

Seminar on “Understanding Issues in Gender Disparity”

In the year 2017-18 WDC organized one day seminar on “Understanding Issues in Gender Disparity” on 7th November in which renowned psychiatrist and Counsellor Dr. Aradhna Sharma and Supreme Court advocate Ms. Aishwarya Bhati graced the event as eminent resource persons discussed the causes, problems related to gender disparity in our society and issues of Women rights in India. The event was attended by 112 participants including students and teachers. The event started with WDC convenor Dr. Alka Sharma introducing the topic of discussion and talking about the relevance of discussing gender disparity in our country. She also highlighted how SLC is continuously taking pioneer steps towards addressing the issue of gender disparity and gender inequality by organizing workshops, counselling sessions, encouraging girl students towards maximum participation in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in the college.

With this introduction, Dr. Aradhna Sharma began her talk and talked about how gender disparity and inequality is a very crucial social issue in our country with the Census showing child sex ratio among children in the age group of 0-6 years to be 918 girls for every 1000 boys in the country. These statistics highlights the dire need to address the causes of gender disparity in our country. Dr. Sharma further discussed that discrimination based on gender begins even before a girl is born. Girls are considered a burden by parents and thus the medical processes of sex determination, which are illegal in the country, are rampant both in urban and rural areas. The issue of female foeticide is a grave concern that government across states in India and medical fraternity are trying to address. She also talked about the issue of child marriage, maternal health, girl education etc. Dr. Sharma highlighted how the young generation can make a difference by overcoming the

regressive mindsets and contribute towards making Indian society more liberal and gender positive. She urged the students to start neighbourhood campaigns and sensitize people around them to these issues.

The next speaker Supreme Court advocate Ms. Aishwarya Bhati continued from where Dr. Sharma left and started with talking about the need to aware people in general and women in particular about Women's Rights. India a democratic, inclusive and accommodating nation that has a robust legal system which ensures that the rights of all the citizens are safeguarded. The principle of gender equality is well documented in the Indian constitution along with fundamental rights. Ms. Bhati familiarized the audience with the rights that Indian women hold which includes right to equal pay, right to dignity and decency, right against workplace harassment, right against domestic violence, right to get free legal aid, right to register virtual complaints etc. Subsequently, Ms. Bhati held detailed discussion on all these rights with the participants. The participants very eagerly asked questions about all the Women's Rights in India and gained clarity around them. Both Dr. Sharma and Ms. Bhati were impressed by the enthusiasm and active participation of the students. The session was very fruitful as it offered an opportunity to the participants to engage in constructive deliberations around the social issues of gender inequality and Women's Rights. The Seminar ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

