

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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International conference on 'Women in the 21st Century: Environment and Sustainable Development' concludes at CUO

The three-day International Conference on 'Women in the 21st Century: Environment and Sustainable Development' started on 7 December 2023 and ended at the main campus of the Central University of Odisha on 9 December 2023. The Department of Sociology organized it in collaboration with the World Centre for Women Studies, University at Buffalo, New York, USA. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha conveyed his good wishes and hoped that the conference would serve as a forum to provide key inputs for policymakers and inspire the young generation to research the field.

Prof. V. C Jha, advisor (academics and administration) of the Central University of Odisha, was the chief guest for the valedictory ceremony. He said that our prime minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is committed to the development of women. Our objective is to end global gender disparity. The role of science and technology is very important, especially in the development of women. The concept of local to global was showcased through the agricultural products, including the Koraput region millets exhibited during the conference. The *Atharva Veda*, the religious scripture from India, has taught us that the land is our mother.

The guest of honour, Prof. Barbara Wejnert, Professor, Department of Environment and Sustainability, University at Buffalo, New York, remarked on the tremendous potential of students for a better tomorrow. She drew attention to various environmental challenges such as manmade pollution, environmental hazards, garbage and waste disposal, the use of pesticides and chemicals, nuclear tests, and electronic waste disposal, which continue to pose significant global concerns. She also said that we all can make a better future with gender equality and sustainable development and contribute to peace through global cooperation.

Prof B C Barik, eminent sociologist and former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, stressed the importance of knowledge gathering. He emphasized that substantial policies aimed at empowering women are crucial in addressing these Women, Environment, and Development issues.

Earlier, Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and HoD of Dept. of Sociology, CUO, and the organizing secretary of the conference delivered the welcome address. In the Women, Environment, and Development context, he emphasized the need to enhance women's economic status in developing countries. He informed that 54 papers were presented in a total of eight sessions at the conference.

On the occasion, the book of abstracts was released by the dignitaries. Dr. Aditya Keshari Mishra, Faculty in the Department of Sociology, CUO, proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Nupur Pattnaik, Faculty, Dept. of Sociology, supported the technical session proceedings and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment. Dr. Manas Kumar Malik, Faculty, Dept. of Sociology also supported the entire ceremony. The programme was anchored by Mr. Niranjana Majhi, a research scholar of Sociology at CUO. A large number of teaching and non-teaching staff and students were also present.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer