

Women's Development Cell

Talk on Female Feticide – Awareness and Prevention

The talk was organized by WDC on 7th April by eminent obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Puneet Bedi from Indraprastha Apollo Hospital. He has been a guest writer on Tehelka.com and features on several TV channels including some episodes of Satyamev Jayate. He gave the students an insight into the apathetic situation of government hospitals and the ease with which female feticide takes place in our country, right from inception to its current status. He also threw light on the gender discrimination which takes place in urban households and how about 20% of doctors are involved in this 'crime.' The students were appalled by the interaction and some even stayed back long after the discussion to ask queries related to their personal health and issues. The session started at 1.30 and the conversation continued till about 4.00 pm.



Panel Discussion

A panel discussion on 'Rethinking Gender, Sexuality and Sexual Violence' was organized on 4th April, 2016. The distinguished panelists were **Ms. Pramada Menon** (Activist, Filmmaker and founder member of Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) and **Ms. Mary E John** (Senior Fellow and Professor at the Centre for Women's Development Studies). **Ms. Menon** spoke on the need for a rethink about gender and sexuality and the space to talk beyond the binaries and on intersectionality whereas Ms. John spoke about the studies that complicate our understanding of what constitutes sexual violence. It was an enlightening session which had a great impact on the students' mind. The talk was followed by a question-answer round.



Stagecraft

As part of Shruti 2016, WDC organized Stagecraft, a creative enactment competition with a feminist twist on the 11th of March. Five teams of 2-3 members participated enthusiastically. In the first round, teams were assigned different products through lottery system and they were asked to sell the product using catchy name and a tagline using feminist perspective. In the next round, teams were given situations and they were asked to first enact the situation in reality, and then as a flip side, asked to enact the alternate appropriate responses to the given situation.



International Women's Day

This year International Women's day was observed on the 9th of March, and it began with hosting a feminist film festival in collaboration with **Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA)**. MAVA's 'Sama-bhav' Film Festival aimed at creating awareness amongst students through screening of short documentary films on Gender, Masculinity and Relationships. The event started off with introductory remarks by the organisers. The following movies were shown:

1. Broken Image by Aravind
2. Raising Men by Gauri
3. The Boxing Girls of Kabul (Canada), Ariel Nasr

Each movie was followed by an interactive discussion.

This was followed by a 'Khula Manch' event and a cultural evening with 'Pinjra Tod'. Pinjra tod is an autonomous collective effort to ensure secure, affordable and not gender-discriminatory accommodation for women students across Delhi.

The topic of the Khula Manch was –

1. This house believes that 'We are going wrong with the term Feminism'
2. This house believes that Indian Democracy has failed its Women.

Pinjra Tod offered fresh perspective to the discussion round which took place after the Khula Manch competition.



Let's Talk: Can We?

The session took place in the seminar room and observed an informal gathering with a few students and faculty members to discuss about various issues and ongoing debates in the world on 27th February, 2016. The aim of such an event was to provide a liberal space for students to freely talk about various issues that affect our daily lives so that we are successful in breaking away from our class/caste lineages to position ourselves in a broader socio-political context.

Suchismita Chattopadhya from JNU led the discussion and the current political climate of our country, its consequences, the right to dissent and the double oppression faced by women during such times were some of the key things discussed in the meet. Keeping the issue of turmoil in Jawaharlal Nehru University campus in mind; 'freedom as an illusion' and the otherization of a particular part of society was also discussed in details.

Completion of two Research Projects Undertaken by the Students:

- (i) A Survey of Students Enrolled in Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB)
- (ii) Happiness, Women and Ageing – A Comparative Study of Middle Age and Old Age Women

Panel discussion on ‘What do you see when you see a Homosexual?’

Gender Sensitization Committee in collaboration with Women’s Development Cell organized a panel discussion on ‘What do you see when you see a homosexual?’ on 17th January, 2016.



The speakers were **Akhil Katyal** (Professor, Shiv Nadar University, poet, activist) and **Angana Sinha Ray** (3rd year sociology student of LSR, LGBTQ activist). The talk was followed by a discussion round with interested students and panelists in the staff room. The event gathered a large crowd, being curious about the topic of the discussion and students from other colleges attended the event too. The event turned out to be a huge success and featured in DU beat and Ibn live website.

Awareness campaign on Menstruation - #5daysofdignity by Goonj, Youth Alliance and supported by UN Volunteers

The event was an initiative of NGO-Goonj, supported by Youth Alliance, Not Just a Piece of Cloth and United Nations Volunteers and gathered great media coverage by Youth ki Awaz, DU beat, Menstrupedia and alike. This time, the 5 day event took place across IPCW and Hindu college campus. Members of all departments were invited to the event on 3rd November 2015 outside the auditorium from 1.30 pm onwards for a fun games and interactive session. The games session led to a one on one discussion round and broke a multitude of stereotypes regarding menstruation and hygiene.



Slam Poetry Competition

A slam poetry competition was organized by the WDC and the English literary society and the first three winning poets were rewarded certificates. The esteemed judges invited were Saumya Kulshreshtha (Founder, Poet's Collective), Indraneil Chaudhury (Airplane Poetry Movement) and Nitoo Das (Assistant Professor, IPCW). The event was the first of its kind in college and turned out to be a huge success with around 21 participants.



Half the Sky Movement- Documentary screening followed by campus ambassador recruitment

The documentary series introduced women and girls living under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Half The Sky-Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide is a four hour series shot in 10 countries such as: Cambodia, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Liberia. A shorter version (35 minutes) was screened followed by an active discussion with students. A questionnaire related to the documentary was also filled and verbally discussed. The documentary threw light on the abominable circumstances of women around the world and gave a pathway to interactions and discussion related to methods for empowerment and an actionable blueprint for transformation.



Recruitment drive by RAHI foundation

WDC in collaboration with RAHI organized a recruitment drive, aimed at providing the students with a great opportunity to reach out and make a real difference to the world. Like last year, many students actively came forth and not only volunteered at the recruitment table, but also took up applications to engage themselves with the cause.



Poem/Prose writing competition

A writing competition was organized on the topic 'Silence' and the participants were asked to email their entries to the WDC email address. The winner's work was put up on the WDC notice board.

Student induction workshop on 'Early & Forced Marriage' by Feminist Approach to Technology.

The session commenced with a documentary screening that threw light on the lives and struggles of women living in areas that lack basic sanitation. It was shot and directed by the girls from that community itself, which is admirable. Next, after briefly apprising the students about the work FAT does, an interactive workshop was conducted by their representative, Ms. Ankita Rawat. A lot of discussion and exchange of ideas followed. The session ended with the volunteer recruitment.



Documentary screening on ‘Miss Representation’ followed by discussion

Miss Representation is a 2011 American documentary film written, directed, and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. It explores how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in influential positions by circulating limited and often disparaging portrayals of women.

The screening was the first event of the new academic session and was open to students and faculty members of all departments. An enthusiastic crowd had gathered in the first event of WDC of the new academic year. The session ended with a discussion round where students and teachers both tabled their opinions on the movie and its reflection on our society.



