



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Departmental Annual Report - 3

Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

Department: POLITICAL SCIENCE

Year: 2017-18

Department Society and its Office Bearers: AISHWARYA DHAR (Student President)
DEBAHUTI SHARMA (Vice President)

Staff Advisors: DR. PURNIMA ROY

Part B.1

Seminars/conferences/workshops conducted by the Department

January 2017 began with the two day UGC National Seminar on "Language, Ethics and Governance: Decoding Logic, Argumentation and Rhetoric in Indian Politics" with academic deliberations, marked by the presence of Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai as our Keynote Speaker exploring dimensions of Indian Political Thought, a special lecture by Hon'ble Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
-DR. RADHAKRISHNAN PILLAI
TOPIC- Language, Ethics and Governance: Decoding Logic, Argumentation and Rhetoric in Indian Politics

SPECIAL LECTURE
-HON'BLE MINISTER SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
TOPIC- Ethics & Governance in Indian Politics

UGC National Seminar
24th-25th Jan, 2017

Valedictory Address by
- Prof. Yogendra Yadav
Chaired by
-Prof. Ujjwal Singh
Convener
-Dr. Jayashree Pillai

The sessions brought forth new research and enriching discourses on Indian Politics, Nationalism and Governance in an interdisciplinary framework. The workshop on Academic Writing and Logical Thinking witnessed great participation from students across several disciplines and colleges.

National Seminar-cum-Workshop
MIRANDA HOUSE & UGC
"Language, Ethics and Governance: Decoding Logic."



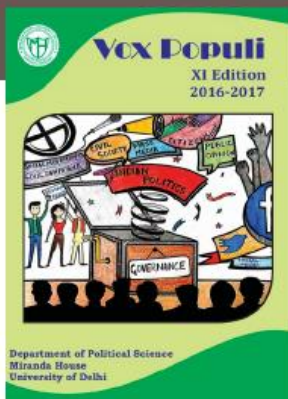
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The Department of Political Science, organised a Special Lecture by Prof. Tulsi Patel on “Violence against Women: Issues around Sex Selective Abortion in India”

SPECIAL ACADEMIC LECTURE -PROF. TULSI PATEL

**TOPIC- Violence
against Women:
Issues around Sex
Selective Abortion
in India**

April 18, 2017



**The Department
Magazine, Vox
Populi (Edition
XI) was also
published in
March 2017.**

COLLABORATIVE EVENT

Guest of Honour- Fawzia Tarannum

Lecturer, Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University.

TOPIC- Consumer Behaviour and Sustainability

The Department of Political Science and TULA- Miranda House Consumer Club organized an interactive session with students in collaboration with TERI University. The event commenced with the official release of SANTULAN, the annual magazine of TULA- the Miranda House Consumer Club. Fawzia Tarannum engaged in a thought-provoking discussion with the students regarding sustainable development, the water crisis and proper water management in India. The students were also shown a rather informative movie clip on Sustainable Water Management Practices which had been made by students of TERI University.

April 21, 2017



Department of Political Science organized a Seminar by the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies on the theme, “Social Exclusion and Discrimination in India”. Dr. Sanghamitra Sheel Acharya, Director, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, gave the inaugural speech. Introducing the topic, she talked about the root of the problem being the rigidity of the four Varnas and the corresponding division of labour.



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SPEAKERS

Dr. Sanghamitra Sheel Acharya
Director, IIDS

Dr. Khalid Khan
Assistant Professor, IIDS

Dr. Rajesh Raushan
Assistant Professor, IIDS

Dr. Mala Mukherjee, Assistant
Professor, IIDS

18 August, 2017



This seminar served the crucial purpose of bringing forth the question of sustainable and inclusive development. This discussion was followed by an Orientation by the Global Youth: A youth-led Foreign Policy Forum wherein Global Youth established its Miranda House Chapter.

SEMINAR: Social Exclusion and Discrimination in India

Dr. Acharya- Introducing the topic, she talked about the root of the problem being the rigidity of the four Varnas and the corresponding division of labour. This, according to her, had led to historical denials of occupational opportunities, which in turn had manifested in disparity in education, income, health and other important parameters of the human condition.

Dr. Khan- He spoke on the topic, "Disparity in higher education". He highlighted three important questions at the outset, "Does expansion decrease disparity?", "Does income decrease disparity?", "Does occupation decrease disparities"? Dr. Khan also touched upon the issue of prioritization and how the declining number of Government owned and aided institutions could prove to be a great obstacle to amelioration of the deprived castes and classes.

Dr. Raushan- He talked on the topic "Deprivation and Exclusion in Health". The poor to worse health outcomes and many barriers in access to, both, preventive and curative health services is yet another indicator of the social exclusion of the SCs and STs and constituted the theme of Dr. Raushan's presentation, wherein he also touched upon the patriarchal nature of social deprivation and explored the relationship between gender, class, caste, economic status and healthcare.

Dr. Mukherjee- She talked primarily about the disparity in employment. She highlighted the fact that very few from the lower classes in India reach the high ranks, especially in positions of researchers at educational institutions and central universities. She, therefore, reiterated that reservation provisions were not synonymous with the taking away of jobs from the general population.



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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017-18

January 2017 began with the two day UGC National Seminar on "Language, Ethics and Governance: Decoding Logic, Argumentation and Rhetoric in Indian Politics" with academic deliberations, marked by the presence of Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai as our Keynote Speaker who explored the multiple dimensions of Indian Political Thought, a special lecture by Hon'ble Minister Smt. NirmalaSitharaman deliberating on the issue of "Ethics & Governance in Indian Politics" and the Valedictory Address by YogendraYadav, Chaired by Prof. Ujjwal Singh. The sessions brought forth new research and enriching discourses on Indian Politics, Nationalism and Governance in an interdisciplinary framework. The workshop on Academic Writing and Logical Thinking witnessed great participation from students across several disciplines and colleges. Dr.Jayashree Pillai was the Convener of this seminar.

The Department Magazine, Vox Populi (Edition XI) was also published in **March 2017**.



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The Department of Political Science, organised a Special Lecture by Prof. Tulsi Patel on “Violence against Women: Issues around Sex Selective Abortion in India” which was held on **April 18, 2017**.

On **April 21, 2017**, the Department of Political Science and TULA- Miranda House Consumer Club organized an interactive session with students in collaboration with TERI University on “Consumer Behaviour and Sustainability”. The event commenced with the official release of SANTULAN, the annual magazine of TULA- the Miranda House Consumer Club. This was followed by the keynote address of the guest of honor, Fawzia Tarannum, Lecturer, Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University. Fawzia Tarannum engaged in a thought-provoking discussion with the students regarding sustainable development, the water crisis and proper water management in India. The students were also shown a rather informative movie clip on Sustainable Water Management Practices which had been made by students of TERI University.

On **17 August, 2017**, Department of Political Science inaugurated its Exhibition on “Freedom Struggle: Told and Untold Stories”. The exhibition was followed by a round-table discussion of students with Dr. Srimanjari, Professor, Department of History, Dr. Namrata Singh Professor, Department of Political Science and Ms. Kusuma Krishna Subha, Professor, Department of Political Science. The discussion delved into the subaltern accounts of the freedom struggle, the role of women in the Indian National Movement, the various regional accounts of the freedom struggle of India and the limitations of modern historiography. The students engaged in a lively discussion about the freedom struggle of India and unveiled the diverse regional narratives of the freedom struggle.

On **18 August, 2017**, Department of Political Science organized a Seminar by the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies on the theme, “Social Exclusion and Discrimination in India”. Dr. Sanghamitra Sheel Acharya, Director, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, gave the inaugural speech. Introducing the topic, she talked about the root of the problem being the rigidity of the four Varnas and the corresponding division of labour. This, according to her, had led to historical denials of occupational opportunities, which in turn had manifested in disparity in education, income, health and other important parameters of the human condition. Thus, pervasive continuance of social hierarchies had made affirmative action essential. Dr. Khalid Khan, Assistant Professor, IIDS, the second speaker of the day, spoke on the topic, “Disparity in higher education”. He highlighted three important questions at the outset, “Does expansion decrease disparity?”, “Does income decrease disparity?”, “Does occupation decrease disparities?” Dr. Khan also touched upon the issue of prioritization and how the declining number of Government owned and aided institutions could prove to be a great obstacle to amelioration of the deprived castes and classes. The third speaker was Dr. Rajesh Raushan, Assistant Professor, IIDS, and he talked on the topic “Deprivation and Exclusion in Health”. The poor to worse health outcomes and many barriers in access to, both, preventive and curative health services is yet another indicator of the social exclusion of the SCs and STs and constituted the theme of Dr. Raushan’s presentation, wherein he also touched upon the patriarchal nature of social deprivation and explored the relationship between gender, class, caste, economic status and healthcare. Dr. Mala Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, IIDS was the fourth and the last speaker of the day, who talked primarily about the disparity in employment. She highlighted the fact that very few from the lower classes in India reach the high ranks, especially in positions of researchers at educational institutions and central universities. She, therefore, reiterated that reservation provisions were not synonymous with the taking away of jobs from the general population. This seminar served the crucial purpose of bringing forth the question of sustainable and inclusive development. This discussion was followed by an Orientation by the Global Youth: A youth-led Foreign Policy Forum wherein Global Youth established its Miranda House Chapter.

The third-year students of B.A (Hons.) Political Science under the guidance of Dr Namrata Singh went on a



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field visit to Gandhi Smriti on **15th September 2017**. The rationale behind visiting Gandhi Smriti was that it resonates with the objective of the discipline elective paper “Colonialism and Nationalism in India” being taught this semester. Despite the contemporary debates on Gandhi’s relevance that gains momentum, he is still revered as the ‘Father of the Nation’. Thus, as quoted by Gandhi himself, "*my life is my message.*" It becomes important for students of the modern era to take a trip back to memory lane to understand the narrative of a bygone era to develop a better understanding. Overall, the trip had a profound impact on the students who through the well-arranged museum show engaged in the life and teachings of Gandhi. Students got to know not only about his role in the national freedom movement but also the role of others who took part with him.

On **15th September 2017**, the Department of Political Science inaugurated the *Special Lecture Series* and organized its first Special Lecture by Professor Asha Sarangi, Centre of Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU; chaired by Professor Manidipa Sen, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU. The theme of this lecture was “Words as Deeds: Gandhi’s Politics on the Language Question.” Professor Asha Sarangi commenced the lecture by saying that “Concern of language is the one which binds us together!” She spoke about Gandhi’s belief in dialogue and communication, which he considered as the two pillars of the plural society of India. According to Gandhi, language is the precursor to a cultural community and cultural identity since it is inherited. Professor Sarangi talked in depth about Gandhi’s vision of creating a single national language from an amalgamation of all the culturally inherited languages of India which would have been known as “Hindustani”. Professor Asha Sarangi’s lecture helped the students comprehend how Gandhi used language as a medium and as a cultural ideology to mobilize Indians against the hegemonic Britishers.

<p>SPEAKER -PROF. ASHA SARANGI CENTRE OF POLITICAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, JNU</p> <p>CHAired BY -PROF. ASHA SARANGI, CENTRE OF POLITICAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, JNU</p>	<p>SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES TOPIC-Words as Deeds: Gandhi’s Politics on the Language Question</p> <p>Professor Sarangi commenced the lecture by saying that “Concern of language is the one which binds us together!” She spoke about Gandhi’s belief in dialogue and communication, which he considered as the two pillars of the plural society of India. According to Gandhi, language is the precursor to a cultural community and cultural identity since it is inherited. Professor Sarangi talked in depth about Gandhi’s vision of creating a single national language from an amalgamation of all the culturally inherited languages of India which would have been known as “Hindustani”</p> <p>September 15, 2017</p>
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To commemorate 75th year of Quit India Movement and 70 years of India’s independence, Miranda House organised the programme titled ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi: Yeh India Ka Time Hai’ on **26th September 2017**. This is a joint initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, facilitated by NFDC. This programme was facilitated by the Department of Political Science. The programme had a plethora of activities which included a scintillating exhibition titled “Memories,



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Moments and Movements” reflecting the diverse movements which were part of India’s freedom struggle as well as present day policies and programmes. The highlight of the programme was the brainstorming session ‘Manthan’ on the theme ‘Policy Paradigm: Rhetoric and Reality’. The session was presided over by Dr. Pratibha Jolly, Principal, Miranda House, who started the session with her welcome speech emphasising the resolution to achieve the goals of leadership for young women. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog. Mr. Rajesh Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, talked about the importance of skill building among youth through mainstreaming of skill development courses in the main educational curriculum in order to enhance their employability. Mr. Pankaj Sharma, Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, elaborated upon the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the challenges and bottlenecks in fund flow and fund utilization under schemes and programmes of the Government. The speakers of the technical session included Dr. Chandrachur Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science of Hindu College who elaborated on the ‘Ambassadorial Cosmopolitanism: Bridging the Theory Action Gap on Climate Change’. Dr. Meeta Kumar of Department of Economics of Miranda House presented a sophisticated exposition on the rhetoric of development. The day also saw a brilliant role play exercise titled Makers of Modern India where sung and unsung heroes who have contributed to India’s making were ably represented by the students. The day ended with the Rockband Performance by ‘Delhi Indie Project’ where they sang soulful numbers and patriotic songs which energised the young crowd and they sang and danced along with them.

On **27 October, 2017**, Department of Political Science organized a Special Lecture under its *Special Lecture Series* by Dr. Thomas Ward, University of Bridgeport, USA on the topic “India’s Emerging Role as a Global Actor”. Dr. Ward began with the pertinent projection that India would be the most populous nation in the world by 2022 and attributed its growing importance to its substantial GDP based on purchasing power parity along with its slowly augmenting nominal GDP. Dr. Ward also highlighted the aspect of moral leverage of India’s soft power by giving the example of the influence of Gandhi on subsequent leaders in other nations. He emphasized that thoughtful leadership and civil society would be the key actors in effecting policy changes in India. Dr. Ward also stressed that political pluralism was imperative in India’s social context because of the presence of diverse and competing social groups like, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Congress, Bhartiya Janata Party etc. He underscored Tocqueville’s prediction of the prominent role of United States and Soviet Union in shaping the dynamics of global power. A change in military hegemony from USA to China, along with territorial disputes such as the Doklam Standoff were also discussed. The lecture concluded with a highly interactive and lively exchange between the speaker and the audience.

A special lecture was organised as part of *Special Lecture Series* by Prof. Ashok Acharya on the title "Equalising Opportunities: Challenges and Prospects". The lecture was held on **October 30, 2017**, and was coordinated by Dr. Skylab Sahu. Prof. Ashok Acharya in this lecture emphasized the theoretical grounds of equality and affirmative action and delved into the hiccups of their practical application. He spoke at large about the challenges to reservation policies in India and the future prospects. The lecture followed an evocative discussion between the students and the professors about what it means to be truly equal and how to practice equality in our daily lives.

The Vigilance Awareness Week was celebrated on **2nd November 2017** in Miranda House and this was anchored by the Department of Political Science. The event started with the Program Coordinator Dr. Jayashree Pillai’s address to the audience where she urged them to stand up against corruption for a better India. Thereafter, the Principal, Dr. Pratibha Jolly administered the ‘Integrity Pledge’, where the students vowed to work together to eradicate corruption, by performing all tasks in an honest and transparent manner, acting in public interest and exhibiting integrity in personal behavior, by reporting all incidents to the



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appropriate agency. The pledge was followed by a Flash Mob that assembled to take forward the cause of vigilance and accountability through catchy slogans, urging people to make India corruption free. Mr. Sandeep Sehgal, GM, Vigilance was the first speaker of the day. Mr. Sandeep Sehgal enumerated various strategies to eradicate corruption and urged the students, as torch bearers of the nation, to take the cause forward through awareness drives. He also cited examples of transparency and adaptive strategies in organizations that have pioneered the cause of ethical governance. He was followed by the Chief Guest, Ms. Sonali Singh, Additional Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission who emphasized the key role played by the CVC as the apex Indian governmental body to address corruption. She also talked about the various procedures and safeguards in the process of filing a complaint with the CVC. Further, a Quiz Competition, Elocution Competition and Nukkad–Natak were held in which many students participated.

The Department of Political Science of Miranda House hosted a five day workshop on “Legal Literacy and Your Laws, Your Rights” from **November 6th, 2017 to November 10th, 2017**. The workshop aimed to acquaint students with the legal mechanisms necessary to have a better understanding of the redressal systems available and equip themselves with the legal know-how. The second speaker for the day was Shri. Naveen Gupta, Officer of the Delhi Judicial Service and Additional Secretary to the Delhi State Legal Services Authority. He touched upon the topics of criminal justice administration and the ground realities and loopholes in applying IPC provisions to real-time situations. The second day saw Ms. Anu Narula, a Supreme Court Advocate who spoke extensively about gender laws and issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and the concept of marital rape. The third day was graced by Ms. Geetanjali Goel, Officer of Delhi higher judicial service and Special Secretary, Delhi State Legal Services Authority. She addressed the gathering about caste, tribe and laws. The fourth day had Mr. Abhishek Bagaria, Public Prosecutor at the National Investigation Agency, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He spoke about laws related to cybercrimes, anti-terrorist laws and its implications on human rights and security. Advocate Sanjeev Jha was the second speaker for the day and spoke about laws related to tenancy and contractual property where he deemed a contract to be anything logical which can be put down on paper. The last day had Shri. KB Rai as the speaker. He is presently working as a Consultant in New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC). He retired as Deputy Director, Administrative Reforms Department, Government of NCT of Delhi. He spoke extensively about the laws around filing an RTI and also about consumer rights in brief. The five day workshop culminated on November 10, 2017 and was attended by scores of students who deemed it to have been both informative and enriching.

On **8 November, 2017**, the Department of Political Science facilitated Miranda House in organizing the visit of Professor Peter Mathieson, the 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. Professor Mathieson addressed the students on the topic “Shaping the Future: The Role of Global Universities in supporting the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals”. He spoke primarily about the Goals 4 and 5 of the SDGs specifically i.e., Quality Education and Gender Equality respectively. He unveiled shocking statistics about employment rates of women in top universities across the world. He also spoke about the need for more courses related to women and their historical struggles. Professor Mathieson, in this interactive session, poignantly exhibited his commitment towards equalizing opportunities for women.

On **22 January, 2017**, Department of Political Science organized an interactive session with Ms. Robin Gorna on “The Right to Decide: When she decides, the world is better, safer and stronger”. Ms. Robin Gorna is the Co-Lead of the Support Unit for the 40,000 strong SheDecides Movement. She is also the Chair of the Women’s Network at St. John’s College, University of Oxford. In her talk, Ms. Robin Gorna highlighted the plight of women who do not get the right to decide about their own bodies. Emphasizing on the personal and the political, she informed the audience about her She Decides Movement which stands to support the



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fundamental rights of girls and women to decide freely and for themselves about their sexual lives, including whether, when, with whom and how many children they have. The idea of autonomy, access to healthcare and contraception and the role of youth were elaborately discussed. The talk followed a heartwarming and enlightening discussion with the students about the right to decide for young girls.

