

Women's Development Cell

Women's Development Cell organized a talk on "Women and Environmental Issues" on 2 May, 2024 at 11.30 a.m. in the Board Room. Professor Neera Agnimitra, Chairperson, International Relations, University of Delhi, was invited to deliver the talk. Prof. Agnimitra also teaches at the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. The initial part of the talk focused on how all of us are affected by environment and environmental changes and degradation, but how some of us are disproportionately affected, which includes people living in the countries of the global South, the communities which depend on agriculture, fishing, forests for their living etc. She also spoke about the anthropogenic or human induced changes which are adversely and irreversibly altering the environment and the long-term consequences of the same.

In the second part of her talk, Prof. Neera Agnimitra spoke about women's relation to nature, about how traditionally women have been identified with the realm of nature, while men have been identified with the realm of culture, with both women and nature being seen as passive and men as agents, as the ones in control. Prof. Agnimitra sought to engage the students by giving examples from her own field work in villages in Uttarakhand and her exposure to the hardships of rural women who depend on nature for food, fuel, water etc. The speaker also emphasized the need for each one of us to see the environmental concerns as our own and try and make a difference through our choices and actions.

The talk, which was both scholarly and accessible, was very well received by students as well as teachers and the session ended with a formal vote of thanks.