

Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

Women's Development Cell

2016-2017

WDC Orientation and Elections

On 12th August, 2016, aspirants willing to join Women's Development Cell were briefed about its functioning, followed by the election process, in which the current student representative body was elected through a show of hands. The newly elected President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Media Manager were handed over the responsibility of the society's work.

Let's Talk Sessions

The society organises informal, interactive talk sessions periodically to inform the college students of crucial issues pertaining to women. The audience actively participates and directs the flow of conversation, with the core society members acting as moderators.

- Let's Talk session on ***Body Shaming*** held on September 3, 2016 : Around 30-40 students, including students from other DU colleges, interacted on various aspects of body shaming, and about our worldviews on the words 'perfect', 'beautiful', 'fat' etc. The participants shared personal anecdotes and poems as well.
- Let's Talk session on ***'Feminism: Questioning and Answering the Basics'***: The team started off by asking the 60-70 audience members about their notions of feminism, and expanded upon each idea as the session progressed.
- Let's Talk session on ***'Women and Religion'*** held on 7 October, 2016: The participants talked about the position of women in various religions and discussed the oft-oppressive religious dimensions.



Panel Discussion on *'The Culture of Silence: Violence Against Women'*



A panel discussion on *'The Culture of Silence: Violence against Women'* was held on 18th October, 2016 in the Conference Hall that saw a gathering of more than 150 students from different Departments. The speakers were:

- Dr. Maya John, a noted Women's Rights activist and the Convener of the Center for Struggling Women (CSW)
- Ms. Nastasia Paul-Gera, a Gender Equality and Women's Rights Activist working as a Coordinator with Sangat – a feminist network that seeks to strengthen the South Asian women's movement and promote human rights, justice, and peace.
- Dr. Rukmini Sen, Associate Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University. Her research interests include women's movements, gender, sexuality and law.



Film Screening and Discussion on *'Gender and Sexuality'*

Women's Development Cell, IPCW, in association with the Gender Forums of other DU colleges in the North Campus, organised a film screening of *'The Little Mermaid'* (1989) on 1st October, 2016 in the AV Lecture Theatre, New Academic Block. Under the aegis of 'Agaaz', the collaborative effort of Gender Forums and WDCs of DU, the movie was screened as a part of a week-long film screening festival. The house saw an active discussion on the hidden misogyny and sexism in animated movies, and how the Bollywood itself is a breeding ground for many misogynist cinematic creations.



Orientation and Recruitment Drive conducted by Womenite

Womenite is an organization that aims at fostering gender equality. They have conducted various workshops on child sexual abuse, feminism and menstrual health in schools and colleges; have conducted campaigns on gender equality, world merit day campaign, free hugs campaign etc. In association with WDC, Womenite organised an Orientation and Recruitment Drive on 30th September, 2016 in the College Pavilion. Around 15 volunteers were selected by them after a round of interviews.



Public Meeting with Pinjra-Tod

Pinjra Tod is an autonomous women's collective that is geared towards fighting against the discriminatory rules and regulations against women, set by the Universities. In this public meeting with Pinjra-Tod held at IP College Pavilion on September 22, many important issues pertaining to arbitrary hostel curfews and safety of hostel students were raised.



Desire and Politics: A Prelude to Queer Pride

Gender Sensitization Committee, in collaboration with Women's Development Cell, organised "*Desire and Politics: A Prelude to Queer Pride*", a day to celebrate Queer lives through film screenings, presentation and poetry reading. Held on 26 October 2016, this event saw four films being screened:

- Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria
- Performing the Goddess
- Summer in My Veins
- Walking The Walk (followed by a discussion by Bittu Karthik - a genderqueer transboi and a scientist).

Also, there was a poetry reading session by Aditi Angiras (She is the founder of Bring Back The Poets, and has been widely published).



Panel Discussion on 'Deconstructing Womanhood and Identity'

INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Women's Development Cell
Presents
Panel Discussion

**'DECONSTRUCTING WOMANHOOD
AND IDENTITY'**

Panelists

- Dr. Rachana Johri
(Associate Professor School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University)
- Sabika Abbas Naqvi
(Poet, Activist)
- Maya John
(Convener, Center for Struggling Women)

Friday, 27th January, 2017

Venue: Conference Hall

Time: 12:30-2:30 pm

For details, contact: Mariyeh (+91 8377835725) Siddhi (+91 9971319620)

The panel discussion on '*Deconstructing Womanhood And Identity*', a two-hour session moderated by Papori Konwar, strived to answer difficult questions and openly talk about what it means to be a woman and their quest for equality. The discussion was opened by the very compelling Sabika Abbas Naqvi, a poet and an activist, who brought to the stage the issue of lack of intersectionality within 'big' movements. Her narration of her two poems '*I Do Not Come Alone*' and '*Meri Bindi*' highlighted a woman's constant struggle with her multiple identities and was met with thunderous applause.

Maya John, Convener of Center for Struggling Women, was another passionate speaker whose words left the audience reeling with realizations and a lot to introspect. She brought light to the terms like 'politics of equivalence' and 'absent cause'. Ms. John focused on how easy it is to become complacent with our relative freedom while

forgoing the struggles of women of different classes and section. She stressed that the larger goal of feminism should be equality of men and women across caste and class.

The bitter truth and reality of marital rape was brought into focus by Prof. Rachana Johri. A Professor at School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University, she has done commendable research in the field of feminism. She related narratives about her experience with people who went for sex selection, and talked about motherhood. She extensively discussed the concepts of modernization and feminism and how they are often wrongly equated.

An interactive session followed the talk and questions about womanhood and manhood, and parameters of feminism were raised. Another interesting point raised was that feminism isn't about being same as men but about having the same opportunities.



Femme In Public: Alok Vaid-Menon



"Accept that you desire. Accept that you are fluid," says Alok Vaid-Menon. Alok Vaid-Menon is an internationally acclaimed writer and performance artist from New York City. Known for their expressive poetry and biting comedy, Alok has charmed audiences across the world and emerged as a prominent voice in the transgender movement. Alok spent some of their precious time with us on 11th of February, 2017. The day included a 90 performance session by Alok on *'Femme in Public'* followed by a *'Writing And Performance Intensive'* workshop.

The performance session contained poetry, stand-up comedy, drag and more as they took their audience on an emotional roller coaster. Alok talked about everything, from patriarchy to racism. They taught us how trans-politics matters for everyone and how it is not always men who can be patriarchal but women as well. They beautifully explained how there is now no difference between silence and violence and how the reason we are depressed is because we are oppressed.

The event in AV Lecture Theatre saw more than 600 attendees, and for the workshop, Alok was joined by 40 participants. A beautiful line from one of their poems – “*I am in pain. Not because of the accident but because of the norm*” gathered much appreciation from the audience.



A Conversation With Ashley Judd: What's on my mind and tell me what's on yours!



On 17 February 2017, "*A Conversation with Ashley Judd*" was organized where students and teachers engaged in an interactive session with the activist and actor Ashley Judd. Ashley is a feminist social justice humanitarian who presently serves as the Global Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, is the Global Ambassador for Population Services, and also for Polaris Project.

The event was chaired by Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf, Principal, Indraprastha College for Women. She gave a prelude to Ms. Ashley's speech and raised several important points related to modern feminism. There was active discussion on many points, such as the importance of trans- inclusive feminism, how to be an ally to marginalised communities etc. The event was attended by close to 600 students and teachers, who were freely participating in a conversation with Ashley Judd. Ms. Ashley took several questions from the audience and explored and answered them.



Screening of the documentary 'The World Before Her'

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Women's Development Cell and Gender Sensitization Committee screened a 90-min documentary film "***The World Before Her***". Written and directed by Nisha Pahuja, the film explores the complex and conflicting environment for young girls in India by profiling two young women – a small-town girl who competes in the Miss India pageant, and a Hindu nationalist who leads a fundamentalist camp for girls.

The documentary was contextualized by the discussants, Mr. Sanjay Muttuo and Dr. Rashmi Pant. A highly fruitful discussion around the narratives of womanhood in India took place on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Indraprastha College for Women
Women's Development Cell
Gender Sensitization Committee

PRESENT

8th March
Conference Hall
11:30 AM

THE
WORLD
BEFORE HER

Movie screening followed by a discussion

Celebrate International Women's Day with us.

Discussants:
Sanjay Muttuo Rashmi Pant

For details, contact: Mariyeh (8377835725) Siddhi (9971319620)