

## **Annual Report on Activities of CASH**

### **(01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021)**

#### **1. Formulation of Legal Counselling committee during Lock down**

On March 22, 2020 (from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) 14-hour curfew called as Janata Curfew (People's curfew) was declared on advice of honourable PM of India, Shri Narendrabhai Modi. At the end of curfew, while addressing the nation second time on 24 March, he announced the nationwide lockdown from midnight of that day, for a period of 21 days to break the cycle of transmission and stop the spread of coronavirus through social distancing. During lockdown people were restricted from stepping out of their homes. All transport services of road, air and rail were suspended, with exceptions for transportation of essential goods, fire, police and emergency services. All educational institutions, industrial establishments and hospitality services were also suspended. Some services were allowed such as food shops, banks and ATMs, petrol pumps; The Govt stated that anyone who fails to follow the restrictions can face up to a year in jail.

These lockdowns were and extended and there were four phases of lockdown, phase 1 (25 March -14 April 2020) phase 2 (15 April -3 May 2020) phase 3(4 May -17 May 2020) phase 4 (18 May -31 May 2020)

Negative impacts of COVID-19 on public health and the economy, in fact, generate a multitude of unintended negative consequences for women and girls, and in most instances further exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Women faced higher rates of job losses, Greater burden of domestic and care work, increased risk of pregnancies related death and teen pregnancies, spikes in sexual, physical and domestic violence and exploitation. Sexual and reproductive health needs are often neglected in the midst of an emergency – and COVID-19 has been no different. Lockdowns and physical distancing measures have also contributed to a disturbing spike in reports of domestic violence, including sexual violence.

Staying home is not safe for many women and girls who may be trapped with an abuser. Treatment for sexual violence is time-sensitive: rape victims must come within 72 hours. To handle women issues, a legal advisory committee via paripatra no 74/2020/cash and date 14/05/2020 was formed by the advice of our honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. J. Vora to help girls and women of not only from campus but any women who can approach them. Committee has following members: Prof, Sangita Sharma as coordinator, Dr. smitaben Vyas, Ms. Sandyaben Pradhan, Ms. Jotsnaben, as members.

A free counselling has been provided by the committee irrespective time and place to many girls and women.

To help in health issues another committee was formulated via paripatra no dt was formed by the advice of our honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. J. Vora. Committee has following members Prof. J. J. Vora, K. K. Patel, Prof, Sangita Sharma, Dr. Committee provided medical help both physical and mental for both male and female students and also faculties during and after lockdown.

## **2. One day webinar on Women Safety in Covid-19 Lockdown**

Online Webinar was organized by CASH on May 9, 2020 on **Women safety in Covid -19 Lockdown** using WEBEX platform in presence of Prof. J. J. Vora, Vice chancellor, HNGU, Patan; **Prof.(Dr.) Hemixa Roa**, Honorable, Ex. Vice chancellor, HNGU, Patan ; Shri Vishal Gadvi, Judge district Court and Secretary DLSA, Patan, Ms. Sandhya Pradhan, Senior Advocate, District Court, Patan and Jotsna Nath, Advocate & counselor, one stop shakhi Centre, Patan. The webinar started with small Prayer and university song was played. A worldly welcome of guests and aims and objectives of one day webinar were elaborated by Prof. (Dr.) Sangita Sharma, Chairperson of CASH, HNGU, Patan. She addressed with a few local examples like how women were busy and over burdened in all respects during lock down, because the whole family was locked in the houses. Situations still became grave in small houses with large number people staying together.

- In webinar **Prof. (Dr.) Hemixa Roa**, Honorable Ex. Vice chancellor, HNGU, Patan spoke about **Women in lock down**. She raised in general many issues. As the COVID-19 pandemic deepens economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, gender-based violence has increased exponentially. Many women were being forced to 'lockdown' at home with their abusers at the same time that services to support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible. All of these

impacts are further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict, and emergencies where social cohesion is already undermined and institutional capacity and services are limited. Data says that from cooking and cleaning, to fetching water and firewood, or taking care of children and the elderly, women carry out three times more unpaid household and care work than men. While more and more people and families were isolated in their homes to stop the spread of COVID-19, care responsibilities were at an all-time high. Whether it is supporting kids through distance- learning or supporting elderly and vulnerable relatives, cooking, cleaning and running our households — it's on all of us, i.e women who has to share the care.

- Shri Vishal Gadvi Judge, district Court and Sectary DLSA, Patan spoke on How to approach court. He said courts were closed and so justice was inaccessible, the populace has become powerless in both the public and private spheres. The National Commission for Women has reported an increase in incidents of domestic violence. Despite abusers and victims being locked down for over 40 days, the institutional response has been to take away the civil remedy of obtaining 'protection orders' against the abuser under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. He gave an example that, a set of law students and lawyers across the country who came forward to help out people in need of legal advice by using technology.
- "Lawyers Go Pro Bono" was an online initiative started by a group of law students that took root during this COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The website ([www.lawyersgoprobono.com](http://www.lawyersgoprobono.com)) offered answers to any legal queries free of cost for people across the country. This group offered them simple legal solutions for easy understanding as legal terms. Common Questions of people were regarding losing jobs due to lockdown, labour laws and the courts to approach to seek remedy were also raised by users. With the aim to cater to the masses, the website also provides a google form in eight different regional languages.
- Ms. Sandhya Pradhan, Senior Advocate, District Court, Patan spoke on increase in Cyber crimes during lockdown. She said, it better to Educate yourself, social distancing and self-quarantine mean more time for learning. So women most aware themselves about things around them and take some online courses. Women can join virtual tours and see online exhibitions of some of the most famous museums around the world. During the lockdown, cyber criminals adopted new ways. People created fake government websites providing jobs to doctors and nurses for Covid patients.



Then there were people selling sanitizers, PPE kits and food on fake websites. Some hackers also gained access to bank accounts with KYC platforms. Over 1.49 lakh people were cheated using fake websites, said police. 278 profiles containing objectionable content were blocked. This includes Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube accounts.

- Jotsna Nath, Advocate & counselor one stop shakhi Centre, Patan. Said that -According to National Commission for Women (NCW) data, 54 cybercrime complaints were received online in April 2020 in comparison to 37 complaints received online and by post in

March, and 21 complaints in February. They received a total of 412 genuine complaints of cyber abuse from March 25 till April 25. Out of these, as many as 396 complaints were serious ones from women, (and these) ranged from abuse, indecent exposure, unsolicited obscene pictures, threats, malicious emails claiming their account was hacked, ransom demands, blackmail and more. Cyber criminals have become innovative and craftier in their techniques during pandemic period. Another important point raised by Nath madam was the Mental health concern due to high stress during covid pandemic. Women suffered a lot who were alone or were in families. To keep mentally stress free, one has to take some measures like Set oneself a reminder to take a break from the news. Find moments of happiness by connecting with friends and family, relaxing and practicing mindfulness. As the COVID19 pandemic is keeping most of us away from our loved ones, it's completely normal to feel anxious, isolated or overwhelmed with work or family responsibilities. There are many ways you can stay connected with your community while you stay physically apart. Supporting those around you and staying close to your community can help you stay strong while helping others.

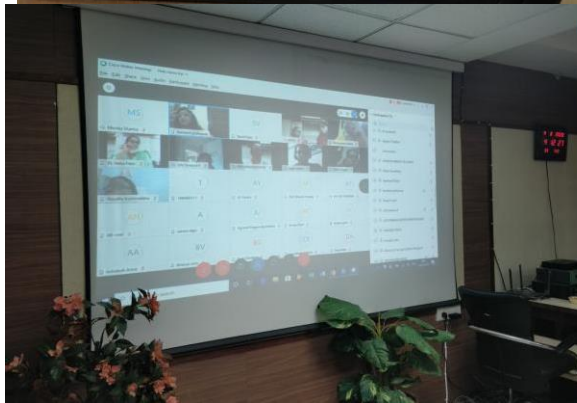
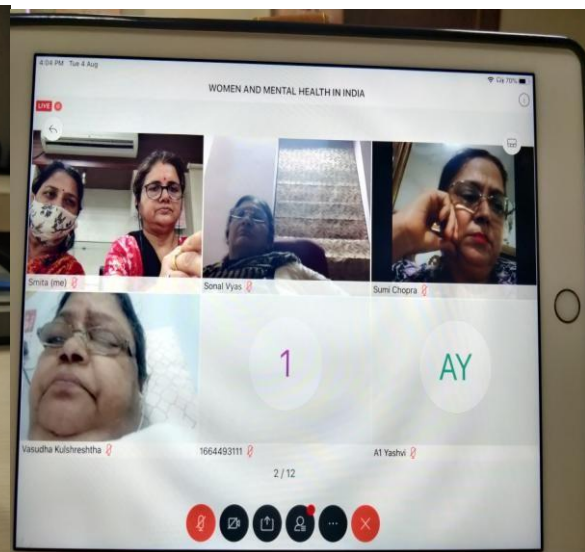
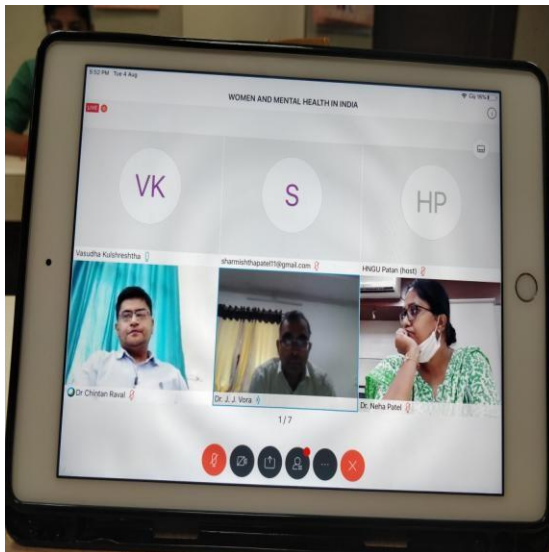
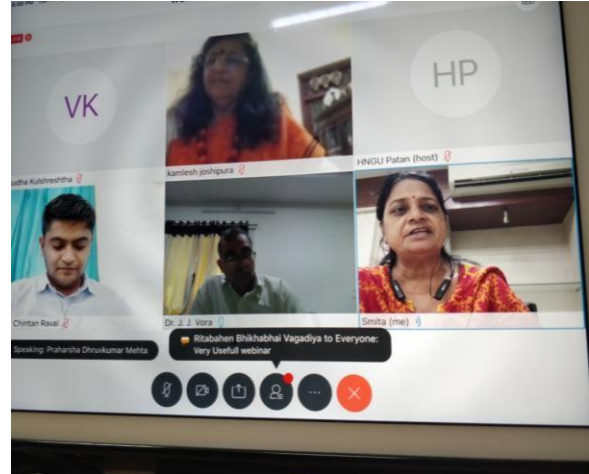
- Presidential address was given by Honorable, Vice chancellor, HNGU, Patan who explained the role of women, not only making our social system but help in maintaining social distancing and preventing covid -19 distancing.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr. smita Vyas, Secretary, CASH, HNGU, Patan. The program was anchored by Ms. Darshna Patel, M.sc. student of chemistry department. There were 450 participants who joined the program online.

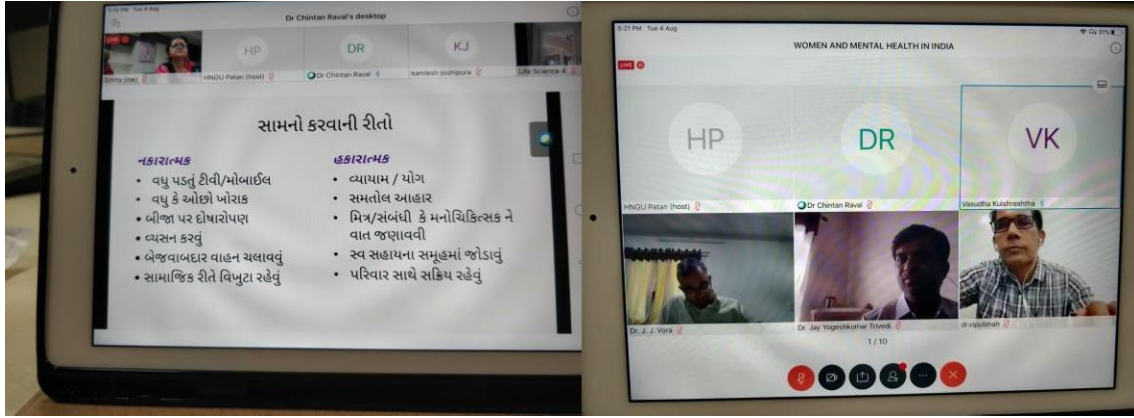
### **3. Celebration of Women's Health Day**

One Day webinar was organised on “**Women and mental health in India**”. was organised in webex platform on August 4, 2020 in presence of Prof. J. J. Vora, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University; Dr. Bhavanaben K. Joshipura, Senior Advocate, First Lady Mayor and Social Activist, Rajkot; Dr. Chintan Raval, Head, Associate Professor, Psychiatry Department, GMERS Medical College, Patan; Dr. Vipul Shah, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Department, GMERS Medical College, Patan and Dr. Vasudha Kulsheshta, Dedicated Bharmakumari, Composer Bharmakumariz, Abu Road and Prof. Sangita Sharma, CASH chairperson, HNGU, Patan.

Program started with Prayer of Ma Sarswati, followed by University song.



- Prof. Sangita Sharma, CASH chairperson, welcomed all the guests by words and explained why it is important to discuss about the mental health of women that too in this pandemic period and Lock period. As she involved in all type of jobs, stresses and crunches because whole nation was suffering and moreover every household was having one or other type of difficulties. She is emphasised the utmost importance of wellness of women because the whole family set up revolves around her. Women should always take brake and try to keep herself mentally and physically well.



- Technical Session- I was by Dr. Bhavanaben K. Joshipura, Senior Advocate, First Lady Mayor and Social Activist, Rajkot Technical who spoke many cases were people tried to prove that women was mentally ill to get divorce. It is natural if a person remains in tension and stress for years, her behaviour may become abnormal. So women should be strong enough to understand that they are betrayed by their own people and take care of themselves. No one should be our Sutradhar except God.
- Technical Session- II by Dr. Chintan Raval, Head, Associate Professor, Psychiatry Department, GMERS Medical College, Patan. Dr. shared a power point presentation to explain causes of mental illness and specifying which are common among women. Which food are necessary to keep balance of chemicals in body. He also talked about mood swings in women during premenopausal and post menopausal situations. Always under stress may lead to mental illness. Proper diagnosis and counselling is required in primary stage of mental illness.
- Technical Session- III by Dr. Vipul Shah, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Department, GMERS Medical College, Patan. Dr Vipul is mental health practioner for last 20 years. He shared his experience and gave list of medical molecules that can be used to treat severe and chronic mental illness. To treat mentally sick person, family moral support is utmost and when there is question of treating women, she is being hurt by his family persons, so treatment become difficult.
- Technical Session- IV was by Dr. Vasudha Kulsheshta, Dedicated Bharmakumari, Composer Bharmakumariz, Abu Road. She stressed the role of religion, meditation, yoga and role vedic practices to keep mind and brain calm. One should spend some time with oneself. Life is precious and one should love oneself. It is in our hands to set our priorities to keep ourselves happy and try to keep mind free of unnecessary thoughts. She advised

women to spend some time for meditation and yogic activities. Taking care of whole family is important but taking care of oneself is also important.

- Presidential Address by Prof. J. J. Vora, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, said that mental wellness is related to physical, mental and social set in which all our people are living. Since women are deprived of many rights till date, so chances of poor mental are more among women. So it is duty of society and all of us to care of all our sisters and daughters.

In this program, there were 380 participants. Amongst participants, there were graduate, postgraduate students, Ph. D students, teaching, non teaching faculty from and many citizens of Gujarat.

Vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Smita Vyas, The program was anchored by Dr. Parul Trevidi.

#### **4. Gender sensitisation and awareness program for women**

After partial opening after lock down, a one day webinar on **Gender Bias, Stereotype and Women Rights** as a Part of **Celebrations of Women Empowerment Fortnight** was celebrated online on August 14, 2020 using WEBEX platform.

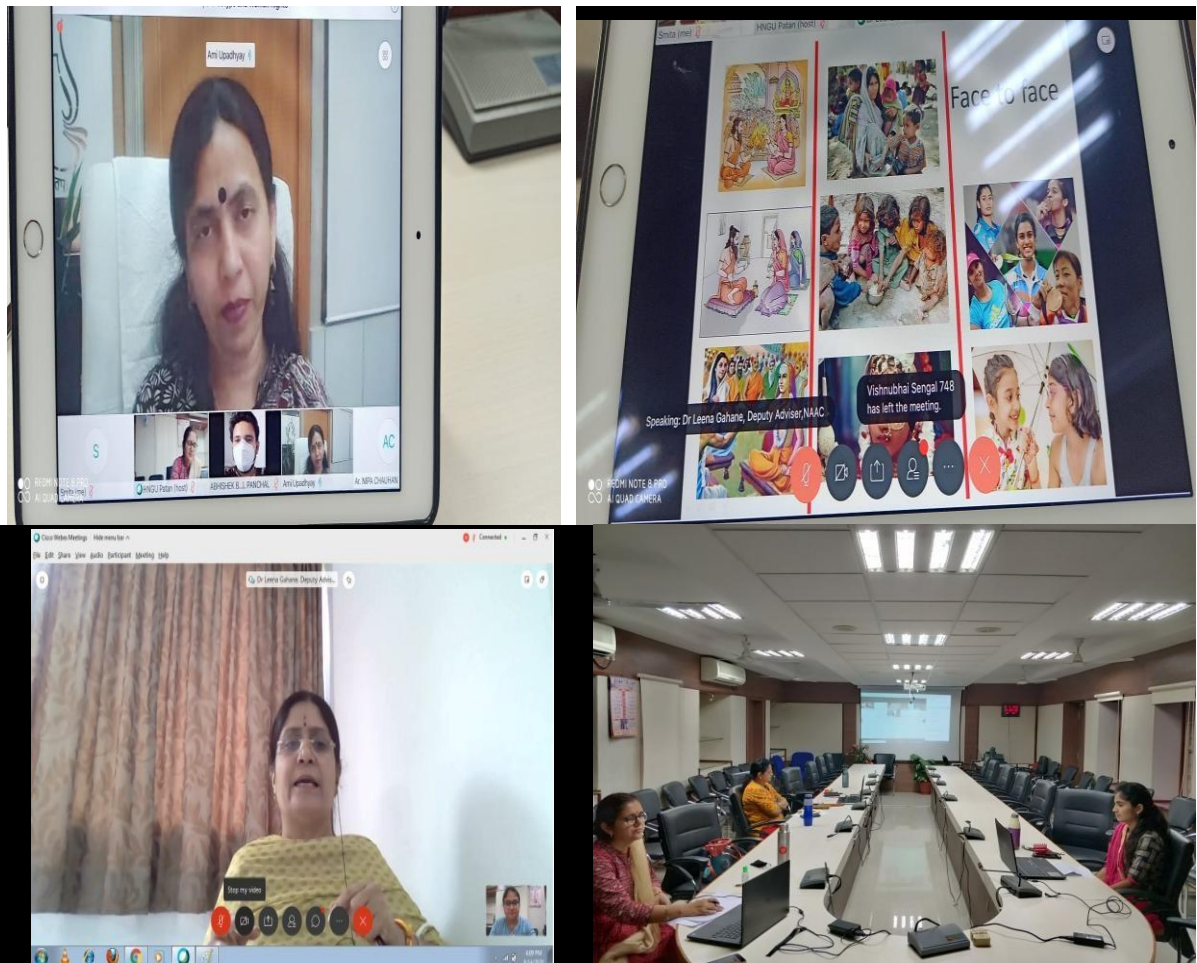
After small prayer online the program started with welcome speech by Prof. Sangita Sharma. She emphasized on need and selection of title of the webinar in present context. There were 350 participants and speakers.

- Prof. Ami. U. Upadhyay, vice chancellor, Babasaheb Ambedkar open university was chief guest of webinar and keynote speaker. According to her, A gender stereotype is a generalized view or preconception about attributes or characteristics, or the roles that are or ought to be possessed by, or performed by, women and men. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women's and men's capacity to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and/or make choices about their lives. Gender stereotyping is wrongful when it results in a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Wrongful gender stereotyping is a frequent cause of discrimination against women. It is a contributing factor in violations of a vast array of rights such as the right to health, adequate standard of living, education, marriage and family relations, work, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, political participation and representation, effective remedy, and freedom.

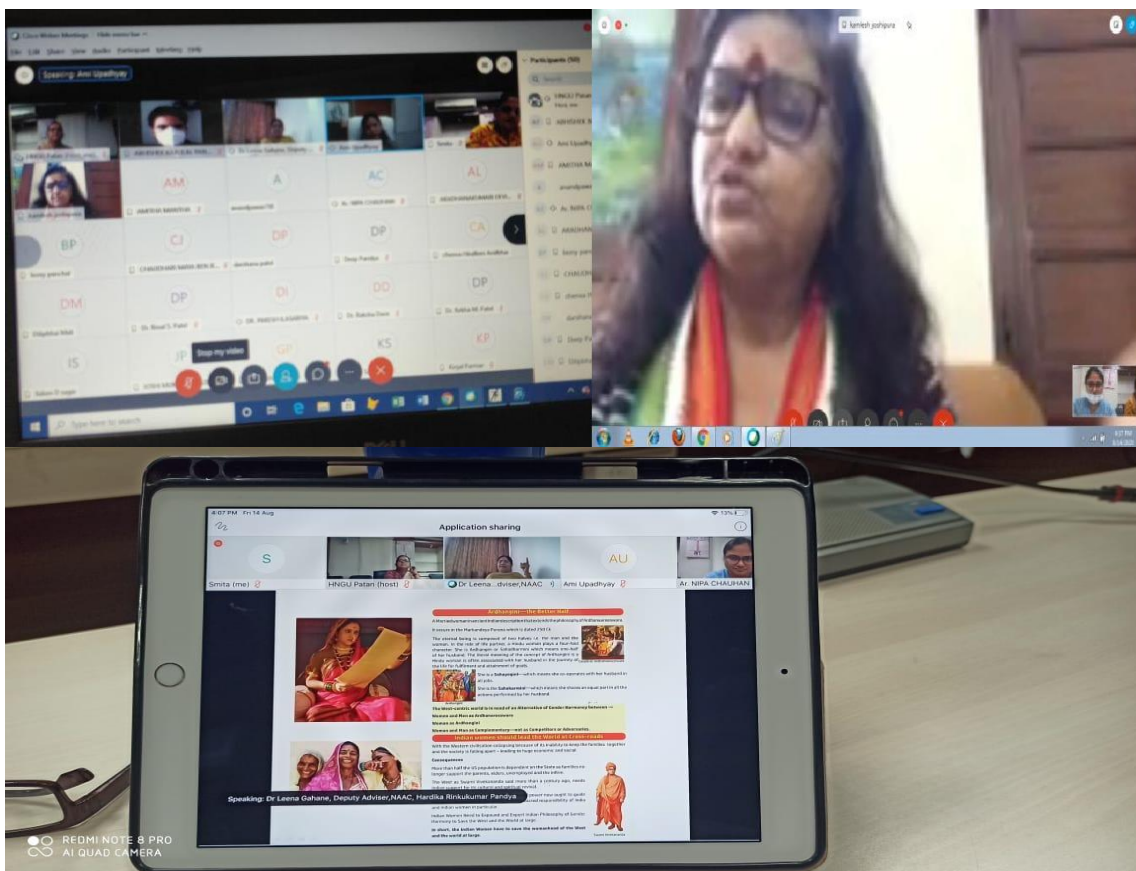


Role of teachers is essential to address issues like gender education to stop gender bias. Unconscious gender bias is also deep rooted in Indian culture, which is defined as unintentional and automatic mental associations based on gender, stemming from traditions, norms, values, culture and/or experience. Organizations also have to be proactive so that steps can be taken to counteract gender biases and other types of biases. And presence of unconscious gender bias in an individual does not automatically translate into biases in the workplace.



- **Dr. Bhavanaben K. Jshipura**, Senior Advocate, First Lady Mayor and Social Activist, Rajkot was second speaker for technical session 2. Lawyer Bhavnaben quoted *Economist survey* regarding gender bias. Only 12.7 percent of working engineers in India are women. The recent employment rate of women in India has fallen to 26 percent. The societal expectations for women across all socio economic levels keep many women out of the workforce, including women engineers. Nationally, the unemployment rate for women engineers in India is about

40 percent. Few women engineers in the private sector are promoted into higher ranks. Few women receive awards or are elected to the National Academy of Sciences. It is this unequal treatment of women engineers in the workplace that we sought to better understand through our gender bias research. By highlighting the existence and impact of bias in the workplace, Over 75 percent of women engineers also reported bias in promotion, sponsorship and mentoring programs, and compensation decisions, while 67 percent of engineers reported bias in performance evaluations. So gender bias needs to be addressed if India has to shine and global power.



- Dr. Leena Govind Gahane, Deputy Adviser NAAC, Bengaluru was third speaker. She narrated a number of stories from olden times how women has been fighting for their survival against gender bias. Gender discrimination must be checked at every stage so that no person should be denied a chance to learn and grow. Thus, everyone, no matter male or female, must get a start in life in terms of educations and other opportunities. We must come together as a society to do this. Most common gender biases are 1. Unequal pay 2. Sexual harassment 3. Racism 4. Women are promoted less often than

men 5. Fear of asking to be paid what you're worth. India ranks 141st out of 142 nations and 2062 districts in the world that are categorized as gender critical when it comes to health and survival of women as compared to men. As a whole the country ranks 127th on gender inequality index and 114th on gender gap in the world (Global gender gap report, 2015). She advised all participants to identify such issues and redress them at earliest.

- Presidential Address by given **Prof. J. J. Vora**, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan. After showering blessings to participants, he said that in campus most of the departments have more female students than male. The educated people should develop a national consciousness of the positive impact of gender equality. There is a need for changes in perception towards women. The human society would be most advantaged only if women are treated equally and are not deprived of their rights. University will be always ready to address any issue if brought into notice of authorities.

Vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Smita Vyas. The program was anchored by Ms. Darshna Patel, M. sc. Student chemistry department.

## **5. One day State level Program**

One day State level Program on **Women at the forefront of fight against Covid-19 & celebration of International women's day** was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Rangbhavan of HNGU, Patan. Inaugural function was graced by Honorable V. C, Prof. J. J. Vora and Judge, secretary DLSA, Mr. M. R. Thakkar, corona warriors Dr. J. J. Thakkar and Dr. Nidhi Chaiya, who were proactive in pandemic times and Prof. (Dr.) Sangita Sharma, Chairperson CASH, HNGU, Patan.

In the inaugural function after completion of all formalities like Prayer, Lightening of lamp, floral welcome, a worldly welcome of guests and aims and objectives of one day seminar were elaborated by Prof. (Dr.) Sangita Sharma, Chairperson of CASH.

- **Dr. J. J. Vora**, Honorable VC HNGU was present as President and as head of our institution. He explained how university has taken several initiatives in campus to make campus safe from corona by preparing and distributing sanitizers to common people. To prevent the loss in their studies many courses were started online. No one was spared by corona pandemic effect. Some had direct effects and some had indirect effects.



- Dr. J. J. Thakkar, assistant Professor in medicine, Dharpur medical college shared many experiences how the corona has spread immediately among the doctors. He himself got infection of corona and has to help the people to fight out the disease. PPE kit wearing and working was by a big challenge itself because we have never being in the position earlier. Be positive was always told to patients when they get recovered from deadly diseases. Now this metaphor has changed.

- Dr. Nidhi Chhaya, junior Resident doctor, a dynamic cheerful young lady doctor from medicine department of Dharpur hospital sang a wonderful song to show her strength to fight against the corona. She was also injected by the virus but was happy to share the experiences. She said that corona has changed from my life style to mindset. Her personal life has also changed. She used to read, travel, work, sing, cook etc. etc. but at pandemic times converged to one thing “let us survive first”.



- To motivate students, Shri Axay Makwana, IPS, SP patan was chief speaker in afternoon session. He spoke on personality developed and emphasized that male members of the society need more personality development coaching than females. In Indian culture women are always trained to be polite, well behaved, tolerant etc etc because she has to look after the families and she is ‘GENANI ‘. He appealed to boys to be more responsible because world is looking towards India for many reasons. Students were quite enthusiastic to meet him and many photos and selfies were clicked with him. SP of patan was quite and kind personality and interacted with students freely.

Two competitions were organized to cheer up students because it was first activity conducted by CASH offline after first wave of covid-19.

**Painting Competition** : There were 30 participated and prizes were given as First prize to Chrishan Anjali – Department of Chemistry, Second prize to Prajapati Arti – Department of Chemistry, Third prize to Prajapati Sanjana – S.K. Collage of Business Management.

Judge for competition was Maruf Hydar Jafari, a well known national painting artist.



**Singing Competition:** There were 21 participated and judge for the competition was Ms. Goral Triwedi, a well known singer from the Patan city. Prizes were given as First prize to Anil singh Rathod - Department of Chemistry, Secon prize to Prajapati Tushar – MSC-IT,.





Third prize to Prajapati Helee – Department of life science. Non teaching staff member Ms. Sunita Patel, PA to registrar and Nirmalaben Prajapati clerk from law department also participated in singing competition. At the end of competition Goralben sang some gujarati songs in her melodious voice.

### **WOW- Wonderful outstanding women Awards**

Many girls from the campus participated in WOW- Wonderful outstanding women Awards-2020 for different achievements. Two girls were awarded namely Deshnasingh – Department of Physical Education ; Deshna Singh has participated in Atmanirbhar Virtual Ride/Run 2.0 held on September, 12-13, 2020 her achievement of riding 10 Km completed in 00:30:55 hours.

Prajapati Kinjal - Department of Physical Education; Prajapati Kinjal has participated in the 48Kg weight group and secured first place in the Gujarat state Kurash Championship held at Ahmedabad in the year 2019-2020.

In this program, there were 340 participants. Amongst participants, there were graduate, postgraduate students, M. Phil., Ph. D students, teaching and non teaching faculty from university campus, other associated colleges of HNGU. The students were from various departments and the faculties from science, commerce, arts, law etc.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Smita Vyas, Sectary of CASH, HNGU, Patan and whole program was anchored by Dr. Ridhi Agarwal, Assistant Professor BBA department and her students.