



On the Occasion  
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav -75 years  
of independence, Centre for the  
Study of Social Exclusion  
and Inclusive Policy, Jamia Millia Islamia,  
New Delhi

## ORGANISES

National Seminar on  
Women in India's  
Freedom Movement:  
Exploring their Visibility  
and Invisibility  
9th & 10th August, 2023

### SPONSORED BY

Indian Council of Social Science Research  
(ICSSR), New Delhi

The Indian freedom movement witnessed the active and immense participation of women who played pivotal roles in shaping the course of the nation's struggle for independence. However, despite their significant contributions, the historical narratives have often overshadowed the visibility and recognition of these women, leading to their invisibility. This seminar seeks to delve into the visibility and invisibility of women in India's freedom movement, shedding light on their remarkable achievements, the challenges they faced, and the imperative of acknowledging their invaluable contributions.

The women of India made enormous contributions to the anti-imperialist struggle, enduring extreme agony, hardship, and exploitation in their quest for freedom. Their sacrifices were unparalleled, yet their rightful place in history has been largely overlooked. Despite hailing from diverse backgrounds, including educated and moderate families, different castes, religions, rural and urban societies, women united in the fight for their motherland's independence. Regrettably, India's patriarchal society has downplayed their roles, necessitating a deeper exploration of their involvement in the freedom struggle.

### The Untold Stories of Women Freedom Fighters:

Women like Matangini Hazra, Gulab Kaur, Helen Lepcha, Abadi Bano Begum, Hajara Bibi ismail, Soni Sori, Tulsi Munda and countless others, participated in a wide range of nationalist activities, both within and outside their homes, effectively contributing to the struggle for independence. In the annals of history, while the names of eminent male freedom fighters abound, the role of women remains largely undocumented. Yet, the success of an independent India would have been but a distant dream without the invaluable contributions of women. When male freedom fighters were incarcerated, these unsung heroines took up the mantle, demonstrating unwavering spirit, courage, and resilience in the face of suffering and exploitation. Women played an active role

in a diverse range of nationalist activities, making significant contributions to the struggle for independence, both within the domestic sphere and beyond. Despite their instrumental role, the names and stories of these great women have been relegated to the shadows of history, leaving a significant void in the historical record.

As the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on the 75th year of Independence, it is essential to commemorate and celebrate the contributions of all its people, particularly women from marginalized communities. The seminar aims to rectify historical oversights and shed light on the immense sacrifices and contributions made by women during India's freedom movement, with a specific focus on addressing the invisibility of women from marginalized communities. These marginalized groups include Dalits, religious minorities, tribes, and other socially excluded categories such as transgenders. By bringing their narratives to the forefront, the seminar seeks to recognize and celebrate the pivotal roles played by these women in the struggle for India's independence.

### Objectives :

The primary objectives of the seminar are as follows:

- To highlight the significant and multifaceted contributions of women in India's freedom movement.
- To examine the reasons behind the invisibility of women in historical narratives and its implications.
- To bring to light the untold stories of women freedom fighters and recognize their sacrifices and dedication.
- To discuss the role of women from marginalized communities in shaping the course of the freedom movement.
- To underscore the importance of acknowledging and commemorating the role of women in nation-building.

## Key Themes:

In light of the above concept note, this national seminar invites papers on the following key themes that delve into the visibility and invisibility of women in India's freedom movement.

- a) **Women's Participation in India's Freedom Movement:** An exploration of the diverse roles and activities undertaken by women in the struggle for independence.
- b) **Challenges and Obstacles Faced by Women Freedom Fighters:** An examination of the hardships, exploitation, and resistance encountered by women during the freedom movement.
- c) **Invisibility in Historical Narratives:** Analysing the factors contributing to the invisibility of women in mainstream historical records.
- d) **Recognizing Women from Marginalized Communities:** Highlighting the contributions of women belonging to marginalized communities, such as Dalit women, Sikh women, Christian women, Muslim women, Tribal women, and transgenders.
- e) **Women freedom fighters' Micro and Meta narratives regarding National Independence**
- f) **Importance of Inclusive History:** Discussing the significance of incorporating the narratives of women into the broader understanding of India's struggle for independence.

## Outcome of the Seminar

The seminar on "Exploring the Visibility and Invisibility of Women in India's Freedom Movement: Recognizing their Contributions" aims to foster a deeper understanding of the significant contributions made by women in shaping the nation's struggle for independence and elevating their visibility in historical narratives. Through scholarly paper presentations and panel discussions, the seminar will shed light on the remarkable achievements of women during this transformative period in India's history.

The seminar will feature scholarly paper presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions. The platform provided by the seminar will facilitate meaningful discussions and reflections on the untold stories of these women, ensuring a more comprehensive and accurate depiction of India's journey to independence in the published volume. By acknowledging the pivotal roles played by women, the seminar seeks to bridge the gap in historical narratives and create a more inclusive understanding of the nation's freedom movement. The insights gained from the seminar will be published in an edited volume, contributing to the enrichment of the discourse on India's struggle for independence.

## Submission of Abstract and Important Dates:

Abstracts/Papers are invited from academicians, research scholars, and policy makers on the above and related themes. Please ensure that abstracts are within 300 words and are sent to the specified email address. Along with the abstract, kindly submit a brief CV. The submission deadline for abstracts is **2nd August 2023**, and acceptance notifications will be sent by email by **4th August 2023**.

## Full Paper Submission:

Authors of accepted abstracts will need to submit full papers of approximately 5,000 words in both hard and soft copy forms to the seminar organizers.

## Publication:

Papers presented in the Seminar will undergo a peer-review process and the selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed edited volume with ISBN number.

Date: 9th & 10th August 2023

Venue: Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Email for Submissions: [seminarcsseip23@gmail.com](mailto:seminarcsseip23@gmail.com)

We welcome your valuable contributions in illuminating the remarkable roles played by women in India's struggle for independence. Your insights will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of their significant contributions to the nation's history.

Email Id:

## About the Institution

Jamia Millia Islamia is an internationally reputed NAAC Accredited 'A++' University located at Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi. It has made a modest beginning in 1920 at Aligarh, with the resolute determination of its founding members--Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, Jenab Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, Jenab Abdul Majeed Khwaja, and Dr Zakir Hussain to create an institution that would manifest indigenous ethos and spirit of plurality. It was conceived as a national institution that would offer progressive education and nationalist ideals to students from all communities, particularly the Muslims. The emergence of Jamia was supported by Gandhiji and Tagore who felt that Jamia could shape lives of hundreds and thousands of students on the basis of a shared culture and worldview. Jamia's development is marked by sacrifices made by the staffs and students and a host of individuals who contributed through myriad efforts.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, once said that "the movement of Jamia Millia Islamia is a struggle for education and cultural renaissance. It will prepare a blueprint for Indian Muslims which may focus on Islam but simultaneously evolve a national culture for common Indian. It will lay the foundation of the thinking that true religious education will promote patriotism and national integration among Indian Muslims, who will be proud to take part in the future progress of India, which will play its part in the comity of nations for peace and development.

**For Queries Kindly Contact at**  
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Convener: Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari

Hony. Director

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