## Invited talk – Dr. K S Letha

Venue - MAHARAJA'S COLLEGE, ERNAKULAM (Govt. Autonomous)

Department of Sanskrit

Report on the Talk: "Gender References in Upanishads"

Date: October 28, 2022

Venue: Academic Block, Room 17

Time: 11:00 a.m.

# 1. Introduction

The Department of Sanskrit, Maharaja's College (Govt. Autonomous), Ernakulam, organized an academic talk on "Gender References in Upanishads" on October 28, 2022, as part of its ongoing lecture series aimed at fostering deeper engagement with classical Indian philosophical thought.

## 2. Details of the Event

The session began at 11:00 a.m. in Room 17, Academic Block, with an introductory address by the coordinator, Dr. Jeena George, who welcomed the resource person and participants. The talk was delivered by Dr. Latha K. S., Associate Professor, Department of Vedanta, Government Sanskrit College, Tripunithura.

# 3. Highlights of the Talk

Dr. Latha K. S. presented a profound and analytical exploration of gender references in the Upanishads, focusing on how these ancient texts transcend conventional gender boundaries while offering symbolic representations of the masculine and feminine principles in spiritual discourse.

She discussed the roles of eminent women philosophers such as Gārgī Vācaknavī and Maitreyī, whose dialogues in the Upanishads reflect intellectual equality and philosophical depth. The speaker emphasized that Vedantic philosophy, in its essence, upholds the non-dualistic understanding of the Self that surpasses gender distinctions.

Her talk seamlessly blended scriptural interpretation, philosophical insight, and modern perspectives on gender equality, making it both scholarly and engaging.

## 4. Interaction and Discussion

The session was followed by an interactive discussion, during which students and faculty members raised thought-provoking questions. Dr. Latha responded with clarity, providing deeper insights into the philosophical implications of gender identity within the Upanishadic framework.

# 5. Conclusion

The talk concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jeena George, Coordinator of the program. The event proved to be intellectually stimulating and broadened participants' perspectives on how ancient Indian philosophical texts can be reinterpreted in the light of contemporary gender studies.





