



*Gender Sensitization: Time to Change the Mindset*

**ATMA RAM SANATAN DHARMA COLLEGE**

**Annual Gender Sensitization Report 2017-2018**

Gender sensitization refers to the raising sensitization of gender equality concerns. It helps people in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the realities of both sexes. Gender sensitization make people understand the difference between sex and gender, how gender is socially constructed and the stereotypes around gender roles It helps them determine which assumptions in matters of gender are valid and which are stereotyped. Need of gender sensitization is to create awareness among the working professionals about the importance of gender sensitivity in organization. Without being sensitive to the needs of a particular gender, an individual may refrain from understanding the opposite gender. Gender is Socially Learned behavior, based on social expectation from Men & Women. The women and children are most vulnerable group of this situation. And it's the undue pressure on Boys & Girls to live up to the established norms of Masculinity & femininity. Girls endure unwarranted social control, discrimination & domination. Boys discouraged from being emotional, gentle or fearful. Gender Sensitization gives a clear and precise view about Gender and help to understand that GENDER is not about "Women" it's about "People".

The Women Development Cell was instituted at ARSD College in 2013 with the objective to empower female students through higher education and skill development. The Cell believes in strengthening students by creating awareness about socio-political, cultural and legal perspectives through talks, workshops and symposiums. The Cell energizes students in their fight against cultures of oppression, silence, discrimination and alienation by becoming a forum for exchange of ideas. Through its myriad activities-street plays, creative writing, poster making, debates, movie screenings, group discussions, gender sensitization workshops, self defence training courses- the Cell sensitizes and educated female students in a holistic manner.

A ten day self defence training workshop in collaboration with Crime Against Women Cell, Delhi Police was organized for female student of the College from 28 August 2017. Around 70 students participated in the Workshop. A gender sensitization workshop was held on 6 September 2017. The workshop was addressed by Mr. Anand Kumar Rai, Assistant Commissioner of Police (South) and Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh. Mr. Singh, a media researcher has launched a Ride for Gender Freedom Cycle Yatra in which he has traversed about 2,000 km, visited 80 villages and interacted with more than five lakh people in his journey. Using mediums like theatre and puppetry he is reaching out to the common man on the street to end crimes against women and make the society free of gender discrimination. An alumnus of this college, Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh, motivated the students to work towards a society free of gender bias. ACP Mr. Rai focused on the role of educational institutions and Indian police in curbing the menace of eve-teasing and sexual harassment for the safety and security of women in the city.

International Women's Day was celebrated by WDC in collaboration with Film Appreciation Society and Enactus ARSD Society on 8 March 2018 to celebrate womanhood, their social, political, cultural and economic achievements and their significant contributions to society. The celebrations began with an inaugural talk addressed by Ms. Monika Bhardwaj, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, South West District. She motivated the students to find a 'voice of their own' so that they become torchbearers for a reformed and enlightened society. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Vebhuti Duggal, Assistant Professor, School of Culture and Creative Expression, Ambedkar University, Delhi on "Women, Song, Work: Re/framing

Gender in Hindi Cinema”. Enactus ARSD presented an exhibition of products made by women artisans. The theme of the exhibition was “Kaushal- Hunar se Atmanirbharta. The WDC honoured three women artisans on this occasion. The event culminated with a street play on women empowerment by Rangayan, the Dramatic Society. The celebrations played a significant role in raising awareness amongst students about the official campaign theme of International Women’s day 2018 “# Press for Progress.

A one day programme of self defence and Women safety training for female students of the College in collaboration with Delhi based NGO Street Level Awareness Programme (SLAP) was held in the College on 27 March 2018.

The Cell will continue to spread awareness about the twin causes of women empowerment and women development through such events, and hopes to encourage more people to join the cause throughout the year. There is strength in numbers, and the Women’s Development Cell firmly believes that only by joining forces with everyone can this massive issue of gender inequality be eliminated once and for all.