



Women's Studies And Development Centre  
University of Delhi



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# ABOUT US

The Journal of Women's & Gender Studies, University of Delhi (DU-WGS) is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed, bi-annual, student-led Journal established under the aegis of the Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi. Commenced in January 2026, it stands as the first initiative of its kind within the University, dedicated principally to amplifying student scholarship and institutional engagement over the concerns of Women and Gender.

For nearly four decades, Women's Studies & Development Centre (WSDC) has stood as a distinguished leader in the advocacy and scholarship for women's empowerment and gender equity at the University and beyond. Its consistent efforts to foster research, policy engagement, and social transformation have solidified its position as a premier academic consortium, being recognised as an Advance Institute of Study in the country. The establishment of the Journal falls in harmonious alignment with the Centre's mission, extending its legacy to a new generation of scholars by providing a formal space where critical perspectives over women and gender can be further articulated and amplified.

The Journal aims to cultivate the research acumen and intellectual capacities of students while inviting participation from a broader scholarly community. Submissions are welcomed from undergraduate and postgraduate students, research fellows, PhD candidates, alumni, early-career scholars, and established experts alike. The Journal seeks to advance multi-disciplinary research and representation on pressing concerns that continue to marginalise women and gender minorities in society, aspiring to provoke critical examinations of inequities and contribute to both classical and contemporary debates in the field, embodying the University's dedication to academic excellence alongside the dynamic global paradigms for social progress and inclusion.

# THE DIRECTOR'S NOTE, WSDC

It is with a distinct sense of intellectual responsibility and an indispensable envisioning that Women's Studies & Development Centre (WSDC), University of Delhi, presents the inaugural issue of its Journal of Women's & Gender Studies. From its inception in 1987, following a cardinal mandate by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to address the concerns of women in higher education in India, to our recognition by the Commission as an Advanced Centre of Study in 2016, it is only a pressing requisite that the efforts in this direction persist and persevere. It is no longer plainly about considerations over "Where are the women?", seeking corrective inclusion with existing and emerging histories, but has transitioned to a rigorous interrogation of the normative structures themselves; it is not merely a question of women sustaining themselves with fortitude, but rather to excoriate what impedes them and, consequently, to widen the streams of discourse that carve out new feminist local and global trajectories and narratives for collective amelioration.

The mandate of this Journal is broad and uncompromising. We seek to curate scholarship at the University and beyond that bridges academic colloquies of the Global South with transnational symposiums. The Journal is envisaged as a repository for dialogue that foregrounds the vital intersection of high theory with lived realities, wherein academic research finds resonance in actionable policy and social transformation. We welcome contributors to challenge settled epistemologies, revisit historical archives, and to liaise critically with the zeitgeist to chart new horizons of women's and gender studies.

I extend my appreciation to the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board, whose unwavering commitment and intellectual labour have been constitutive to the nurturing of this Journal's mission. To our readers and future contributors, I invite you to engage with these pages not merely as passive seekers of wisdom, but also as active participants in the ongoing, collective project of gender justice.

**Prof. Payal Mago**

**Director, Women's Studies & Development Centre, University of Delhi**

# JOINT DIRECTOR'S NOTE, WSDC

Our mission as the Women's Studies & Development Centre (WSDC) at the University of Delhi has been to address the academic, and through it, the social inequities against women and gender precepts, and the Journal of Women's & Gender Studies is only a further extension to the counsel of instrumentality through which the process of such addressal gets documented, and subsequently, analysed. As we present this inaugural issue, it is pertinent to reflect not only upon the thematic nature of our inquiries, but also upon the methods by which we corroborate our very expositions and scholarly positions.

The curation of this issue, in its essence, has been driven by the sole, but solemn commitment to methodological pluralism, aimed towards an eclectic discourse. We have endeavoured to decommission the normative hierarchies of academia that often privilege the empirical against the experiential or the global over the local within knowledge production. Bearing both the onus and a unique dispensation of being a publication from one of the most prestigious universities of the nation, the Journal adopts an intersectional framework that demands our contributors commence by situating their research strata within the complex matrices of gender norms held in India both by culture and by convention and historically constituted practice. The papers collated in this issue, and those we seek for the future ones, are enriched and informed by such a disposition. We are deeply invested in the 'development' aspect of our Centre's appellation; in accordance, the Journal generously encourages submissions that attempt to bridge the divide between socio-feminist and gender discourses and developmental praxis, from within the nation and beyond.

As we move forward, the office of the Joint Director remains committed to ensuring that this forum remains agile and reflective of the emerging dialogues over the concerns of women's and gender while remaining rooted in the historical rigour that defines this Institution. I take this opportunity to articulate our appreciation towards the contributors who have entrusted their scholarship to us, and the reviewers, whose critical engagement has been invaluable in guiding them. We hereby commend this Journal to the academic community as a crucial catalyst for rigorous debate and transformative thought within and across disciplines.

**Dr. Suman Sharma**

**Joint-Director, Women's Studies & Development Centre, University of Delhi**

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# EDITORIAL NOTE

It is with a solemn hope and much intellectual exhilaration that I present to you the inaugural issue of the student-led scholarship at the Journal of Women's & Gender Studies, University of Delhi. As we head to partake in the movement from the reactive to the formative in the realm of gender justice, it is our attempt to create a checkpoint for pondering upon the epochs that shall evolve to facilitate the paradigms of our very approaches.

I wish to portray my sincerest gratitude and utmost indebtedness to the esteemed Faculty of the Women's Studies and Development Centre (WSDC), without the indispensable oversight and guidance of whom this Journal would not have been a possibility. I am much obliged for their gracious considerations over all our requisites. To our eminent Advisory Board and the panel of Reviewers, I extend my word of immense gratitude for their invaluable mentorship in bringing the most polished scholarships to an actuality. Our authors have profoundly benefited from your insights. I formally thank our Associate Editors for their exhaustive work throughout the editorial processes, standing at all the crucial junctions of academic vigilance. Lastly, but more importantly, I thank all our contributors for entrusting their academia to us with their jewels of submissions. With you, we establish a new milieu of efforts in our commitments towards gender justice.

I have come to hold that the “post-truth” digital contexts make the vision of our Journal feel the most urgent. This has less to do with the high velocities of discourse but more with the misfortunes of their disposability. It is extremely empowering that personal and social reforms could now show up as short-form dialectics; nevertheless, reflection only channelises itself in acclimatisation. I believe that the pieces in this inaugural issue would allow for multiple prospects for such transformative acclimatising, on themes of women and gender that themselves are on the very journey alike. The papers we endow forward entail the unread and the unthought, and call for firm ratiocinations in shaping the personal and the social. I urge you to sit with them as newfound explorers of the noesis, and join us in the long but fulfilling work of building this new intellectual home.

**Ayush Bhagat**  
Editor-in-Chief

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