Preface

Women’s Studies emerged as a result of long struggle of women towards gender equality. The term Women’s Studies was borrowed from the west. In India the first Women’s Studies Centre was set up in SNDT University, Bombay in 1974. Further, during Seventh Five Years Plan of Government of India, as a response to the proposal of UGC, some more centres were established within university system. Up to 11th Five year Plan 67 Women’s Studies Centres were established in the Universities and Colleges of India. Parallel, to this a good number of Women’s Studies Centres are established under NGO’s, under ICSSR funding and a lots of centres are there under public, private-undertakings and at individual level also some centres are being established. For this study purpose, only the Women’s Studies Centres in the Universities of North East India are considered.

Documentation is identified by the UGC as one of the core area for the Women’s Studies Centres, with the aim of developing literature in the field as a support for study and research in the area. Therefore, this area has been considered by the researcher to have an idea of the present status of documentation in the field with special emphasis on Women’s Studies Centres of North East India. Through this study, it is also aimed to know the pattern of growth of the subject and availability of information resources in the subject.

The thesis is organized in seven chapters and aimed towards giving a basic idea about women’s studies in India and about available information resources on
women's studies. A study of Women's Studies Centres of North East India also helped to know about the existing condition of Women's Studies Centres in the region, especially regarding documentation activities. Though some of the Women's Studies Centres have separate library with a library professional to organize and maintain the library of the centre, but most of the centres donot have separate library and library staff. Therefore in this thesis the words Women's Studies Centre and library are used synonymously specially in the survey analysis part.

A study of an Indian Women's Studies Journal and also a study of two citation indexes SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) and A&HCI (Arts & Humanities Citation Index) helped to gain some idea about the trend of growth of the subject area regarding productivity of literature, authorship pattern etc.

While considering the different organizations producing information resources on women to be included in the thesis, I have considered the fact that they are almost twenty years old and have significant contribution in their respective fields. Considering the space limitations only some of the pioneering organizations have been included in the thesis.

I am hopeful that the findings, conclusions and recommendations of this study would be valuable resource for the students, researchers and activists in the field.

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