

Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

Women's Development Cell

2018 ( July - November)

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## **LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

### **WDC Orientation and Elections**

On 30th August 2018, aspirants willing to join Women's Development Cell were briefed about its functioning and activities, followed by the election process, in which the current student representative body was elected through voting in google forms. The newly elected President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Media Manager were handed over the responsibility of the society's work.

### **Let's Talk Session: #377inTheGutter**

Women's Development Cell in collaboration with Poetry and Elocution Club organised their first event of the academic year 2018-19 in the Student Activity Area on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 following the Supreme Court's verdict on Section 377. The event was an informal discussion and poetry reading session dedicated to celebrating and dissecting Supreme Court's decision to strike down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

A small group of students gathered for an hour to discuss the political and social implications of legalizing homosexuality in India. Concerns like whether changing the law will bring any change in the mindset of the society and the prejudices they hold against the LGBTQIA+ community were raised. Many students shared their personal experiences with homophobia as well as positive encounters with allies and queer community. Students talked about marriage and adoption laws in relation to gay couples. Related ideas like reservation and representation were also raised.

The session ended with a poetry reading by one of the Poetry and Elocution Club members. The informal gathering was intended to create a safe place where students could exchange ideas, raise questions and debate the issue without fear of being judged.



### **Workshop on 'Gender Construct: Exploring Gender and Sexuality'**

A workshop on 'Gender Constructs - Exploring Gender and Sexuality' was organised on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the New Seminar Room, in collaboration with the Political Science Academic Society and *Nazariya* - A Queer Feminist Resource Group.

Students from various departments gathered to attend the workshop. The facilitators used interactive activities as a tool to discuss gender norms. Topics like what 'gender' means and what are the different types of sexual identities were discussed. The discussion was centred around the complex nature of gender and sexuality, and the society's tendency to generalise and stereotype. Through conversations, it was quite evident that patriarchy is a major root cause of violence attached to gender.

At the end, Section 377 and its decriminalization by the Supreme Court of India was discussed briefly. It was followed by a small discussion round where students asked their own questions regarding sexuality and gender.



### **Informative Session on 'Girl Up'**

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, Women Development Cell in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation organized an informative session on "Girl Up" in the AV Lecture Theatre.

It is a girl-led and girl-driven initiative, which engages girls to take action to achieve global gender equality. The foundation aims to expose young women to new issues and topics that broaden their worldview and help them think critically about global issues, train and support young female leaders, and connect girls with similar passion. Ms. Aditi Arora, the country representative for Girl Up, talked about creating clubs to help young women develop leadership skills as well as to advocate for, raise awareness about, and raise funds

for various women focused issues. She guided the audience through various steps required to create such a club and how to regulate it.

A club, 'Epic' consisting of young girls from various colleges also shared its own experiences and success in driving forward the initiative. The session included an interactive game prompting discussion over some central global issues. It ended with a call for volunteers interested in starting their own club.



### **Workshop on Sex Education**

A workshop on Sex Education was organised in collaboration with Mr. Aditya Gautam, author of *Pornistaan* and Dr. Aastha Sachdeva, a Counselling Psychologist on 5th October in the conference hall.

They discussed different aspects of sexuality and the myths surrounding sex. They stressed the fact that pornography is the most popular but harmful medium of sex education. The idea of consent in various contexts and scenarios was also discussed. Positive body image



and how popular culture promotes unhealthy ideals was talked about in detail. Issues like PMS, and hormones were also debated and explained through audio-visual medium.

The session focused on the psychological aspects of sex education and was informative and interactive. Students were encouraged to ask and send in their questions about sex. It aimed at creating a safe place where sex can be discussed without judgement.



### **Movie Screening of Pakeezah**

A special screening of '*Pakeezah*' was organised on 27<sup>th</sup> October in the seminar room, which was followed by a fruitful discussion of the movie.

*Pakeezah* is an exploration of what it meant to be a "tawaif" (a dancer-singer courtesan) in the aristocratic milieus of traditional India. The film has something to redeem that may be social on the surface, but is personal all the way down. There's a secret to *Pakeezah*, it has to deal with the love-hate intimacy. The film also reflects various aspects of a woman's desires and how their sexuality is perceived by the society.



### **Queer Collective of Indraprastha College for Women**

Awareness and sensitisation on gender issues is important for the health and social inclusiveness of a campus. With this vision the Women's Development Cell of Indraprastha college is starting a Queer Collective which will strive to create a common platform for the LGBTQ+ and allies to come together and work towards eradicating the discrimination faced by the community.

The basic aim of this Queer Collective is to provide a devoted platform to raise, recognise, discuss, analyse and incorporate various perspectives, vision and concerns of individuals of queer community and peers.

INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

**WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL**

invites all queers and allies to be a part of the

*Queer Collective*

**Fill the registration form!**



CONTACT: LAXITA (9311083970) DIKSHA (9990984505)