



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar- 751022, Odisha, India

<https://rdwu.ac.in/>



About the Rama Devi Women's University

Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) was established in 2015 as the first women's State Govt. University of Odisha with 48 affiliated women's colleges across nine coastal districts under its jurisdiction. It is a teaching-cum-affiliating university offering programmes in Science, Arts, Commerce, Management, and Teacher Education.

The objective behind instituting this university was to empower women through higher education as well as to commemorate the spirit of Maa Rama Devi Choudhury who, as a dedicated freedom fighter and social activist, stands as a role model for young women of today.

The university emblem epitomizes its vision— "*Sa VidyaYaVimuktaye*" – 'Knowledge is that, which Liberates'. The university is dedicated to creating an academic ecosystem that adheres to the ethical values, governance, and policies which are laid down by the State and UGC.

The advanced curricular and cutting-edge research of the university has turned it into a favoured destination for many girls both within and outside the state from diverse sections of society in core and applied academic disciplines. It also aims at achieving academic excellence through multidisciplinary curricula, blended teaching-learning methods, and technology-enabled learning environment. In addition, for acquiring



domain knowledge and required skills, girls are groomed to think, perform, and communicate in a critical, creative, and effective manner to enable them to face the challenges of a global market.

Vision

- Holistic development of women through the promotion of quality teaching and research.
- Enhancing global visibility in terms of quality, employability, inclusiveness, and empowerment of women.
- Equipping and enabling girls to lead a meaningful life.
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Mission

- To strive for excellence by continuously enriching the curriculum and the work culture of the university through innovative teaching, research, and extension activities.
- To ensure a stress-free and inclusive learning environment by providing easy access and facilities to diverse categories of students
- To develop entrepreneurial skills and self-reliance among students through well-structured, skill-based, future-ready, and value-added courses.
- To build the capacity of students through hands-on experience in collaboration with institutions of National and International repute
- To maximize participation of students in nation-building initiatives



National Seminar on “Maa Rama Devi’s Vision in Navigating Challenges in Contemporary Times”

Maa Rama Devi Chair organized a Two days seminar on 22nd July and 23rd July, 2024 in Rama Devi Women’s University on the theme **“Maa Rama Devi’s Vision in Navigating Challenges in Contemporary Times”**. This seminar delves into the enduring legacy of Maa Rama Devi, a pioneering figure in the realm of freedom movement and Feminism. Born in colonial India, Maa Rama Devi emerged as a leader advocating for women's rights and social justice. Her work encompassed a broad spectrum of issues ranging from education and healthcare to political participation and economic empowerment. Her vision emphasized the intersectionality of gender with other social identities, recognizing the diverse experiences of women across caste, class, and religion. Rama Devi Women's University, which is named after her provides platform for women to voice their concerns and aspirations.

This seminar explored the multifaceted dimensions of Maa Rama Devi's legacy. Participants extolled their contributions to feminist theory and praxis, her strategies for mobilizing grassroots activism, and her impact on policy-making processes. Furthermore, the seminar critically engaged with contemporary challenges and opportunities in advancing Maa Rama Devi's vision of gender equity and social transformation.

Sub-Themes:

- 1) Education & Empowerment;
- 2) Social Reform & Activism;
- 3) Leadership & Community Building;
- 4) Legacy & Contemporary Relevance.



Organizing Committee

Chief Patron:

Prof. Aparajita Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, RDWU

Patron:

Prof. Chandi Charan Rath, Chairperson, PG Council, RDWU

Smt. Shyamali Mohapatra Registrar, RDWU

Advisor:

Prof. Sasmita Mohanty, Director, IQAC

Organizing / Steering Committee:

Dr. Sasmita Kar, HoD, Teacher Education (B.Ed)

Dr. Ambika Sankar Mishra, Associate Prof., JM & C Dept. and Co-Ordinator, History Dept

Dr. Navneet Kaur, Dy. Registrar (Adm)

Dr. Jyotirmayee Udgata, OSD to Vice Chancellor

Shri. Suprit Panigrahi, Dy Controller (Exam)

Technical Committee: (Screening Technical Papers)

Prof. Madhusmita Pati, Dept. of English

Dr. Jyotirmayee Acharya, HoD, Gender Studies

Dr. Santosh Ku. Biswal, JMC

Dr. Devesh Rath, MBA Department

Convenor:

Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, Chair Professor, MRDC

Co-Convenor:

Dr. Navneet Kaur, Dy. Registrar (Adm)

Dr. Jyotirmayee Udgata, OSD to Vice Chancellor

Organizing Secretary:

Shri. Suprit Panigrahi, Dy. Controller (Exam)

Event Co-ordinator:

Jyotatsi Jangyanseni, Research Assistant, MRDC

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From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief Editorial Board, Rama Devi Women University

Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini,

Rama Devi Chair Professor, MRDC
Rama Devi Women University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

As the Maa Rama Devi Chair Professor, it is my distinct honour to introduce this edited volume dedicated to the life and legacy of Maa Rama Devi. This journal, published on the auspicious occasion of her Purnyatithi, is a heartfelt tribute to a woman whose contribution to society continue to inspire and empower. Maa Rama Devi, a stalwart of the Indian independence movement and a tireless advocate for women's rights, inspired the very essence of our university's mission:

"साविद्याविमुक्तये" (Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaya) - "It is knowledge that liberates."

Her life was a testament to the transformative power of education and its role in achieving true liberation.

This volume brings together a collection of invited articles, research articles and personal reflections from scholars, historians and social activists. Each contribution deals with different aspects of Maa Rama Devi's multifaceted persona - from her activism and leadership in the freedom struggle to her relentless efforts in advocating for women's education and social reform.

By chronicling her journey and ideals, this journal aims to not only preserve her memory but also motivate future generations to carry forward her mission. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the authors, researchers and supporters who have made this publication possible. Special thanks to the editorial team headed by Prof. Madhusmita Pati for their meticulous work in bringing this volume to fruition.

As we commemorate Maa Rama Devi's Purnyatithi, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles she championed. Let this journal be a source of inspiration, a repository of knowledge and a call to action for all those who believe in the power of education to transform lives and societies. May Maa Rama Devi's legacy continue to illuminate our path as we strive to achieve a world where knowledge truly liberates.