

Event Report Format
Gender Resource Cell

Name of Activity: Seminar to commemorate International Working Women's Day

Category: General

Topic: Lost Letters and Feminist History: The Political Legacy of Mohandas K Gandhi and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani

Organising unit: Gender Resource Cell and IQAC

Date: March 21, 2025

Time: 2 PM

Venue: Smart Classroom, Room 8

Name of resource person/s (with designation) :

- Professor Geraldine Forbes, Professor Emerita, State University of New York, Oswego
- Dr Debarati Chakraborty, SACT, Department of Bengali, RKSM Vivekananda Vidyabhavan

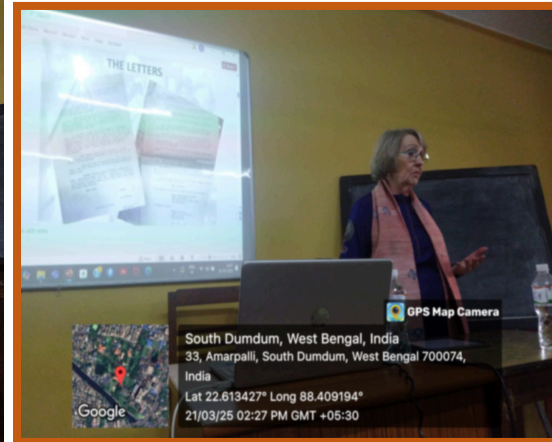
Number of participants: 65

Brief description of event and Programme outcome :

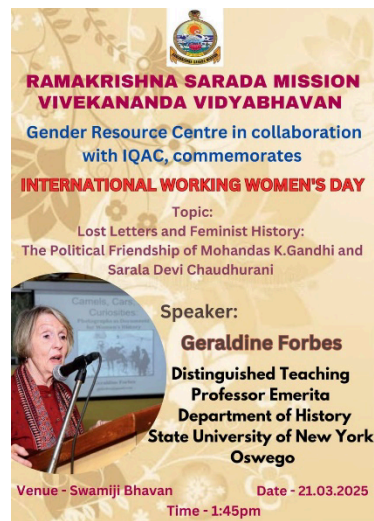
Gender Resource Cell and IQAC, RKSM Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, organised a discussion on Lost Letters and Feminist History: The Political Legacy of Mohandas K Gandhi and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani by Professor Geraldine Forbes, eminent scholar and historian to celebrate International Working Women's Day. The talk was moderated by Professor Debarati Chakraborty. In the 1920s, amidst the upheaval of the Indian national movement and its sustained resistance to British rule, Mohandas K. Gandhi and the prominent Indian nationalist and feminist Sarala Devi Chaudhurani developed an intense but short-lived association. For over a year, they communicated with each other via letters that were both politically charged and personally insightful. In Lost Letters and Feminist History, Geraldine Forbes presented her talk on this previously unexplored correspondence, placing them in the political context of their time. Professor Forbes drew attention to their political ideas and personal feelings, particularly how these intersected and overlapped, as well as their intractable differences. While Gandhi's life and work have continued to fascinate historians, Sarala Devi, like so many other remarkable women in India, has not yet been the subject of a comprehensive biography. Forbes' analysis brought her into focus as an equal participant, highlighting her emergence and ascent as a political leader in her own right. The moderator Dearati Chakraborty who has written the only biography of Sarala Devi in Bengali summarised Forbes' discussion in Bengali while offering her own interpretation and understanding of the same.

Outcome: Students were enriched to hear about the hitherto unheard stories of Gandhi and Sarala Devi and feminist reading of the relationship between two towering personalities. They raised questions and many wanted to know more about women's participation in the freedom movement and how their roles became shadowed by overwhelming male leadership.



Geo- tagged photos and flyer in jpg format:



Flyer



The flyer has a light beige background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top center is the logo of Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan. Below the logo, the text is centered and reads: 'RAMAKRISHNA SARADA MISSION VIVEKANANDA VIDYABHAVAN' in bold red, 'Gender Resource Centre in collaboration with IQAC, commemorates' in blue, and 'INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY' in bold red. The topic is listed as 'Lost Letters and Feminist History: The Political Friendship of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani'. A circular inset photo shows a woman speaking at a podium. To the right of the photo, the speaker's name and affiliation are listed. At the bottom, the venue and time are provided.


**RAMAKRISHNA SARADA MISSION
VIVEKANANDA VIDYABHAVAN**
Gender Resource Centre in collaboration
with IQAC, commemorates
INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY
Topic:
Lost Letters and Feminist History:
The Political Friendship of Mohandas K. Gandhi and
Sarala Devi Chaudhurani

Speaker:
Geraldine Forbes
Distinguished Teaching
Professor Emerita
Department of History
State University of New York
Oswego
Venue - Swamiji Bhavan Date - 21.03.2025
Time - 1:45pm