



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Departmental Annual Report - 3

Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

Department: Sociology

Year: 2016-2017

Department Society and its Office Bearers:

President: Punam Murmu

Vice- President: Divya Jain

Treasurer: Vertika Jain

General Secretary: Ahana Roy

Staff Advisors:

Society Coordinator

Dr. Reema Bhatia



Part B.1

Seminars/conferences/workshops conducted by the Department



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Name of the workshop/ seminar/conference	Number of Participants	Date From – To	Evidence to the Activity
Democracy, Citizenship and its Impact on the State of India	90	15th September, 2017	<p>YEARLY EVENTS</p> <p>REFLECTIONS- DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP AND ITS IMPACT ON THE STATE OF INDIA</p>  <p>The Annual Lecture Series '16, organized by the Dept. of Sociology, Miranda House, commenced with a lecture on 'Democracy, Citizenship and its Impact on the State of India' by Prof. Nandini Sundar, from DSE, Prof. Sundar, a Ph.D. of the Columbia University, New York, has a diverse experience in the academic field. She has several publications on various subjects. The chief petitioner in the case of Nandini Sundar vs. the State of Christchurch, Prof. Sundar has won accolades for her excellent academic credentials as well as her humanitarian work.</p> <p>Prof. Sundar introduced her lecture with the definition of Citizenship. She agreed to the understanding of Citizenship as a sense of belongingness to the nation and community, and then drew upon T.H. Marshall's theory of Social Citizenship, wherein Marshall highlights the duties of the State towards its citizens, in securing civil, political and social rights. There are certain rights of the citizens that the state, under whatever circumstances, cannot deny. Here, she also touched upon the social contract theory which argues that state exists because we allow it to exist i.e. the source of state authority is not divine, but earthly and from beneath. She also mentioned the Marxist theory of citizenship which considers rights associated with citizenship to have arisen from class struggle. Prof. Sundar elaborated on modern Europe as an example of mass welfare citizenship.</p> <p>She drew attention to the Indian state and its idea of citizenship. A recently independent nation, urbanization has led to development and this has given rise to small scale, personalized and informal networks in modern industrialized urban India. Indian economy, she explains, is a late knowledge economy, with an outburst of IT knowledge, but lack of developmental skills in other areas. She also mentions that India, according to her is much more than just an investment opportunity. It has several indigenous industries which must be brought on global platform. Here she refers to primitive accumulation (Marxian theory) and the Japanese method of just-in-time production, to avoid inventory piling.</p> <p>From here Prof. Sundar shifted the discussion to the meaning of nationalism and citizenship in the Indian democracy. She spoke about the interplay of regional, often parochial identities which frequently seem to pose threat to the national identity, but in actuality they are not challenges. They should rather be seen as alternative discourses to a very dominant and restrictive idea of national identity. She condemned state violence against the marginalized sections. The media should be more neutral and less under state control, she argued. Localization of media, a direct result of capitalist politics, has had both advantages and disadvantages.</p>
Labour and Gender	90	29 September 2016	<p>REFLECTIONS- LABOUR AND GENDER</p> <p>The Sociology department of Miranda House organised a lecture by Dr. Ellina Samantroy on 29th September, 2016 as a part of the annual lecture series, 'Reflections'. Dr. Samantroy is a member of the faculty at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida. She is also the coordinator of Centre for Gender and Labour at VVGNLI.</p> <p>The topic for the lecture was "Labour and Gender" and focused on gender inequality in the world of work in India, various international perspectives on women's work, the invisibility of women's work in statistical sources and understanding gender dimensions in labour statistics. Dr. Samantroy also discussed the relevance of gender statistics in addressing concerns related to women's work in India, as well as the subject of time use surveys and the impact that the statistics generated from these surveys can have on the advancement of gender equality around the world. She highlighted the importance of protecting the well-being of workers.</p>  <p>In her lecture, she also raised concerns about the problem of declining female labour force in India and the possible reasons for it. She explained that a number of women back out when they reach the prime working age, which is often the post marital age due to poor family and work balance. Many women may also drop out to take care of their siblings or other children in the house. With the coming in of NREGA, the household level of income has increased which has led to more women staying at home. The overall decline in short term and long term employment options have also resulted in this decline. The part time jobs are not protected by social security provisions. Even the maternity benefits are not extended to contractual labour. The women are also bound by various social and cultural constraints. The lack of upward mobility in jobs, state sponsored care schemes, social security, education of the children of these workers and arrangement of transportation, the absence of a parallel relationship between education and labour and the existence of occupational ghettoisation based on gender can have a major impact on the well-being of these workers.</p> <p>Statistical invisibility of women workers in national markets is also problematic as these statistics give us a partial and distorted picture of the reality. While looking at these workers it is imperative to look at their social reality to develop the social situation of the workers and then develop diverse point of views. There is a need to make visible the</p>



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Sociology of Science: Emerging Frontiers	87	6 February 2017	<p>SPECIAL LECTURE ON 'SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE: EMERGING FRONTIERS'</p>  <p>The Department of Sociology, Miranda House organized a special lecture on the 'Sociology of Science: Emerging Frontiers', on 6th of February, 2017. The lecture was conducted by Dr. Madhav Govind, who is an Associate Professor at the Center of Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He also holds the post of Dean of Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Trained as a sociologist from his early career, he has specialized in the field of Sociology of Science and Technology, and has been teaching and doing research in this field as well. He also published works related to the area of Science and Technology, and Scientific Knowledge.</p> <p>The lecture presented by Dr. Govind focused on the emergence of the Sociology of Science, its major studies and approaches, and the contributions made by Robert K. Merton. As rightly said by him, science, being a major dynamic force in society, has not been a focus of study for sociologists. It was never thought that science could be amenable to sociological analysis. Sociology of Science emerged as a sub-branch of Sociology of Knowledge. Some of the key works on the Sociology of Science include the 'Science of Cross Road' by H. J. Bukharin and 'Sociological and Economic Roots of Newton's Principia' by Boris Hessen. These works have further influenced other thinkers to study the scope of Sociology of Science. Dr. Govind highlighted on the various aspects which broadly illustrate the emergence of sociology of Science. He elaborated on the kinds of literature- interactional and institutional. He also spoke about the relationship of scientists and the society, and how they contribute to the social/cultural capital in the development of knowledge.</p> <p>Before concluding his lecture, Dr. Govind also spoke about Robert K. Merton, an American sociologist, who is known to be the founding father of Sociology of Science. He raised important question regarding the common sense and self, and the relationship between religion and science in his dissertations, and has made significant contributions to this field of Sociology.</p>
Ethnographia	60	9-11, 28 February and 1 March 2017	



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			 <p>ETHNOGRAPHIA</p>  <p>A picture is worth a thousand words, and a film is worth several more. Since visual anthropology is an inherent part of sociological research, a workshop on ethnographic filmmaking was organised to help students learn the basics of filmmaking. The workshop focused on various aspects of film making like conceptualising the 'story', shooting and editing films. Different kinds of shots, angles, editing and filming techniques and setups were also discussed through films and documentaries.</p> <p>As a part of the workshop the students watched and analysed films from a technical perspective. In order to learn the practical aspects, students also made films of 1 minute, 3 minutes, and 5-8 minutes each. Their films were analysed from all aspects of film making- the visual, the technical and the creative.</p> <p>The reports of these films can be found with the creators and the student research compendium published by the department.</p> 
Wired: Decoding Technology, Encoding Society Panel Discussion - 14 Feb Talk Session - 15 Feb	70 68	14-15 February 2017	

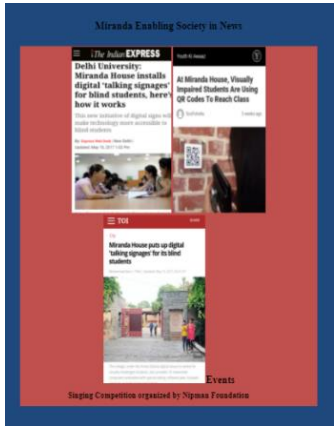
Part B.2

Extension Activities organized



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Name of the activity	Organising unit/ agency/ collaborating agency	Name of the scheme	Year of the activity	Evidence
Samdhristi: Sensitization Workshop for Sighted and Non-Sighted People	Enabling Society, Miranda House	Equal Opportunity and Accessibility	2017	
Installed QR Codes in the College	Enabling Society, Miranda House	Installation of QR Codes	2017	<p>How Miranda House, DU Is Using Technology to Make Navigation for Its Blind Students Easier</p> <p>With the new batch set to begin their academic session in Delhi University, visually impaired students of Miranda House will find it easy to navigate their way around campus using the recently installed digital talking signages for the college's enabling unit.</p> <p>Accessibility has the potential to bridge the gap between the able and the disabled citizens of our country. Inclusive and accessible environments can be created for persons with disabilities by using a 'navigating the planning' approach, keeping access for all in mind, while creating shared spaces.</p> <p>In today's day and age of technological advancements, there are various tools and resources available to make it easier for people with disabilities to navigate their way around campus.</p> <p>With access to a QR code, it is easier to create a new path for the disabled, providing equal opportunities in terms of education and employment and also making it easier to navigate the disabled population of India.</p> <p>When it comes to providing persons with blindness and visual impairments with educational institutions, the government has made a percentage of seats for the disabled population. But more than just an educational institution, it is essential to ensure that the disabled population has access to all services. The entire educational experience, including their education, their jobs, training and the environment, depending on the ease of mobility within the college or campus, is what makes it inclusive or not.</p> <p>Amongst some of the colleges that have realized the need to make disabled students independent, Miranda House, Delhi University has gone the extra mile in ensuring that visually impaired students can independently navigate through the campus.</p> <p>With college beginning their new academic session, visually impaired students at Miranda House will have the benefit of navigating their way through the campus.</p> <p>Their enabling unit, Lakshita took the initiative of making the campus disabled friendly by installing digital talking signages in important locations often frequented by students.</p>