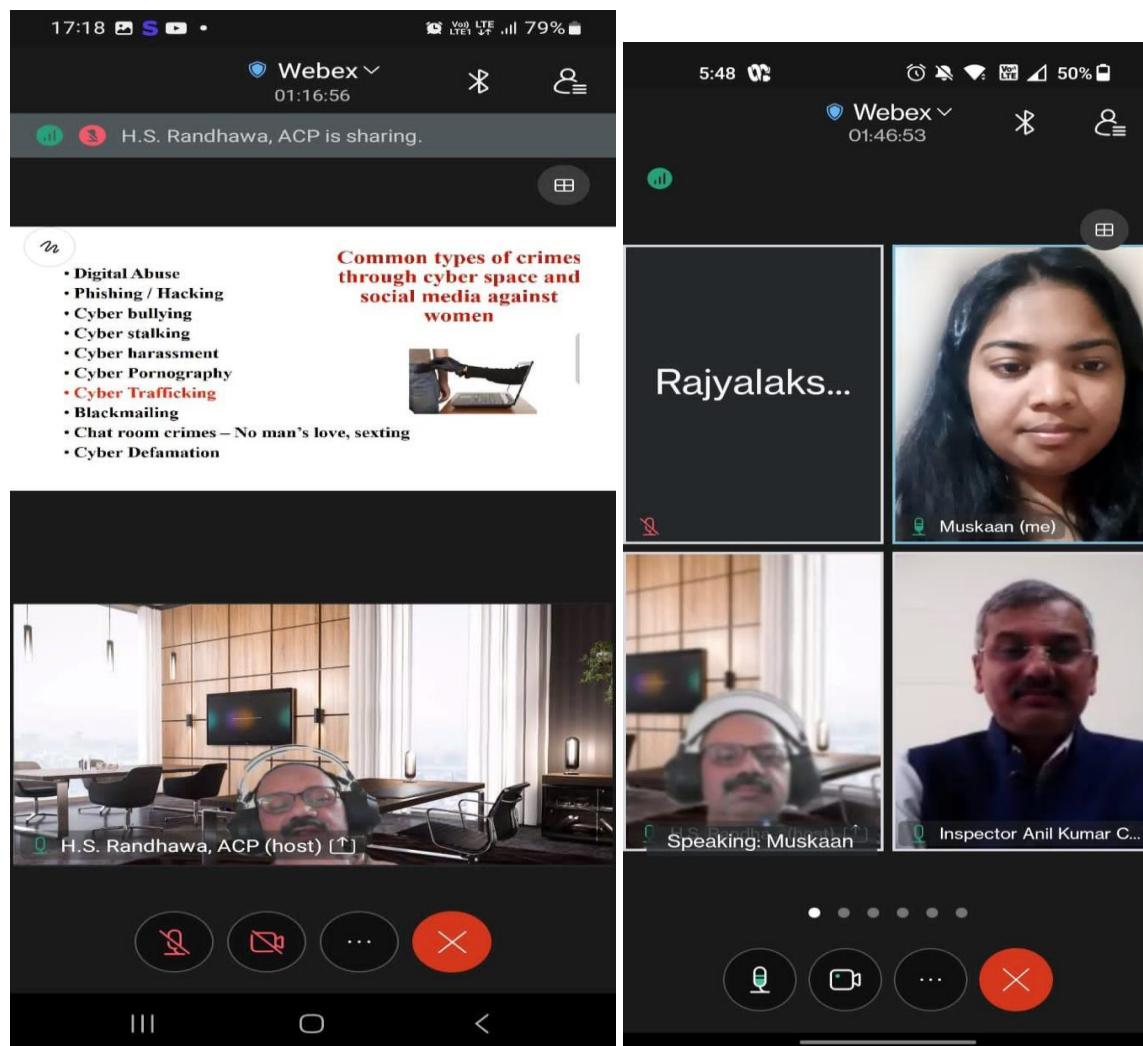


SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2022-23

Session on Cyber Crime Awareness

The Women's Development Cell of Janki Devi Memorial College, under the aegis of the Centre for Gender Equity Studies, in association with the Cyber Crime Unit, IFSO, Delhi Police, organised a Cyber Crime Awareness Session on 8 March 2023, 5 PM, via Webex. ACP H S Randhawa addressed the audience and discussed the importance of awareness regarding Cyber Security and Crimes. He discussed various forms of cybercrimes such as cyberbullying and online harassment to impress upon the audience the need to report such crimes immediately. He also discussed facilities such as the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children Portal (CCPWC) which can be used to report cybercrimes in times of need. The session was enlightening and helped to create further awareness amongst the audience regarding this significant topic.



Glimpses from the Session on Cyber Crime Awareness held on 8 March 2023

International Webinar on “Women’s Voices” to commemorate International Women’s Day

The Women’s Development Cell of Janki Devi Memorial College, under the aegis of the Centre for Gender Equity Studies, organised an international webinar “Women’s Voices” on 6 March 2023 at 6 PM via Zoom on the occasion of International Women’s Day. The panel for the webinar consisted of Dr. Anita Nahal, Prof. Malashri Lal and Prof. Swati Pal who were in conversation with Dr. Namita Sethi. The conversation revolved around various aspects related to gender equity in contemporary times. The panel discussed topics such as digital literacy with respect to women, feminism, the challenges faced by women, the need to commemorate Women’s Day, female leadership within a patriarchal society, to name a few. The panelists discussed these topics by drawing anecdotes from their own experiences. The discussion came to a close with the panelists reading their poetry. The session ended with comments, observations and questions from the audience which led to another spirited discussion.

JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

To Celebrate International Women's Day
**IQAC- CENTRE FOR GENDER-
EQUITY STUDIES**
presents an International Webinar on
WOMEN'S VOICES
PANEL DISCUSSION WITH

PROF. MALASHRI LAL **DR. ANITA NAHAL** **PROF. SWATI PAL**
Moderator: Dr. Namita Sethi

For India:-
Event Time: 6:00 P.M.
Login Time: 5:30 P.M.

6th March 2023
Zoom Meetings

For America:-
Event Time: 7:30 A.M.
Login Time: 7:00 A.M.

Meeting ID: 817 8957 3160
Passcode: 123456

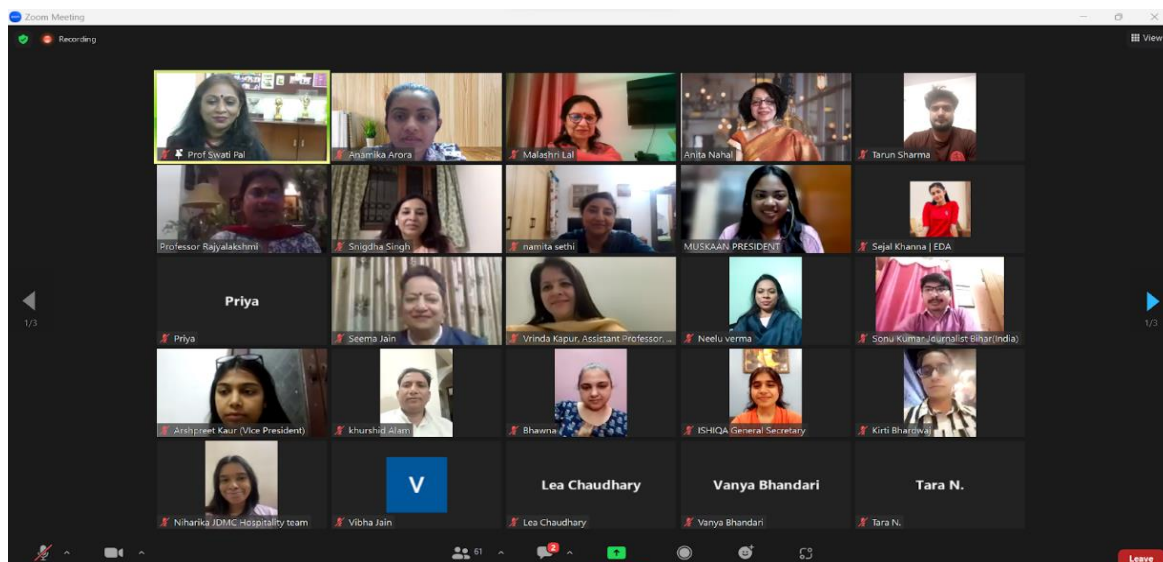
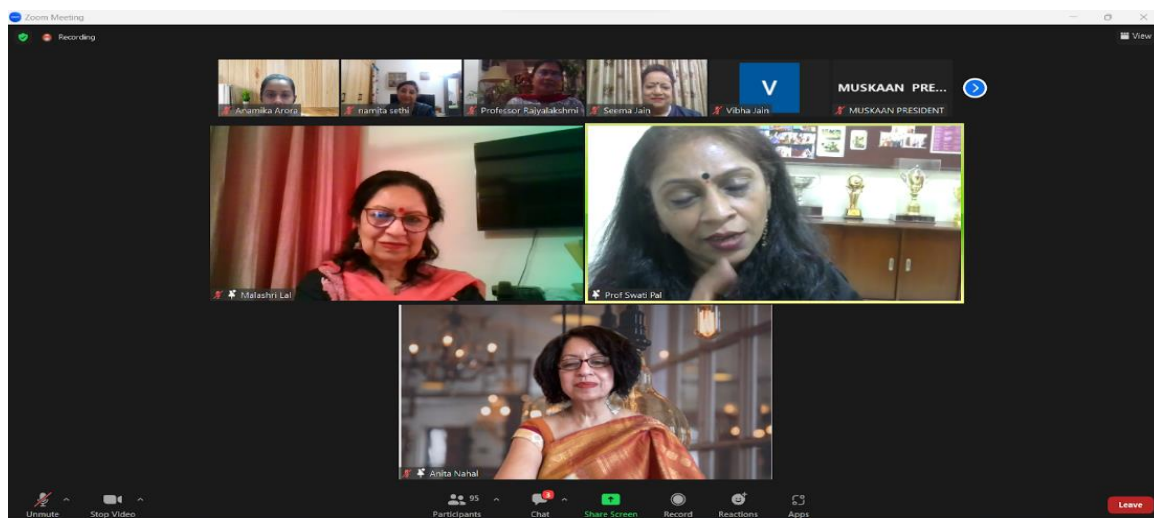
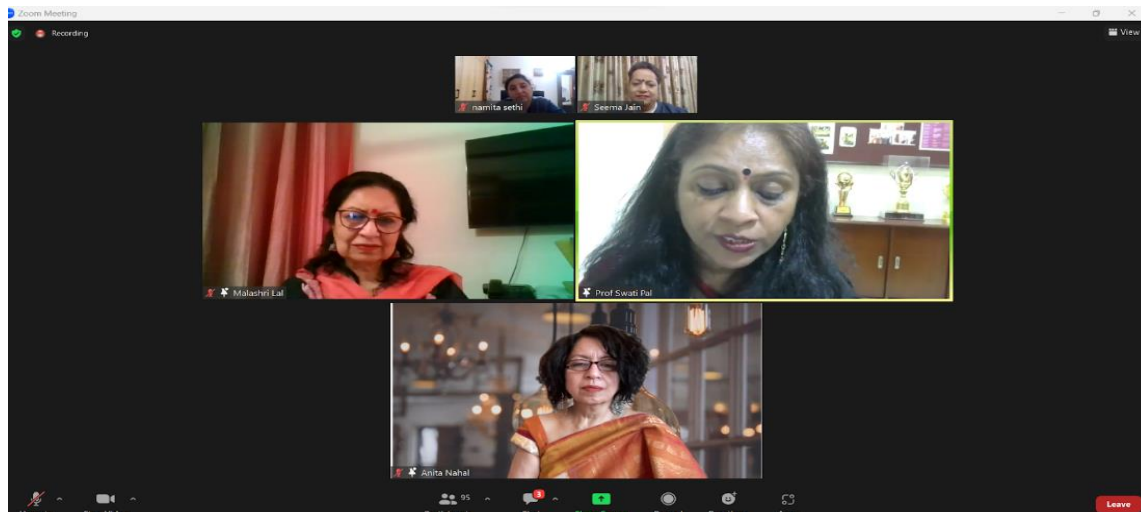
for queries, contact:
@wdc@jdm.du.ac.in
@wdc_jdmc

Muskaan Jain
Arshpreet Kaur
(Student co-ordinators)

Prof. V. Rajyalakshmi
Dr. Namita Sethi
Ms. Vrinda Kapur
Ms. Neelu Verma
Ms. Ruchi Kalita
Mr. Tarun Sharma
(Teacher coordinators)

Prof. Swati Pal
(Principal)

Poster of International Webinar “Women’s Voices” held on 6 March 2023 to Commemorate International Women’s Day



Glimpses from the International Webinar “Women’s Voices” held on 6 March 2023 to Commemorate International Women’s Day

National Seminar on “Empowering Widows”

The Centre for Gender Equity Studies and the Women’s Development Cell of Janki Devi Memorial College held a National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” on 14 October 2022. The Seminar began with an introduction to the topic. This Seminar was one of the activities in the larger research project being conducted by the Centre on the various issues and problems that widows face within society. The audience was given a brief introduction to the other activities that had been conducted by the Centre within the project as preparation for the Seminar. Prof. Sandhya Garg, the Vice-Principal of the College gave the welcome address and gave her views on the predicament of widows within the family and society.

**JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE**
(UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)

IQAC- CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUITY STUDIES
INVITES YOU TO A SEMINAR ON

"EMPOWERING WIDOWS"



SPEAKERS FOR THE SEMINAR:-
Dr. Mohini Giri
Ms. Meera Khanna
Prof. Malashri Lal
Ms. Koral Dasgupta
Dr. Aruna Chakravarti

 **OCTOBER 14, 2022**  **10:30 A.M. ONWARDS**  **SEMINAR ROOM**

Prof. Vasiraju Rajyalakshmi
Dr. Namita Sethi
Ms. Vrinda Kapur
Ms. Neelu verma
Ms. Ruchi Kalita
Mr. Tarun Sharma
(CONVENORS)

Saumya Vig (President)
Ananya Narang (Vice-President)
Meadha Tiwari (General-Secretary)
Arushi Chauhan (Treasurer)
(STUDENTS' UNION)

Prof. Swati Pal
(PRINCIPAL)

Poster for the National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” held on 14 October 2022

SESSION 1: "WIDOW: NOT A VICTIM BUT A SURVIVOR"



Dr. Mohini Giri

(Chairperson, The Guild of Service, Social Worker, Activist, Former Chair, National Commission for Women, Recipient of Padma Bhushan)

Documentary Screening of 'The Last Woman' and a Sound Bite

Ms. Meera Khanna

(Social Activist, Writer, Poet, President, The Guild of Service)

Setting the Context



Prof. Malashri Lal

(Academic, Author, Activist, Secretary General, SANWED Secretariat)

SANWED: The Widow in the Indian Sub-Continent

SESSION 2: "WIDOWS IN LITERATURE & MYTHOLOGY"

Ms. Koral Dasgupta

(Author, Entrepreneur, Professor, Painter)

'Widows in Mythology'



Dr. Aruna Chakravarti

(Ex Principal JDMC, Academic, Creative Writer, Sahitya Academy Award Winning Translator & Novelist)

Introductory talk to be delivered by Dr. Chakravarti, followed by a reading performance by Ms. Aavery Chaurey and musical accompaniment to be provided by Mr. Asim Das.

Poster for the National Seminar on "Empowering Widows" held on 14 October 2022

The first session of the Seminar was titled "Widow: Not a Victim but a Survivor" and the speakers for this session were Dr. Mohini Giri, Ms. Meera Khanna and Prof. Malashri Lal. The Session commenced with a screening of "The Last Woman", a documentary made by The Guild for Service. The screening was followed by a recorded message by Dr. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, The Guild for Service, where she spoke about the ostracisation that widows face and the reform that is required to improve the condition of widows. The next speaker was Ms.

Meera Khanna, President, The Guild for Service. Ms. Khanna also spoke about the problems faced by widows and discussed how the experience of widowhood is a gendered experience wherein a widower has different experiences than a widow due to the difference in gender. She highlighted the oppression of widows in society and also emphasised how the situation has been complicated even further by the pandemic. The final speaker of the first session was Prof. Malashri Lal, General Secretary, SANWED Secretariat, and she presented the report that was submitted to the UN, with data collected from SANWED partners from various countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Prof. Lal demonstrated the condition of widows and the various challenges they face in these countries.



The Screening of “The Last Woman” during the National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” held on 14 October 2022



Dr. Mohini Giri addressing the Audience via a Video Message during the National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” held on 14 October 2022



Speakers, Ms. Meera Khanna, Prof. Malashri Lal and Ms. Koral Dasgupta during the National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” held on 14 October 2022

The second session of the Seminar was titled “Widows in Literature and Mythology” and the first speaker for this session was Ms. Koral Dasgupta, an eminent author and painter. Ms. Dasgupta discussed the representation of widows in Indian mythology and focussed her discussion on three women from Indian mythology, Tara, Mandodari and Kunti. This was followed by a discussion and

dramatic reading of Dr. Aruna Chakravarti's novel *The Inheritors*. Dr. Chakravarti, author, translator, former Principal of JDMC, began by introducing her novel and explaining some culturally specific terms used in her novel. This was followed by a mesmerising dramatic reading of an excerpt from the novel, which focused on the predicament of a young widow, Radharani, by Ms. Avereer Chaurey and the musical accompaniment was provided by Mr. Asim Das.



Mr. Asim Das, Ms. Avereer Chaurey and Dr. Aruna Chakravarti during the National Seminar on “Empowering Widows” held on 14 October 2022

The session came to close with a vote of thanks given by Dr. Namita Sethi, Co-Director of the Centre for Gender Equity Studies where she thanked the speakers and the audience for their presence and making the Seminar a success.

Lecture on “Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India: Reformist and Feminist Perspectives”

The IQAC Centre for Gender Equity Studies, Janki Devi Memorial College, under the series “Empowering Widows”, organised a lecture on “Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India” in collaboration with the History Department, Heritage History Association on 20 September 2022. The lecture was given by Dr. Jyoti Atwal, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and

was held in hybrid-mode in the Committee Room of the college and was also streamed live on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube.

Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, welcomed the speaker and discussed the need to sensitize the youth to this issue, which is a hitherto unexplored topic within society. She also introduced the Centre for Gender Equity Studies' project where they will be examining the conditions of widows at ashrams in Vrindavan. Prof. Pal shared a very personal experience of her mother's widowhood and also spoke about widowers; how it might be difficult for them to express their feelings within a society where men are expected to not show their emotions. The floor was then handed over to Dr. Manisha Sharma, Teacher-in-Charge of Heritage History Association, who gave a brief introduction of Dr. Jyoti Atwal's professional background and her published works.

Dr. Atwal started the lecture with a discussion on the significance of Pandita Ramabai Saraswati's *The High Caste Hindu Woman*. Pandita Ramabai lost her parents, brother and husband within a span of 4 years (1876-1880) and founded Arya Mahila Samaj to promote women's education and prevent child marriage. Throughout *The High Caste Hindu Woman*, Ramabai presents a sharp critique of caste and gender divisions in Hindu society. She also discussed the theories of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in his book, *Marriage of Hindu Widows*, saying that he can be both praised and criticised for his views. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar challenged the Brahminical authorities and proved that widow remarriage is sanctioned by Vedic scriptures, but his work can be criticised on the fact that it had no provision for untouchable women.

Dr. Atwal proceeded to give a detailed account of the plight of widows during colonialism, the banning of sati, the history of the Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, the debates that were held at the time to discuss the status of widows in society and the reaction of conservatives to the laws introduced by the British government. Fifty-one petitions were presented in relation to the Hindu Widows Remarriage Bill, out of which twenty-three petitions signed by 5,191 people were in favour of the principle of the proposed measure and twenty-eight petitions signed by 51,746 people were against it. She also compared the Sati Abolition Act and Widow Remarriage Act, saying the two were different because from the day the Sati Abolition Act was passed, every Hindu, regardless of his own feelings, was compelled to follow it. The Widow Remarriage Act was not a compulsory law, it was merely a permissive law which could have effect only when those who benefit from it decided to avail it for themselves. Dr. Atwal also discussed the limitations of the act, including the debarring of the remarried widow from holding any share in her dead husband's property.

She brought into light a very interesting case of Shankarlal, a man who decided to lead the life of an 'ideal widow' for three years after his wife died and fought for women's right to remarry. He did not sleep on a bed and ate only once a day. He invited scholars and got invitations to various debates on widow remarriage.

She talked about the issue of "Living Sati"; how a widow is not supposed to live like a normal being, has to practice sexual abstinence and has to seclude herself from life and all its pleasures. This can be seen in popular cinema where they are only seen in a temple, or are either blind and shown to be constantly suffering. Younger widows, in particular, are subject to constant suspicion. Dr. Atwal gave examples from certain representations of widows in films to substantiate her point.

Dr. Tara Sheemar, Associate Professor, Department of History, Janki Devi Memorial College, thanked Dr. Atwal, and gave her own insights on the topic. She pointed out how "chastity" is a very big question when it comes to a widow and how it emerges from the notion of a "pativrata-patni". The lecture ended with a question and answer session with the speaker, in which questions were asked by both students and teachers present. Dr. Atwal welcomed the views of the audience, making the session very interactive and enjoyable.

The poster is for a lecture by Dr. Jyoti Atwal. It features a circular portrait of Dr. Atwal on the right side. The text on the left provides details about the event. At the top, it mentions Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, and the IQAC Centre for Gender Equity Studies. The lecture is part of a series called "Empowering Widows" in collaboration with the History Department and the Heritage History Association. The title of the lecture is "Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India: Some Reformist and Feminist Perspectives". The speaker is Dr. Jyoti Atwal, Associate Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The date and time are 20th September at 10:00 am. The location is the Committee Room & Zoom platform. The event will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. At the bottom, it lists the Association in-charge (Dr. Tara Sheemar), Teacher in-charge (Dr. Manisha Sharma), and the Principal (Prof. Swati Pal).

JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

IQAC CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUITY STUDIES
UNDER THE SERIES OF "EMPOWERING WIDOWS"
In collaboration with
HISTORY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Presents a lecture (in hybrid mode) on

**Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood
Question in Colonial India: Some
Reformist and Feminist Perspectives**

SPEAKER
DR. JYOTI ATWAL
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES,
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
NEW DELHI

20th September
10:00 am
**Committee Room &
zoom platform**

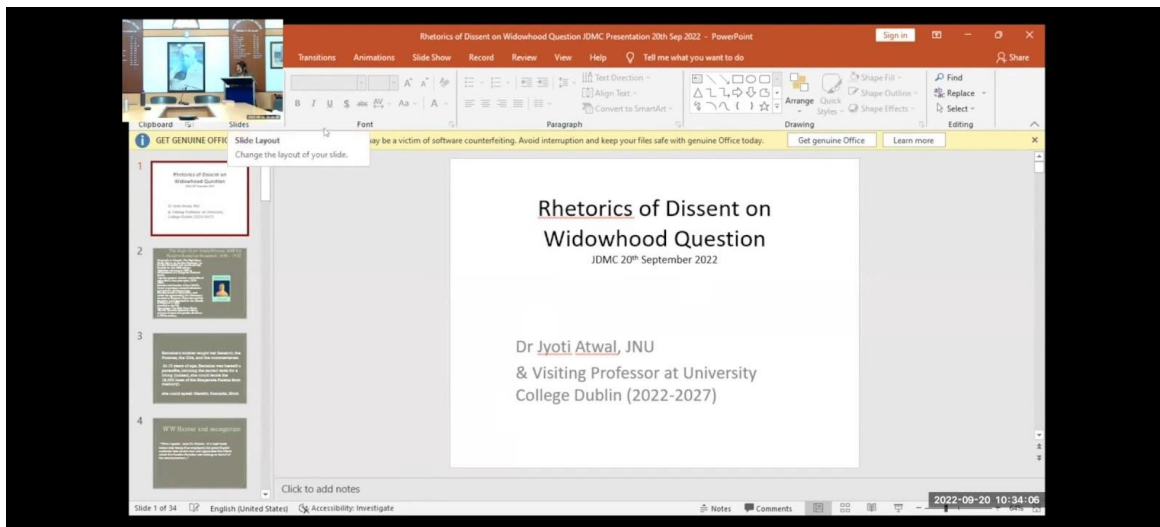
Event will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube

DR. TARA SHEEMAR **DR. MANISHA SHARMA** **PROF. SWATI PAL**
Association in-charge Teacher in-charge Principal

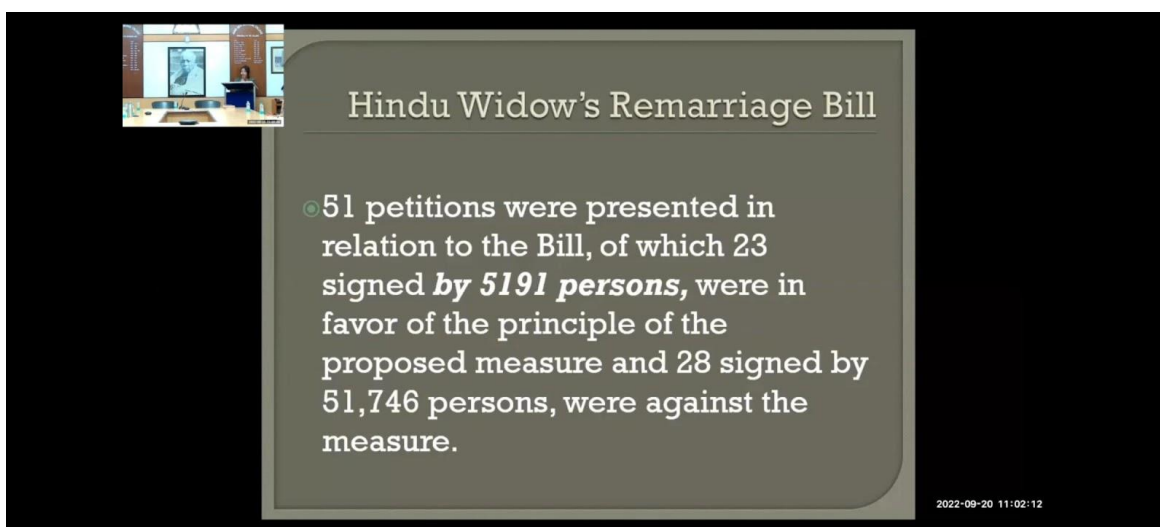
Poster of the Lecture on "Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India" held on 20 September 2022



Dr. Jyoti Atwal addressing the audience during the Lecture on “Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India” held on 20 September 2022



A Glimpse from the online stream of the Lecture on “Rhetorics of Dissent on Widowhood Question in Colonial India” held on 20 September 2022



Seminar on “Widows of Vrindavan”

On 20 September 2022, the Women’s Development Cell and the IQAC Centre for Gender Equity Studies of the college, in collaboration with the Department of Sanskrit organised a seminar with Dr. Deepali Bhanot, former Associate Professor, JDMC, on the topic “Widows of Vrindavan”. The discussion focused on widowhood in the Indian context which constitutes social exclusion and marginalisation of the woman who has lost her husband. The widow, who is already in a precarious position due to adverse socio-economic and cultural ramifications of being a woman within Indian society, is pushed further to the margins. Her only recourse to means of dignified survival is to conform to the norms of Hindu widowhood that entail curtailment of freedom associated with dress code, diet, social relationships and sexual conduct.

Dr. Bhanot shed light on the presence of widows in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. Several of these women end up in the town of Vrindavan, which is called the city of widows due to their ever increasing presence. With no means of livelihood and shelter, widows seek refuge in the ashrams of Vrindavan. She also highlighted the issues of harassment, abuse, cheating and violence that the widows experience before coming to Vrindavan. The fact that Vrindavan is home to a large number of destitute women emerges from established and rapidly changing socio-cultural and economic norms. Widows, old age women and single women are a large section of society that is neglected and denied access to their rights. The widows coming to Vrindavan envision a life of dignity and security, free from the hardships of poverty, violence, forced labour and negligence.

The decision to come to Vrindavan is taken by widows due to adverse economic and familial circumstances. Dr. Bhanot discussed how the rules of celibate widowhood are given in religious texts of Hinduism such as the *Manusmriti*. The oppressive practices associated with widowhood govern a widow’s diet, modes of dressing and sexual and behavioral conduct. Dr. Bhanot highlighted that there is an astonishing lack of public concern for the suffering of widows. For widows, Vrindavan is a nurturing and providing land, where they aim to take their last breath and hopefully be free from suffering of the human form.

The discussion was a real eye opener for the students and gave them various insights into the condition of widows and their status and position in society. The session also gave the students many aspects to explore and think about related to the topic. The seminar was attended by a large number of students and was followed by a lively interaction post the talk.



**JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

IQAC CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUITY STUDIES

Under the series of "EMPOWERING WIDOWS"

in collaboration with

DEPARTMENT OF SANSKRIT

presents a seminar on

WIDOWS OF VRINDAVAN



Dr. Deepali Bhanot

Associate Professor (Retd.)
Janki Devi Memorial College



20 Sept 2022



12 Noon



Committee Room

Contact Information : tanuja@jdm.du.ac.in

Prof. Rajyalakshmi (Director)
Dr. Namita Sethi (Co-Director)
Centre For Gender Equity Studies

Dr. Tanuja Rawal (TIC)
Ms. Jyoti (Association Incharge)
Department of Sanskrit

**PROF. SWATI PAL
PRINCIPAL**

Poster of the Seminar on "Widows of Vrindavan" held on 20 September 2022



Dr. Deepali Bhanot addressing the audience during the Seminar on “Widows of Vrindavan” held on 20 September 2022

Seminar on “Child Early and Forced Marriage: Latest Trends and Learnings”

The Women Development Cell of Janki Devi Memorial College under the aegis of the IQAC Centre for Gender Equity Studies organized a seminar on “Child Marriage” on 19 September 2022 in the Committee Room from 2:00 P.M. onwards. The seminar was attended by 30 students. The speaker for the seminar was Ms. Shipra Jha. Ms. Jha is an advocate for Women's and Children's rights. She works as a gender and development expert with UNICEF in the Delhi regional office. The session was coordinated with “Girls not Brides”, a global partnership to end child marriage.

The session began with a welcome and introductory speech by the President, Muskaan Jain followed by the felicitation of the speaker by the Convenor of WDC and the Director of the Centre for Gender Equity Studies, Dr. Rajyalakshmi.

Ms. Jha then started the session by introducing the topic of Child Marriage. She defined Child Marriage as marrying of the individual when he or she isn't capable of bearing his or her own responsibilities. Then she gave a presentation where she provided the statistics and the data given by UNICEF. It also included the 5.3 SDG goals, i.e. reducing child marriages by 2023. An estimation says that there are 12 million child marriages every year. In India, 1 out of 8 women are married before the age of 18. A major reason for child marriage mentioned by the speaker was the migration that takes place in the states like Tripura, West Bengal and Bihar. The families marry their sons before they go out for work so someone can take care of them while the son is out. Bihar has the highest rate of child marriages, 7 of its districts are amongst the top 10 areas of child marriage.

The speaker also mentioned the impact of Covid-19 on child marriages. Child marriages grew during the pandemic as the schools shut down and also girls were not allowed to go to school. This led to a greater impact on women and families like economic crisis, early and unwanted pregnancies etc.

The students engaged with the speaker and asked poignant questions such as how can the divide between the cultural gaps and the new norms of the society be addressed, to which the speaker answered by saying that every woman must be educated and must be financially independent in order to challenge the societal norms.

The session was highly beneficial and informative for the students as they became aware of various issues such as how the lack of secondary schooling for girls and the lack of initiatives by the government regarding women empowerment has majorly contributed to child marriage. The importance of creating further discussion around these issues was highlighted. Another major aspect that was discussed was the significance of sex education in schools; many schools do not make the necessary sex education available to students and where it is made available, the students are taught separately rather than in a collaborative space. The session came to a close with a vote of thanks given by the President of WDC.



Janki Devi Memorial College
University Of Delhi
IQAC CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUITY STUDIES
Presents
A Seminar On
CHILD MARRIAGE

 **Speaker - Ms. Shipra Jha**
Women's and Children's Rights Advocate



19 September 2022, Monday



2 P.M.



Committee Room

Contact Information : wdc@jdm.du.ac.in

Dr. Rajyalakshmi (Director)
Dr. Namita Sethi (Co-Director)

Ms. Vrinda Kapur (Secretary)
Ms. Neelu Verma (Treasurer)

Muskaan Jain (President)
Arshpreet Kaur (Vice President)

Prof. Swati Pal
Principal

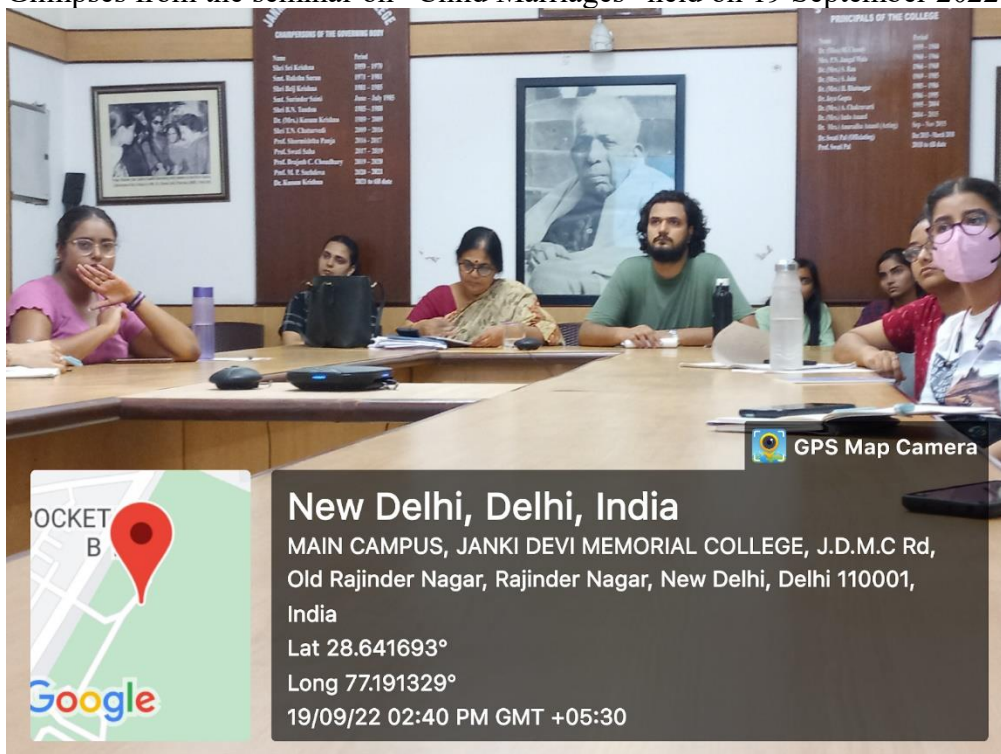
Poster of the seminar on “Child Marriages” held on 19 September 2022



Ms. Shipra Jha addressing the audience during the seminar on “Child Marriages” held on 19 September 2022



Glimpses from the seminar on “Child Marriages” held on 19 September 2022



Glimpses from the seminar on “Child Marriages” held on 19 September 2022