



OVERVIEW

The Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) was established by the university council in 2005, and was officially inaugurated on 14th march 2006. The centre is currently located behind the College of Agriculture and Consumer Science lecture theatre 3, along Mawere Opoku Road. Bungalow No. 12..

MISSION

- Institutionalise gender as legitimate business of the University
- Coordinate and plan the teaching of courses on gender across the University
- Promote the services of and facilities for female staff and students to meet their needs
- Promote advocacy and initiate policies on gender in the University
- Generate linkages with and provide extension work on gender with key stakeholders in the government, NGOs, civil society and the donor community.

CORE AREAS

Each core area is managed by a sub-committee with membership drawn from across the University:

- Academic Planning and Curriculum development
- Research Documentation
- Policy Planning
- Mentoring and Professional Development
- Outreach and extension work
- Sexual Assault Crisis Counselling

CEGENSA Innovations

Academic Planning and Curriculum development:

It is aimed at strengthening existing courses and designing University wide foundation courses on gender. Two courses developed by CEGENSA, (Gender Issues in Africa's Development and Gender and Culture in Africa) have been accepted as part of the new African Studies Program.

CEGENSA remains responsible for the teaching of the courses and also for the introduction to gender studies segment of the programme.

Research and documentation:

Data base: CEGENSA has created a series of data bases on courses, teachers, thesis and long essays in the area of gender, as well as sex disaggregated data on representation on boards and the committees and membership of associations. These will assist researchers as well as University governance.

Policy planning:

As the University community has grown and become more diverse, some of our old statutes are no longer

applicable or able to deal with emerging concerns. CEGENSA has begun a process of reviewing the university's policies, practices and governance structures to ensure that they promote gender equity. The Centre has developed a Gender Policy which is being finalised to be submitted to the University of Ghana Executive Committee.

Following the acceptance of the Sexual Harassment policy by the University Council, CEGENSA is organising a series of programmes to educate the University community.

Sexual Assault Crisis Unit

The unit response to the needs of those seeking advice and counseling to create a conducive atmosphere for learning and teaching;

We have created a space for providing University staff and students who have been victims of sexual assault cases with support and professional counseling.

The unit also provides information on a range of well-being issues to meet the needs of different segments of the University population to increase their psycho-social health.

The development of Mentoring programmes:

This involves needs assessment survey; the creation of a database of all female faculty members with an assessment of their skills and training needs; the development of training programmes, including writing workshops, teach-ins, seminars and workshops for proposal writing; research collaboration; the development of independent study programmes and a series of sustained interactions both formal and informal designed to facilitate interaction between senior and junior faculty as well as faculty and students.

Outreach and extension work:

Our work in this area has focused mainly on student outreach. We have sought to reach students on issues of gender, particularly as it relates to their unique situation as

young people located in an academic environment. We have done this through film shows, participating in student orientation for freshmen, symposia, colloquia etc.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

CEGENSA together with the Ark Foundation, Ghana and the DV Coalition, the Centre is undertaking a three year UNIFEM sponsored project on HIV/AIDS entitled "Ameliorating the effects of violence and HIV/AIDS infection among selected group in Southern Ghana".

International Development Research Centre is supporting the Centre's research project entitled "Formalising the Informal and Informalising the formal: Analysing Changes in Women's Work in Ghana" for a period of 3-year.

In addition, we form part of a multi-national consortium that brings colleagues from Bangladesh (BRAC University), Brazil (the interdisciplinary Women's Studies Nucleus (NEIM) at the University of Brachia) Egypt (the Social Research Centre at the American University in Cairo), Ghana (the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), the UK (the Institute for Development Studies IDS, Sussex) with development partners, UNIFEM and CARE. The main purpose of the consortium is to discover how positive change has happened in women's lives and to communicate lessons from research on what has changed how change has been brought about and what people working to bring empowerment and equality for women might learn from this. This 3-year project is funded by DFID

The Centre is currently collecting sex disaggregated data on membership of the various Boards and Committees of the University, as well as past and present executives members of all Unions, SRC, JCR and Voluntary Clubs & Associations.

However, beyond research on specific themes, we will also collect empirical data through surveys and qualitative measures, to assess the impacts of the Centre's activities. These will be undertaken in a collaborative manner between faculty and students and provide opportunities for training

of students and junior faculty.

Resource Centre:

The resource centre is a facility for teachers and students, as well as the wider public, to access a wider range of materials on gender theory and analysis. It also serves as a depository for diverse materials produced by faculty, students and the NGO/CS community. Currently we have about 1,000 books in our library as well as 60 films and numerous technical and research reports and journals. A listing of all these resources is available online at <http://cegensa.ug.edu.gh>.

This is a unique collection of material from all over the world. Difficult to come by resources created on the African continent are found in this collection. The films are an important innovation and have gone a long way to promote the use of film in teaching gender courses. It is hoped that the use of film will become more popular with teachers of other courses

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC RESOURCE CENTRE

Films | Books | Journals

SEXUAL ASSAULT & CRISIS UNIT

Hotline: [0270322252 /0270422252 /0270522252]

Send Text to 1945 [Precede the SMS with AH]

CEGENSA'S WEBSTE: <http://www.cegensa.ug.edu.gh>.

Linked to the University of Ghana's website.

The Centre organises film shows once a month on gender-related issues for the University community followed by a moderated discussion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**CENTRE FOR GENDER
STUDIES & ADVOCACY
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**