

Report of the Event

Women Achievers: Creating History, Nourishing Present and Building Future

On 3rd November, 2020, the Departments of Psychology, Philosophy, and Physical Education & Sports Science at Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi in collaboration with IQAC hosted a multidisciplinary workshop on *Women Achievers: Creating History, Nourishing Present and Building Future*.

The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate a remarkable platform of empowering interrogations and discussions. It brought together the women leaders of India and their invaluable contribution to the country. This dynamic workshop witnessed eminent and honourable guests, Dr. Kiran Bedi (Lt. Governor of Puducherry and the first IPS officer of India) and Ms. Shailaja Chandra (the first women chief secretary of Delhi) who were invited to speak on pertinent women topics and share their personal experiences as women leadership in public service. The Principal of Mata Sundri College for Women, Dr. Harpreet Kaur delivered the final lecture of the workshop and illuminated the pivotal role of women in academics.

Other than the college Principal and the invited speakers, the workshop was graced with the presence of the Workshop convenors, Dr. Hemlata Krishnani and Dr. Pooja Wadhawan, Organizing Secretaries, Dr. Sarabjit Kaur and Ms. Charanjeet Kaur and IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Lokesh Gupta. Over 200 participants on Zoom

and more than 100 live participants on YouTube showcased an immense enthusiasm to attend this inspirational workshop.

The workshop kicked off with a welcome address by Dr. Sarabjit Kaur Sran, the organizing secretary of the workshop. The welcome address of the Workshop and enlightened the participants with the significance of women leadership. As the organizing secretary and the session moderator of the workshop, Dr. Sran ensured the comfort level of each speakers and their quality of their maximal active contribution to the event as a whole. This was eventually succeeded by the Chairman of the Governing Body and Padam Shri Awardee S. Vikramjit S. Sahney who warmly welcomed the guest speakers and introduced them, one by one.

The first talk titled, *Good Practices in Government, Reaching out to the Masses*, of the workshop was delivered by Dr. Kiran Bedi, the first IPS officer of India and currently the honourable Lt. Governor of Puducherry. Prior to the talk, the college played a beautiful video of the speaker, a virtual collage of pictures and memories since childhood to the contemporary phase of life. Dr. Bedi began with outlining the crucial function of a civil servant in connecting with the masses in order to maintain law and order in the country. According to the speaker, it is the duty and responsibility of the government representatives to network with the civilians for which, they need to expand their dynamics of accessibility through extensive field work. Further in her talk, the Lt. Governor of Puducherry linked this accessibility to the love and passion of a civil servant which escalates their concern for the society. “Join the civil services for the love of job, for the betterment of society, you need to have a purpose and you must be passionate about it, this way you will be accessible to the masses,” she articulated.

Next, Dr. Bedi substantiated the significance of integrating technology with accessibility and discussed how she and her team are able to reach out to the masses through dedicated WhatsApp groups and other technological innovations. Dr. Kiran Bedi's talk ended with a huge round of applause and left no stone unturned in inspiring the participants. The talk was followed by questions pertaining to the role of a civil servant during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic crisis, her personal experiences as the first woman IPS, the challenges she faced in the male dominated society, and her current initiatives for connecting Raj Niwas with the civilians of Puducherry. The Lt. Governor gracefully answered to all the questions followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Samajbit Sran.

The next talk of the evening was delivered by Ms. Shailaja Chandra, former IAS officer and the first women chief secretary of Delhi. The title of Ms. Chandra's talk was, *Challenges before Woman Administrators*, in which she motivated women and young girls to pursue dynamic careers of their choice. To inspire the listeners of her presentation, Ms. Chandra narrated the story of Shovana Narayan discussing her aspirations, struggles and challenges in life, and how she overcame them to walk on the path of success. "Be ambitious, don't just play safe, try and grab more opportunities," the retired IAS officer asserted. She further stated that "women should not be reluctant to challenging jobs, make balance in personal and professional life and build networks for more accessibility. Ms. Shailaja Chandra's talk ended on an optimistic note of woman's function in charting the trajectory of her own life and the potentially-driven practices of achieving success in life. Her talk mesmerized the students which compelled them to ask questions about her approach of working as a women secretary in Delhi government. Ms. Chandra answered this question with utter politeness and credibility. SDr. Sarbjit Dran offered Ms. Shailaja Chandra a genial vote of thanks at the end of her talk.

The final talk of the evening was delivered by Dr. Harpreet Kaur, the Principal of Mata Sundri College, University of Delhi. The title of her talk was *Women in Academic*. As the title suggests, Dr. Kaur discussed the ways through which students can improve their academic performance and make a wise choice of their career paths. She further compelled the students to create a unique identity of their own in the society and cherish their academic dreams with a dedication to achieve them in the coming future. “Learn more skills, it will always help you in your career. Build passion, confidence and will to do something. Dream with your eyes open and make plans and targets on how you will achieve them. Be open to criticism, healthy criticism improves you eventually. Balance your emotions, your life, your friends and family. Do more research, be more aware about what is happening around you. Most importantly, create your identity,” the Principal concluded. Students appreciated her talk and came up with important questions to which Dr. Kaur responded with friendliness and enthusiasm.

The last talk was followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Sarabjit Kaur Sran culminating in the final acknowledgement of all the invited speakers, the governing body chairman, the college principal, workshop convenors, secretaries, the IAQC coordinator, participating faculties and students. Overall, the workshop unfurled the gateway to knowledge and accomplishment of endeavours. It encouraged the participating audience to pursue optimal career paths and achieve successful milestones in life.