

Ambedkar Study Circle (ASC), SLC (2019-20)

Seminar on "Concept of Justice: Ambedkar & Rawls", 11th November, 2019

As a part of Commemoration of the Constitution Day, Ambedkar Study Circle (ASC), SLC organized a seminar on the topic: "**Concept of Justice: Ambedkar and Rawls**", that was held on **Monday 11th Nov. 2019 at the Seminar Hall, Shyam Lal College, Delhi**. The aim of the seminar was to enlighten the students about the wider concept of Justice as theorized by John Rawls who is held to be the greatest thinker on the topic after Karl Marx and compare his understanding with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's idea of justice. **Prof. Narender Kumar, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Science, Jawahar Lal Nehru University chaired the session on the occasion. Dr. Karunakar Patra, Department of Political Science, Dayal Singh College, University of Delhi and Dr. Harish S. Wankhade, Centre for Political Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi** were other Guest Speakers invited to deliver lectures on the above theme. The seminar was inaugurated by paying a floral tribute to the Father of Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. Rajeshwari anchored the seminar while Mr. Vinod Kumar, member ASC and Principal and Head of the Institution, Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, welcomed the guest speakers. **Dr. Karunakar Patra**, in his lecture dwelt on the various attempts to theorize the concept of Justice since Greek period upto modern period and in the process brought out the important elements of Rawls concept of Justice. He thereby held that Ambedkar's views on Justice was informed by western political philosophy i.e., the ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as well as internal critique of the practice of inequality perpetuated by the Varna System. **Dr. Harish S. Wankhade** was of the opinion that even as John Rawls is recognized as the most important contemporary thinker to theorize the concept of justice still the ambit of Ambedkar's concept of Justice was much wider in scope as he had greater grasp of the existing social realities. **Prof. Narender Kumar**, towards the end of the session summed up the arguments put forth by the earlier speakers and agreed with the view that Ambedkar's understanding of the concept of justice because it was grounded in firmer reality of India's social life was vast in scope. Following the question and answer session **the winners of the essay writing competition held on 31st October, 2019 were declared by Dr. Ruchika Ramakrishnan and Convenor, ASC Dr. Rohan Mandal** and were facilitated by the guest speakers. There were 60 students participated in the seminar along with teachers and non-

teaching staff. The session was finally closed with a vote of thanks which was delivered by Dr. Rajkumar Prasad senior member of ASC to the guest speakers and the audience.







Dr. Rohan Mandal

Convenor of Ambedkar Study Circle