



Teaching feminisms, transforming lives: Questions of identity, pedagogy and violence in India and the UK

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Teaching feminisms, transforming lives

Feminists and feminist pedagogy have always attempted to address the challenges of gender inequality, identity politics and gender-based violence in everyday life and academia. But would dialogue and collaboration between feminist academics in the global North and South contribute new research insights and pedagogical tools?

Objectives

To decentralise knowledge and co-create feminist pedagogical tools to strengthen the pursuit of gender equality and social justice in HEIs and beyond.

To highlight the journey of feminists in academics, with a focus on addressing gender inequality, identity politics and violence.

Outcomes

Four workshops have been organized and 21 papers written between 2017 and 2019. Conducted ten additional public events, benefitting over 1,000 people including NGO activists, and academics and students from 19 HEIs in India and the UK. Podcasts from these events are freely accessible. Visits to local NGOs and women's libraries in both locations were also undertaken.

Co-created an outline for a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on gender studies.

Initiated an international blog-a-thon on the theme of '16 days of activism on violence against women'. The annual event is now in its fourth year.

Curated two feminist walks of the cities of Delhi and Edinburgh. The Delhi walks are now part of the gender studies curriculum at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Two doctoral scholars from the University of Edinburgh received supplementary funding to develop a web comic and a mobile art mural.

Future plans

The e-copy of the edited volume, *Doing Feminisms in the Academy* (Zubaan and The University of Chicago Press), based on auto-ethnographic research and writing from the workshops, has been released in 2020. The print edition will release in January 2021.

Developing a 'Voices from the Early Days' online archive which will include course outlines and interviews with academic staff instrumental in setting up gender-related courses and programmes at both institutions.

Partnerships are being explored with third sector organisations engaged in feminist knowledge creation, to enable the process of decentralising feminist knowledge production and widening access to gender studies.

Broader impact

The project moves gender and feminism beyond the confines of HEIs, and into schools, third sector organisations and laypeople. Apart from building a demonstrable model of collaboration in this field, the project is ushering in a future generation of feminist academics who are sensitive and committed to intersectional pedagogies and the transformative potential of feminist classrooms.