

Report of the session on Women's Empowerment.

As a part of Women Development Cell activity, to address the students of 2016-17 batch on a session on Orientation to Women Development Cell and Women Empowerment by Prof Sunita Kulkarni was held on 22nd November, 2016, focusing on importance of Women Development Cell and covering burning issues regarding dignity of women.

The lively and interactive session began with the singing of a song titled "Shikshananchi Gaadi Chaalali – The Vehicle of Education keeps moving..." The song contained the information of the plight of education in Indian scenario. Though Indian Constitution promotes and propagates women's Empowerment through various rights and provisions, yet the society is still the same with the patriarchal system. The difference between 'Sex' and 'Gender' was explained and the repercussions of man-made societal structures built about gender was criticized.

Madam posed before the students certain case study on women's issue such as:

- a. An educated woman is not being able to be independent financially.
- b. A young girl has passion for studies but is not allowed due to gender discrimination
- c. A female professor is paid less for the same amount of work done by the male professors.

The issues on gender inequality was analysed in depth through the mode of interactive discussion. The students were made aware of the grass root factors that leads to gender inequality. Further, they were instructed with certain measures that can be taken as teachers to break gender stereotypes. The very first step towards India's progress will be in instructing the parents not to sow the seed of gender bias in the mind of their wards. School is the best means wherein meetings for parents could be held and session for parents be conducted to help India rise above discrimination based on gender.

Thus, the session came to an end with clarification of certain doubts raised by the students and a vote of thanks proposed by Sr. Rubi Janet (F.Y.B.Ed student). Sincere thanks & appreciation to the Principal I /C Dr. Vini Sebastiaan and Ms. Kalpana Chavan faculty and co-ordinator of SXIE Women Development Cell for arranging this session which was thought-provoking and a fruitful one.

Overall it was an educational and enriching session and students at SXIE appreciated the time and efforts in giving them impetus and motivation to make this cell dynamic and socially useful.

