

M. Phil. Semester-III Examination 2016
Women Studies
Course - 4
Women and Religion (Optional Paper)

Time –3 Hours

Full Marks – 40

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any fore question

1. Describe the role of women as mother, wife, daughter and bride as found in the *Samhita* period. 10
 2. The change of perspectives towards asceticism, meditation and enlightenment which began in the *Aranyaka* and culminated in the *Upanisada* had representations on the religious orientation of Hindu women – Do you agree? Give reason for your answer. 10
 3. The pantheon in the *Samhita*-s included goddesses and semi divine *Apsara*-s, numerous in number but of relatively minor importance – Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. 10
 4. Discuss the reasons of the wide gulf between men and women on the educational level in the early Brahminical period. 10
 5. Explain the status of Nuns (*Bhiksuni*) in the early Buddhist *Sangha*. 10
 6. Describe the role of Hindu women in modern age. 10
 7. **Write short notes any two of the following:** 5+5=10
 - a) Sarada Devi, the first head of a monastic organization run by the monks.
 - b) The role of lay women in the Buddhist *Sangha*.
 - c) Sufi Rabeya
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