

Mapping Women Learners in History Programmes: A Case Study of Netaji Subhas Open University

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Objectives

ODL and Women Learners

To understand how ODL through ICT integration can empower women learners in NSOU History programmes.

Marginalized Groups

To focus on women belonging to the socio-economic weaker section SC, ST, rural & panchayat areas.

Feedback

To acquire feedback from learners and academic counsellors.

Our Contributions

- Collect Data
- Formulate Findings
- Provide Recommendations

Employment

To improve History teaching, learning and generate employment for women learners.

Vision

To fulfil NSOU's motto 'To Reach the Unreached' through women enrolment by LSCs esp in backward regions.


Recommendations

Make concrete recommendations for effective involvement of female learners in ODL.

BA in History Honours

MA in History

153 Learner Support Centers



Women Learners

Analyze Women Learner enrollment trend over the years

Reach the Unreached: Women learners from weaker socio-economic backgrounds

- 2017-2018
- 2018-2019
- 2019-2020
- 2020-2021
- 2021-2022

Data Collection, Analysis Methods and Outreach

Data Collection

What info did we collect?

- Income status.
- Social background, religion.
- Urban/Rural background.
- Marital status & children
- Occupation.
- Follow privacy guidelines.

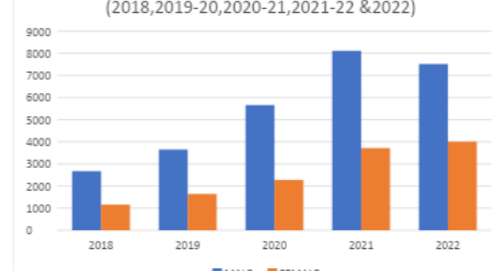
Data Sources

- NSOU Registrar.
- NSOU Controller of Examinations.
- Questionnaire for learners and academic counsellors.
- Workshop for learners on employment opportunities.

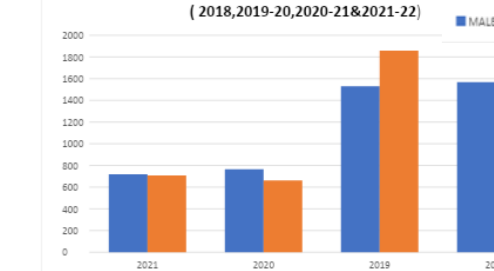
Analysis Tools

- 5 years data 2017-18 to 2021-22: History UG (BA Hons) & PG (MA) enrollment & pass-out trends.
- Data analysis: IBM SPSS Statistics.
- Google Forms.

BA HISTORY- GENDER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING DEGREES (2018,2019-20,2020-21,2021-22 &2022)



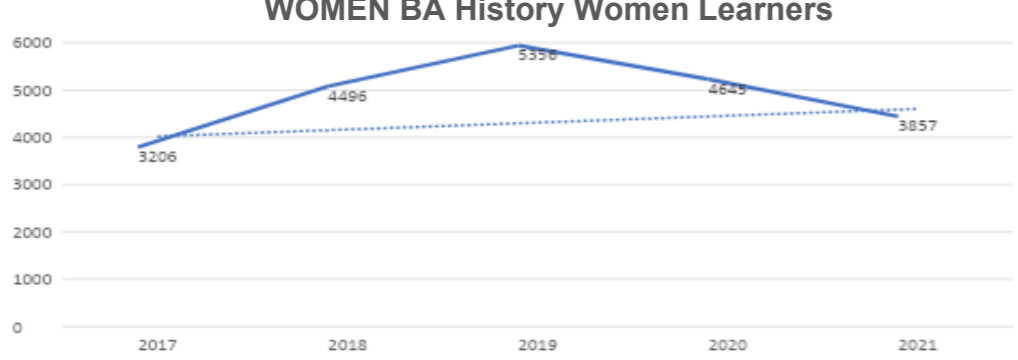
PG (MA) HISTORY- GENDER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING DEGREES (2018,2019-20,2020-21&2021-22)



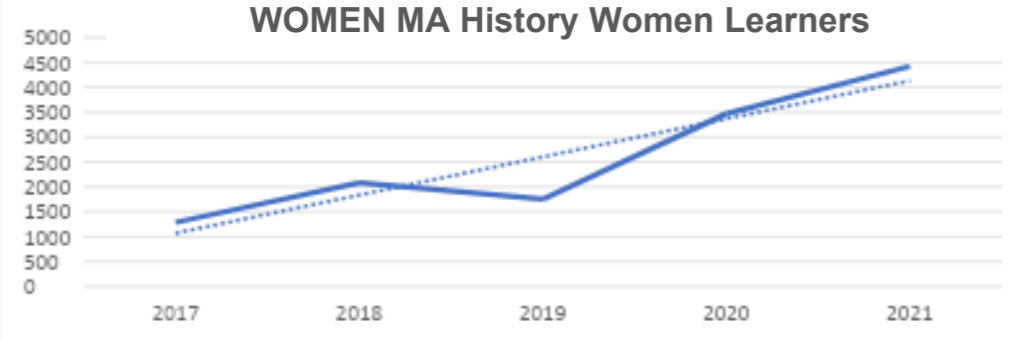
Area of Residence	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Corporation Area	47	117	86	161	303
Municipal	296	461	348	804	1000
Panchayat	945	1501	1317	2503	3120
Total	1288	2079	1751	3468	4423

Findings: Enrollment Trend among Women History Learners

WOMEN BA History Women Learners



WOMEN MA History Women Learners



Summary of Findings

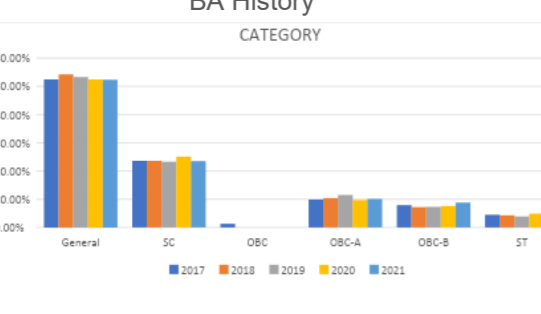
- There was a rising trend in enrollment of MA History female learners especially during pandemic in 2020-21.
- There was a downward trend in enrollment of BA History female learners after pandemic 2020-21.
- Females from BPL (Below Poverty Line) admitted in every academic session.
- Effectiveness of NSOU in taking teaching-learning to the socially backward students in rural & panchayat regions.

BA BPL Status	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
No	3091	4854	5233	4500	3746
Yes	115	142	123	145	111
TOTAL	3206	4996	5356	4645	3857

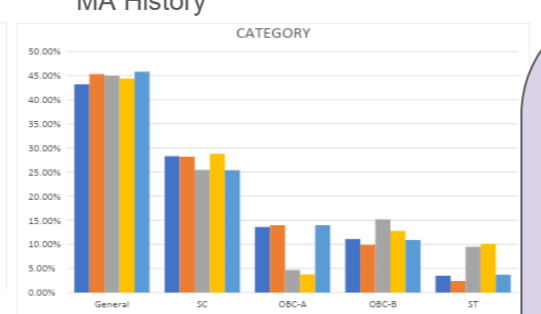
MA BPL Status	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
No	1235	1995	1704	3370	4285
Yes	53	84	47	98	138
Total	1288	2079	1751	3468	4423

Findings: Enrollment Trend among Women from Weaker Socio-Economic Background

BA History



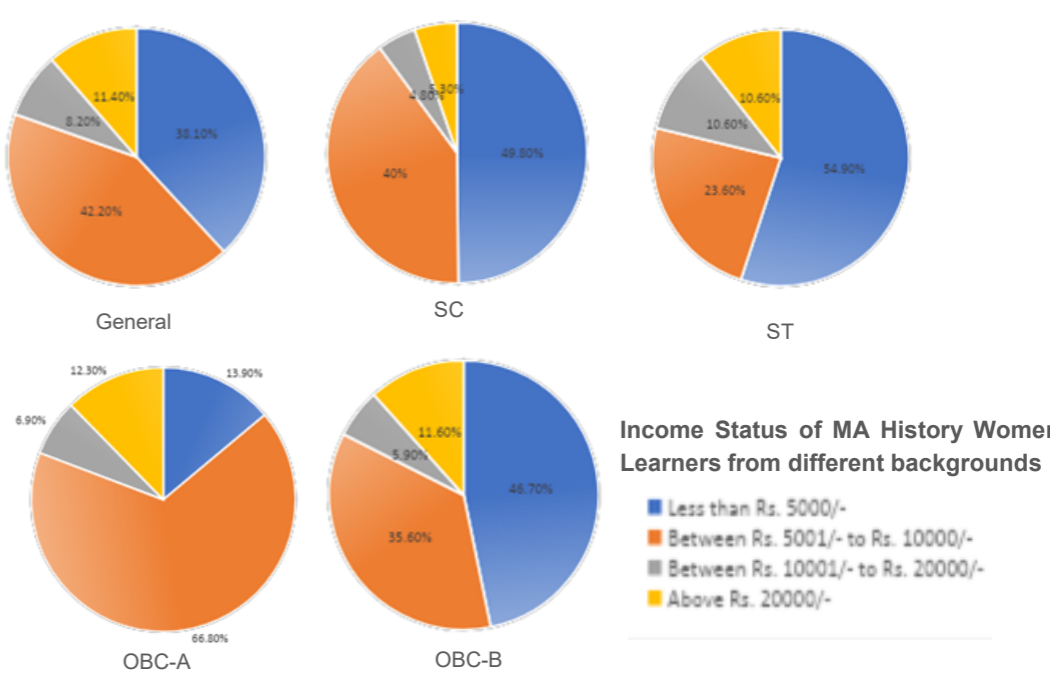
MA History



Summary of Findings

- History programmes reached out to female students belong to different socially backward categories i.e. SC, ST, OBC A, OBC B.
- Enrolment trend in the above caste categories has shown marginal increase of socio-economic backward women over the years.
- The socially backward students enrolled in History programmes also belong to lower income level families compared to the General students.

Income Status of MA History Women Learners from different backgrounds



Category or caste of the students enrolled in BA and MA History programme

Income Status of BA History Women Learners

Conclusion

Key Findings

- In History programmes, NSOU has been able to fulfil its motto to 'Reach the Unreached' socio-economic women learners. Overall increase in female graduates over the years.
- The Questionnaire (Google form) to learners provided feedback about the problems faced by married women in acquiring education & the positive role of ODL.
- The Questionnaire (Google form) to counsellors provided feedback of the faculty on improving teaching-learning e.g. including women issues in the syllabus.
- The workshop on employment opportunities for women learners is an effective way to understand the career requirements of ODL learners.
- History Department, NSOU fulfils the demand of women learners for intelligible education in the vernacular by publishing Self Learning Materials, conducting PCP and online classes, student seminars and permitting students to write answer scripts in Bengali.

Limitations

- In data from University in case of History UG programmes only History Learners with Honours or Major have been considered.
- Some data could not be included due to privacy reasons.
- Study regarding enrollment trends after pandemic needs in-depth analysis.
- Detailed drop-out & pass-out data was not available.

Recommendations

- Access to students, especially women, should be increased for effective feedback system.
- LSCs where the number of women learners are decreasing over the years should take measures to reach out to more women. Induction programmes by NSOU can focus on this aspect.
- NSOU should open LSCs in the districts of Kalimpong and ensure admission of women learners in case BA History Honours in Darjeeling as there were none.
- Enrollment of ST women learners can be improved.
- Married women learners should be encouraged to continue studying and not drop-out due to pressure in their homes.
- Inclusion of gender related topics in PG and UG syllabi is highly recommended.
- Inclusion of the Indian Knowledge System and study of Indian music and dance forms have been recommended by some History women learners and can be considered.
- The SLMs and Lectures by faculty should be as objective as possible without any political undertones as suggested by students.
- The current pattern of providing SLMs in the regional language Bengali is very useful to the learners and should continue. Both PCP and Online classes should be continued regularly and extra reading material should be provided to learners.