on the topic "*Contemporary Legal Reforms: Advancing Women's Safety and Gender Equality.*" She elaborated on the various laws enacted by the Government to protect women from domestic violence and gender discrimination, especially in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya case. She explained the significance of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita, 2023**, which has replaced the Indian Penal Code, highlighting its dedicated chapters for women and children, enhanced age thresholds, new offences related to deceit-based sexual harassment, provisions for faster investigation, and the retention of acid attack laws.

She also discussed different forms of domestic violence, including emotional, economic, physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The session provided clarity on the true meaning of gender equality, addressed common misconceptions, and explained constitutional and legal reforms aimed at protecting women. She emphasized the role of fast-track courts and encouraged women to be aware of their legal rights and actively use the law as a tool for empowerment and justice.

The **valedictory session** was addressed by **Ms. Elizabeth Rani**, a distinguished alumna of Auxilium College. She spoke about the challenges faced by women in society and highlighted various government schemes available for women's welfare and empowerment. She encouraged women to be strong, confident, and courageous in overcoming social barriers.

An interactive feedback session followed, during which participants shared their reflections and learning experiences. Certificates were distributed to the participants. The conference concluded on a joyful and enriching note with the **Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Betilla**, Assistant Professor of History. The programme ended with a sense of fulfillment and renewed commitment towards women empowerment and social transformation.

