

## Report of the Seminar

DGHE Approved One-day Multidisciplinary Online National Seminar on “Gender Equality & Women Empowerment (SDG-5): Breaking Stereotypes of Patriarchy” was organized by the Internal Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace & Department of English (Under the aegis of IQAC), Kumari Vidyavati Anand DAV College for Women, Karnal, Haryana in collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT, Kurukshetra, Haryana on March 16, 2024.

The Inaugural Session began with the DAV GAAN. Principal Madam and Patron of the seminar Ms. Meenu Sharma accorded a formal welcome to the dignitaries. Dr. Manju Singhi, Head, Department of Chemistry & Convener of the Seminar and Co-convener of ICCASH introduced the theme of the seminar – that the seminar underscores the urgent need to challenge certain patriarchal norms, dismantle gender-based discrimination, and champion gender equality and women’s empowerment for a more just and equitable world.

Dr Anju Narwal, Organising Secretary introduced the dignitaries and guests of the Inaugural Session.

The Guest of Honour and Co-Patron of the seminar, Prof. Vikas Choudhary from NIT, Kurukshetra, addressed the gathering with his insightful words on the importance of gender equality and women empowerment, emphasizing the need for systemic changes to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals regardless of gender. Prof. Choudhary’s remarks resonated deeply with the audience, sparking discussions on the role of education, policy reform, and societal attitudes in fostering a more inclusive and equitable future. He inspired us to reflect on our own actions and advocate for positive change in our communities.

The Keynote Address was delivered by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Sunita Siroha, Chairperson of ICCASH and Professor, Department of English, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Dr. Siroha’s address was both enlightening and thought-provoking, as she shared her profound insights on the theme of gender equality and women empowerment. Her expertise and dedication to the cause shone through her words, inspiring all attendees to reflect on their roles in advancing gender justice and her contribution to the seminar set the stage for meaningful discussions and collective endeavors aimed at fostering a more inclusive and fair society.

The Chief Guest for the Inauguration Session, Prof. S. D. Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, and Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana, graced the occasion and delivered the Inaugural address. Prof. Sharma’s insightful remarks and profound words set the tone for the seminar, inspiring all present, to engage deeply with the themes of gender equality and women empowerment. His distinguished presence and impactful address resonated with the audience, igniting a sense of purpose and commitment to the cause. Prof. Sharma’s contribution to the seminar was invaluable, laying the foundation for meaningful discussions and collective action towards fostering a more just and equitable society.

Formal Vote of Thanks of this session was presented by the Convener of the Seminar, Ms. Sunit Bhandari, Head, Department of English and Co-convener of ICCASH of our college.

The Plenary session commenced with Dr. Shivangi, Organising Committee Member, introducing the Resource Person, Ms. Aashna Aggarwal Mehra, Advocate, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh. Aashna mam eloquently addressed the audience, shedding light on the legal intricacies surrounding gender-based discrimination and violence. With her vast experience and expertise, she provided valuable insights into the legal frameworks and mechanisms available to combat such acts and ensure justice for victims. The session witnessed a healthy interaction between Ms. Mehra and the participants, as they engaged in thoughtful

discussions and posed pertinent questions, further enriching the discourse on gender equality and women empowerment.

Towards the end of the Plenary Session, Dr. Anuradha Nagia, Organising Secretary, proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

The Valedictory Session of the seminar was truly unparalleled.

Principal Madam and Patron of the seminar Ms. Meenu Sharma accorded a formal welcome to the dignitaries. Dr. Deepti Sharma, Organising Secretary presented the Report of the Seminar. Feedback of the Seminar given by Dr Suruchi Kalra Choudhary from Hindu Girls College, Jagadhari, Dr. Neetu Singh, St. Wilfred's College, ACS, Panvel, Navi Mumbai, Ms Astha Bhatia, Dyal Singh College, Karnal.

Prof. (Dr.) Neelima Kanwar, Professor, Department of English, and Dean, Faculty of Arts & Director Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies, H.P University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh was the Guest of Honour in the Valedictory Session. Prof. Neelima discussed the topic 'Literature & Gender: Some Reflections' and emphasized an exploration into the intersection of literature and gender, prompting a contemplation of how gender dynamics are depicted and negotiated within literary works. She examined various themes, such as identity, power dynamics, and societal norms, as represented and challenged through the lens of literature.

Valedictory Address was presented by the Chief Guest of Valedictory Session, Prof (Dr) Anita Singh, Professor, Fulbright Nehru Fellow & Professor & Head, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Banaras, Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. She emphasized the urgent need to break the stereotypes of patriarchy and promote gender equality and women empowerment, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5. She deliberated the need to unite in our commitment to challenge societal norms and foster a future where all individuals, regardless of gender, can thrive and contribute equally to our collective progress.

In 07 Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions) chaired by Dr Suruchi Kalra Choudhary, Ms Sunit Bhandari, Dr Sushma Thakur, Dr Sangeeta Gorang, Dr Anuradha Nagia, Dr Anju Narwal and Dr Deepti Sharma, 41 participants from New Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, presented their scholarly research papers, engaging in in-depth deliberations on various themes and subthemes of the seminar, including gender equality in education, women's political empowerment, economic opportunities for women, combating gender-based violence, health and reproductive rights, and intersectionality in gender issues.

138 participants in all attended the seminar including resource persons, delegates (paper presenters & participants) and organizing committee members.

# KVA DAV COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KARNAL

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