

**Annual Report of Jagriti, the Women's Development Cell, Bharati College, for the
academic session 2015-16**

Re- activated in the spring semester of the academic session 2015-16, the Women's Development Cell (WDC) of Bharati College, named Jagriti, takes its mandate from the goals of the Women's Studies and Development Centre (WSDC), University of Delhi, and aims to :

- address "women's issues in higher education."
- encourage "women's and gender studies in the University."
- place through its activities "women and gender at the centre of its inquiry focusing mostly on multidisciplinary perspectives of class, caste, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, age.

It also addresses several other contemporary socio-political issues concerning women."

Accordingly, under the guidance of our Convener Dr Sutapa Das of the Department of History, other teacher members Ms. Anavisha Banerjee and Ms. Bhavna Pillai of the Department of English and through the efforts of Yashi Bansal (President), Meetal Asiwal (Vice- President), Manjula Garg (Secretary) and Rashmi Singh (Treasurer) with fifty competent volunteers, Jagriti organized a series of interactive talks, discussions and screenings. We also made sure the Installation of Sanitary Napkin Dispensing Machine, for which petition was signed by 500 girls of our college in our last academic session.

Our first event for this session, namely "Pick the Chit" aimed at sensitizing women about their status in the society. Here we, with the help of a game, discussed about how professions are

stereotypically distributed around us. And, those who try to debunk the notion of these divided professions, they are not either acceptable or face many challenges in our society.

Our focus was then, to make students aware with the difference between “Feminists and Feminazi.” We should though take stand for equality but more important is to understand the definition of equality.

Screening of an animated movie *Sita Sings the Blue* by an American artist Nina Paley was organized. This movie intersperses the events from the *Ramayana* and artist’s own life depicting how women were seen and treated sub-ordinate to men even at the time of Ram, who is considered as the perfect man in Hindu mythology and are still considered same by many.

An open house discussion was organized titled as “For Single She May Be, But Never Too Weak.” The aim was to provide an insight to how our society perceives a single woman. If she is unmarried for a longer period of time, so she is seen as a burden on her family. If a woman is a single mother or a divorcee, then, people try to take undue advantage of hers. Also, she is seen as a characterless woman.

Free Hug Campaign was organized on 20th January, 2016 to celebrate the unity, love and understanding among women for each other. Also, to create an environment of happiness and to build a healthy bond with the college students is our aim.

An interactive talk titled as “Women and Disability: challenges in the Academia” was organized to make students aware of the problems faced by disabled women. And, how our society make them feel “double disabled.” The speaker was Reem Shamsudeen, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sri Venkateshwar College, University of Delhi.

A discussion was held on the topic “Moral policing, debarring women from some public spaces.” The aim was to discuss about how women are prevented from exerting their freedom in the name of ‘morals.’

A screening of the movie *Mona Lisa Smile* by Mike Newell was organized with the aim to make students aware of the condition of women at the time of 50’s and to encourage students to pursue their individuality and question the roles women are traditionally expected to play in society.