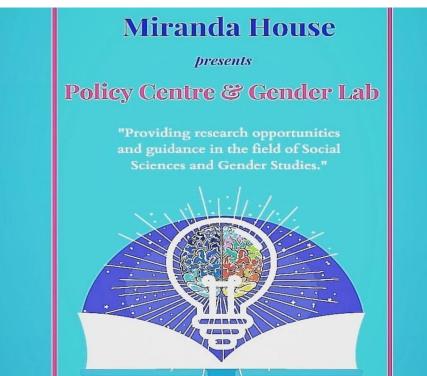




# POLICY CENTER AND GENDER LAB



Policy Centre & Gender Lab (PCGL hereafter) at Miranda House is mandated to operate with the vision of creating a platform for budding researchers at undergraduate level to ideate, incubate and innovate. PCGL is a research platform for those who intend to explore the reasons behind societal problems and providing effective and methodical solutions, which in turn helps policy makers in evolving strategies for the alleviation of society. Committed towards the idea of creating research centric atmosphere at undergraduate level, PCGL was formally inaugurated by Dr. Jill Steans, Senior Lecturer, POLSIS, University of Birmingham, UK on 4 February 2020 and established under the patronship of Prof Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal Miranda House and Convenor Dr Hena Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science Miranda House. PCGL has been receiving tremendous support from the faculty and students of Department of Political Science. Dr Namrata Singh, Associate Professor and Ms Shruti Sharma Sethi, Assistant Professor have been the pioneering members of this research lab. Ms Harshita Srivastav was the founder student president and Ms Mahasweta Sarma is the current student president of PCGL. Garnering support from international/ national scholars /academicians as well as government sectors/NGOs, PCGL is committed of providing research opportunities to the students in the sphere of gender studies, social sciences and policy shape-up.

# Founding Members of PCGL



Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda Patron





Dr. Namrata Singh

Prof. (Dr) Bijayalaxmi Nanda (Principal)	Patron
Dr. Hena Singh	Convener cum coordinator
Dr. Namrata Singh	Co- coordinator
Ms. Shruti Sharma Sethi	Member
Ms. Sapna Kumari	Member

## **OBJECTIVES OF PCGL**

- Providing an overarching structure to research activities in the sphere of Gender Studies and Policy Formulations.
- Exploring the realm of research at multifarious levels.
- Providing education and training in research and academic skills.
- Promoting interdisciplinary analysis.
- Opportunities to decode gender myths and taboos at gender lab.

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	AIMS AI	ND OBJECTIVI	es 🦷
activities i	in the sphere of	structure to researd Gender Studies and ial Evils of the societ	
		re the realm of rese ious echelons.	earch at
related ski	lls, especially for	ining in research and undergraduate stude essors and teachers.	
٤	thinking	ote inter-disciplinar to provide a holist esearch model.	
	ng gender oppo arch on contemp	ortunities through porary policies.	
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# PCGL COLLABORATORS

PCGL has collaborated with institutions at international, national as well as regional/local levels.

<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	NATIONAL	<b>REGIONAL/LOCAL</b>
<b>COLLABORATORS</b>	<b>COLLABORATORS</b>	<b>COLLABORATORS</b>
University of	Rama Devi	Dakshina
Birmingham, UK	Women's University	Foundation
University of	Her World India	Stree Shakti
Guelph, Canada		
University of	Action Aid	Respect India
Gothenburg,		
Sweden		

## RESEARCH METHODOLGY MODULE BY PCGL

As a research platform, PCGL is committed to impart training in skills such as *research methodology*. *The topic incorporated under research methodology* has been designed by keeping in mind the academic research needs of students at undergraduate levels. The idea is to inculcate research pursuits among young social scientists by imparting skills in simple and engaging manner. The broader details of the schedules on Research Methodology are provided below:

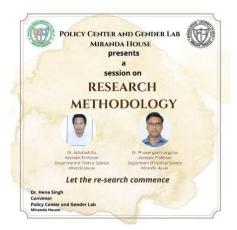
#### Week 1

- Introduction and Welcome: why skills and methods?
- Critical Reading Skills: how to use your research in your Essays
- Critical Thinking: forming your own arguments
   Week 2
- Planning & Structuring an Essay
- Referencing and how to avoid Plagiarism
   Week 3
- Research questions
- Giving a presentation Week 4
- Overview of methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Mixed and Comparative methods
   Week 5
- Statistical analysis: key concepts and measurements
- Interviews and Focus groups
- Ethnography and Observation
- Surveys: opinion polls and questionnaires

### PCGL believes in strengthening the research acumen and awareness levels of student researchers by conducting various sessions with experts and academicians and providing exponential learnings to the students.

A *research methodology session* was also convened by professionals in academic writing for guiding the students. The sessions were attended by budding researchers to hone their skills in academic writing. After these, a session on research methodology was co-chaired by Dr Ashutosh Jha and Dr.

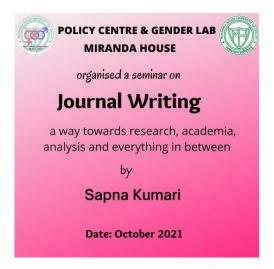
Hong on topics-a) planning and structuring an essay and b) referencing and how to avoid plagiarism.



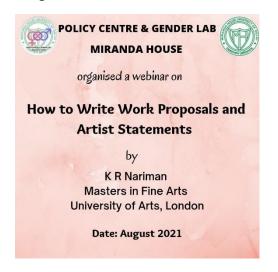
PCGL conducted a *webinar on structure of Research paper writing* with Dr. S N Sridhara, VC of Hindustan University as the speaker. It was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The discussion during the session revolved around the broad topic of research, academia, analysis and everything in between. It helped the students to carry out research projects around the sphere of gender and policy, both in the national and international arena.



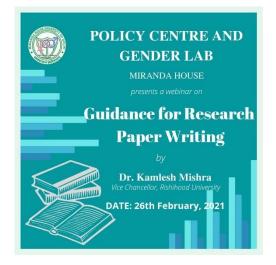
A session was organized on *"journal writing"* by Ms. Sapna Kumari which attracted a huge audience. Post this, the lab extended the opportunity of academic journal writing to its members. The budding researchers are working on academic journals with esteemed alumnae of Miranda house.



In mid-July, a webinar on *"how to write work proposals and artist statements"* by K.R. Nariman (masters in fine arts, University of arts, London) was held. It was a very informative webinar wherein students interacted with the speaker and improved their writing skills



On 26th of February, 2021, a webinar was conducted by PCGL on the topic *"Guidance for Research Paper Writing"*, under the speaker Dr Kamlesh Mishra, vice chancellor of Rishihood University, Haryana.



## <u>RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY PCGL</u>

No one would disagree that our society has conventionally relegated women to the margins of our social fabric, let them down with abuses, physical and mental harassment and closed-door violence. While nationwide lockdowns imposed in the wake of Covid-19 have contributed in increased cases of gender-based violence and sexual harassment, increasing household responsibilities; as also it brings, on the other hand, an opportunity to explore their talents, indulge in selfimprovisation and assert themselves both indoors and outdoors by the disposal of essential services meeting the exigencies of distraught times like these. Moved by the need to acknowledge the experiences of women across diverse communities currently confined within their houses, budding researchers of Policy Center and Gender Lab, Miranda House under the able guidance and supervision of the faculty of PCGL presented a *Research paper on 'Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Women*' in an international webinar which was chaired by Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda.

Researchers brought forward the condition of a work-from-home woman tending to the incessant needs of a demanding household with kids and males staying indoors and at the same time virtually working on the whims of a ruthless boss expecting extra hours considering she is "at home". (Link to read: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/07/impact-of-covid-19-lockdown-on-women.html?m=1</u>)

The Research group under the guidance of PCGL Faculty moved ahead with submitting their **Research proposals on the theme 'Impact of Lockdown on women'.** There were research proposals- Impact of lockdown on sportswomen, migrant women, elderly women, women in SHGs and women in agriculture. Later they received feedback on their research proposals from convenor cum coordinator Dr. Hena Singh and co- coordinator Dr. Namrata Singh.



#### EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN ON SPORTSWOMEN

July 17, 2020

As the world grapples with COVID-19, the plight of a yet another ignored category of women has come to surface in the recent weeks- female sportspersons, who, having been exposed to



COVID-19 AND THE WOMEN OF SELF-HELP GROUPS

July 29, 2020

The COVID 19 pandemic followed by the nationwide lockdown has left a huge impact on women in every field. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social



COVID-19 AND ITS EFFECT ON WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

July 24, 2020

The impacts and implications of the COVID-19 are different for men and women and may create greater inequalities for people who are in vulnerable positions, such as migrants,



#### THE LOCKDOWN AND ELDERLY WOMEN UNDER ITS SHADOW

July 20, 2020

Tough time of COVID-19 is taking a toll on each and everyone, but some are at greater risk than others like elderly women. Their physical sufferings, that is, threat from COVID-19 and

The article gave an insightful knowledge about the plight of pregnant women in covid. The pregnant women felt ignored and forgotten, so to bring this issue to light, PCGL released an article on *'covid-19 and the pregnant woman* 'under the guidance of PCGL faculty.

(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/07/pregnant-women-and-lockdown.html</u>)

Thereafter the young researchers of PCGL under the supervision of PCGL Faculty members, brought into the surface the levels of stress and uncertainty the sports women went through during covid lockdown through the article 'Covid-19 and sports person'.

(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/07/effect-of-lockdown-on-sportswomen.html?m=1</u>)

Women had to go through a lot of mental turmoil due to being stuck inside the four walls of their toxic households and the migrant women faced a lot of economic and social challenges so to draw attention to the same, two articles on *'psychological impacts of lockdown on women*' and another article on *'migrant women and covid-19*' were written by the PCGL team under the able guidance of faculty.

(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/07/psychological-impact-of-lockdown-on.html</u>

https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/07/covid-19-and-its-effecton-women.html)

Women's bodies are highly objectified in Pornography and their existence is stripped down merely to their bodies and so a research article on '**Pornography** *and status of women*' was released to make people aware about the seriousness of the issue under the supervision of convenor of PCGL, Dr. Hena Singh.

(https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2021/01/pornography-andstatus-of-women.html)

Among many important traits associated with the differentiation of gender inequality is religion, which itself must be regarded as a fluid concept with interpretations and practices 'embedded' and thus varying with respect to cultural and historical relations. Analyzing deeper into this aspect, the lab released a research article on *'Women in religion'* under the guidance of PCGL faculty.

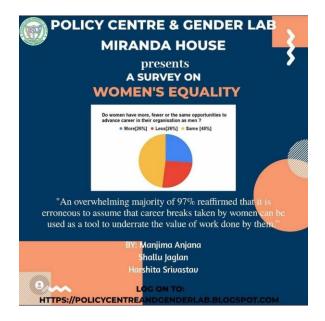
(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/11/women-in-religion.html</u>)

Women are the most affected group during wars, thus PCGL dwelled deeper into such issues, presenting *a* 'research column on Sino-Indian conflict: an *analysis of the contentions.*' The writing of the column was supervised under the PCGL Faculty.

(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/09/sino-indian-</u> <u>conflict-analysis-of.html</u>) When women are poor, their rights are taken away from them more violently and access to resources becomes more difficult, thus PCGL took up this issue and released a research article on '*Impact of poverty on women's health.*' The faculty of PCGL helped the students in articulating the data and reflecting the plight of women in the article.

(Link: <u>https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/10/impact-of-poverty-on-womens-health.html</u>)

PCGL conducted a '*survey on the issue of Women's Equality awareness*' among the society and its members. The day aimed to understand the level of awareness of persistent inequality existing in society. The survey was supervised by the convenor of the Lab, Dr. Hena Singh.



(Link: https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/2020/08/survey-on-womens-equality.html)

## AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

PCGL is that group which always has a keen eye towards spreading awareness towards gender sensitivity.

Miranda House, when the entire country was starting to talk openly about menstrual hygiene with the release of the movie '*Pad Man'*, organised a special screening for its students, teachers and staff on the day of the movie's release.

The screening was done with objective to create awareness about menstrual hygiene and *'Transcending the Taboos'* related to menstruation which is natural and biological for women.

A panel discussion on the theme *"Pathway to women in Politics"* was conducted, which was headed by Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda on 13th of February, 2020. The discussion was followed by a number of topics revolving around the question of women in politics starting from its representation in the floor of government to lack of women voter turnout during the elections.



PCGL believes that there are various means and ways of learning and movies have a lasting impact on our mind. Therefore, an interactive session was organized with Tapsee Pannu, lead actress of the movie Thappad on 25 february,2020. The theme of interaction was '' *Existence with Dignity is equal to empowerment*''. Students attended the session in large numbers.

Later on, 28th February PCGL organized a screening of the movie THAPPAD. The students along with NGO Prayash, MCD Workers and villagers from Gopalpur and Burari as well as the faculty members attended the screening of Thappad movie and discussed the important insights it gave to us about women rights.



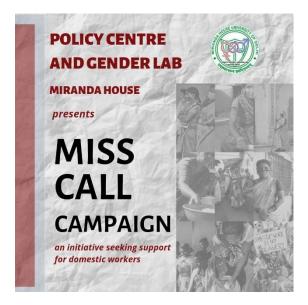
From 1st to 7th July, 2020 PCGL celebrated 'Van Mahotsav' along with the tasks in context of it which were completed by students. The objective of the lab was to bring-forth the relation of nature and nurture, i.e., the fact that the extent to which genetic factors affect behavior depends on the social environment in which people live, work and play.



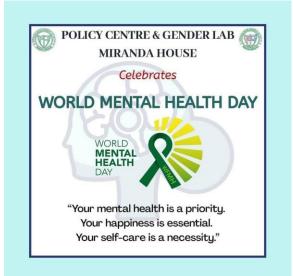


PCGL, with an aim to collect evidence on work and worksite related challenges faced by women workers at the community level and to link these women

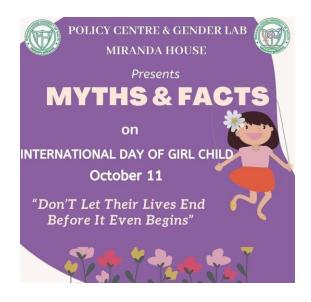
workers with state entitlements and undertake advocacy, organized the *Miss Call Campaign*.



*World Mental Health Day* was celebrated by the Lab in order to instill the awareness among the entire population in general and women population in particular. The importance of Mental Health sanity was conveyed with a poster on social media handles with the theme and objective of the day. Women's mental peace is something which has always been ignored through times and PCGL wants to spread awareness on the same



From October 11th - 14<sup>th</sup>, Policy Centre and Gender Lab, Miranda House presented MYTHS And FACTS on ''*International Day of Girl Child'*' with vibrant, informative posters on the various social media handles of PCGL.



PCGL celebrated the pride month of June, 2021 with discussing *the Mental health issues faced by the Queer Community*. The facts discussed ranged from oppressions, unacceptance, prejudice and discrimination faced by the queer community to the ways through which those oppressions can be challenged.



#### SEMINARS AND WEBINARS-

On the day of inauguration (4th February,2020) a seminar on '*Collaborative Research to meet Global Challenges*' was organized. The speakers were Dr Jill Steans from the University of Birmingham and Dr Chandrachur Singh, Associate Professor, Hindu College, University of Delhi.



The Lab in collaboration with TULA hosted a webinar on "Gender in the Times of Covid-19 and the Impact of Covid-19 on Global Consumer". The speaker of the event was Swati Parashar and her insightful lecture ignited the minds of the young minds of PCGL with knowledge.



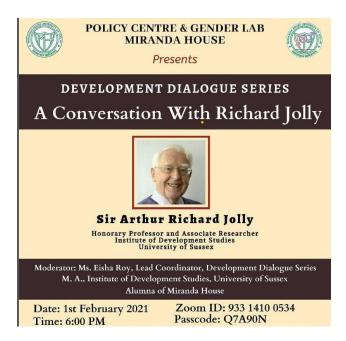
A webinar on the topic "Gendered spaces in lockdown" was another session conducted by Policy Centre and Gender Lab. The speakers of the session were Dr. Sneha Banerjee (Assistant professor, Department of Political Science, School of social sciences, university of Hyderabad) and Ms. Divya Vaishnava (Founder of Bud Foundation and a social work practitioner). The webinar gave the students new insights and ideas for writing research columns around the same topic as discussed in the webinar.



On 19th May, a webinar on Policy Centre & Gender Lab was conducted in collaboration with ActionAid. The discussion of the webinar revolved around *"impact of COVID on Vulnerable communities- women and children"*. The speakers of the event were Ritu Mehra (Juvenile Justice Board member, Delhi) and Smita Khanijow (Synergy lead, women and work). Another webinar on "unleashing your own potential" took place. Here the speaker of the webinar was Ms.Veena Swarup. The lab collaborated with the Delhi Management Association.



A development Dialogue Series was conducted where the students of the Lab had a conversation with Sir Arthur Richard Jolly, honorary professor and Research Associate at the University of Sussex. The event was moderated by Ms.Eisha Roy, Lead Coordinator of the *Development Dialogue Series*.



Policy Centre and Gender Lab organized a very enriching session on the topic *"Partition Through the Eyes of Woman"* which was chaired by Dr Bijayalaxmi Nanda and the spokesperson was Ms. Urvashi Butalia.



Women have been disregarded since time immemorial and this has been very well illustrated by our scriptures and mythological texts. To elaborate and discuss more on this theme, a webinar was organized on *SAFETYAND SITA*. Ms. Madhureeta Anand, Indian independent film director, writer and producer delivered a talk on the same.



An *International seminar* around the topic of *gender and freedom* was organized by PCGL in collaboration with University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi. It was a two-day program which was clubbed with different activities revolving around Research on Gender and freedom.



PCGL organized an international colloquium on 'Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030: Assessing Contemporary Socio-Economic Transformative Policies'. The colloquium was attended by the alumnae scholars who are perusing higher education abroad. It was organized online on 26 November 2021- to 28 November 2021



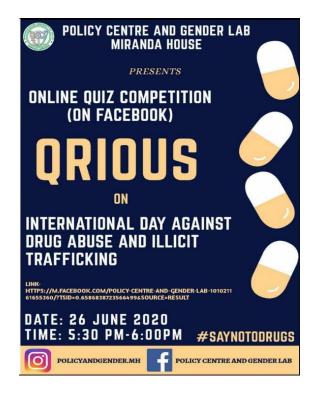
A lively and enlightening webinar on "Virtual courts and Gender" by Ms. Abha Singh was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



## ACTIVITIES UNDER PCGL

#### 1. <u>QUIZ COMPETITIONS</u>

An online quiz "**QURIOUS**" was held through the platform of Facebook on 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020. The lab made a diligent attempt to make people aware of problems related to drug addiction on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to make the people aware on the gendered perspective of human trafficking and the web in which women from marginalized sections often find themselves encircled because of drug abuse.



Nature is a personification of nature that focuses on the life-giving and nurturing aspects of nature by embodying it, in the form of the mother, thus on the occasion of **World Nature Conservation Day**, PCGL highlighted this theme through a quiz on the same.



## 2. <u>DEBATE COMPETITION-</u>

On October 19th, Policy Centre and Gender Lab, Miranda House organized an '**Online Debate Competition**' on the topics: (i) Is the legal system of India biased against men (ii) Do we need quotas for women in legislative bodies.



### 3. SPEAK UP CHALLENGE-

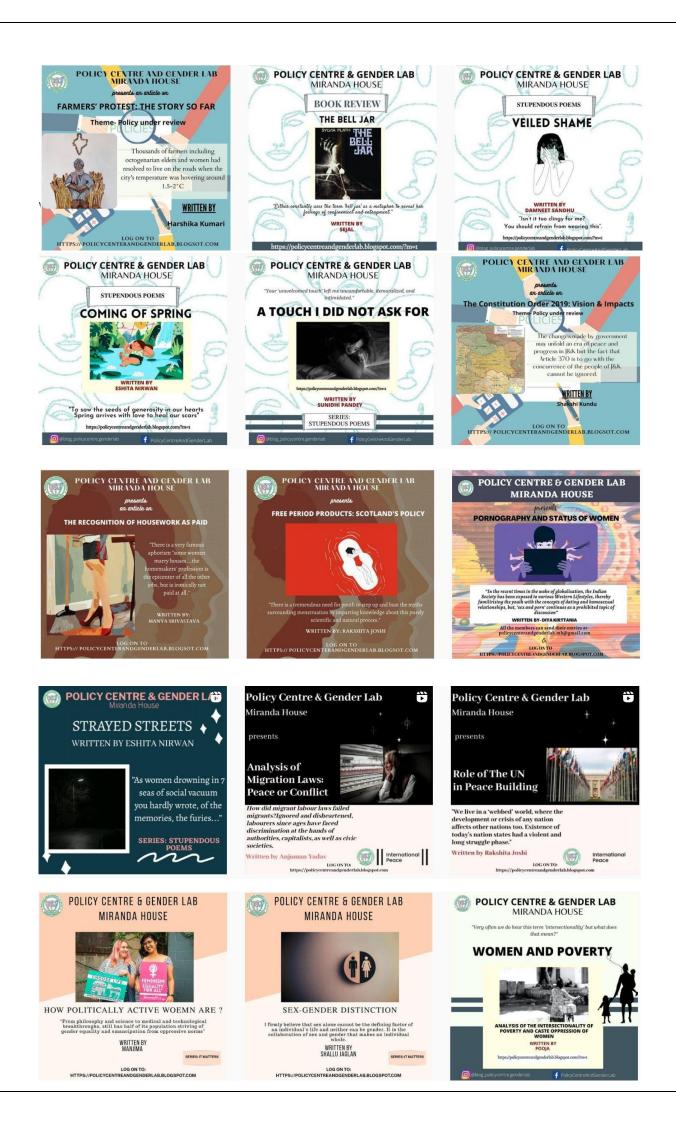
On this very day, Policy Centre & Gender Lab Miranda House announced the exciting **Speak Up Challenge** on the topic "Who is a woman?" which was open for all the DU students to participate. At last, the seventh article from the series: IT MATTERS titled "Sex-Gender distinction" was published on the PCGL blog.



## ENGAGEMENTS OF PCGL-

PCGL started broadening its engagements with launching its own **blog** to give a platform to all the budding young feminists to put forward their views and share with the world which usually remains unsaid. It has given a space to express, understand and learn to a lot of people and it is growing in the best ways possible.





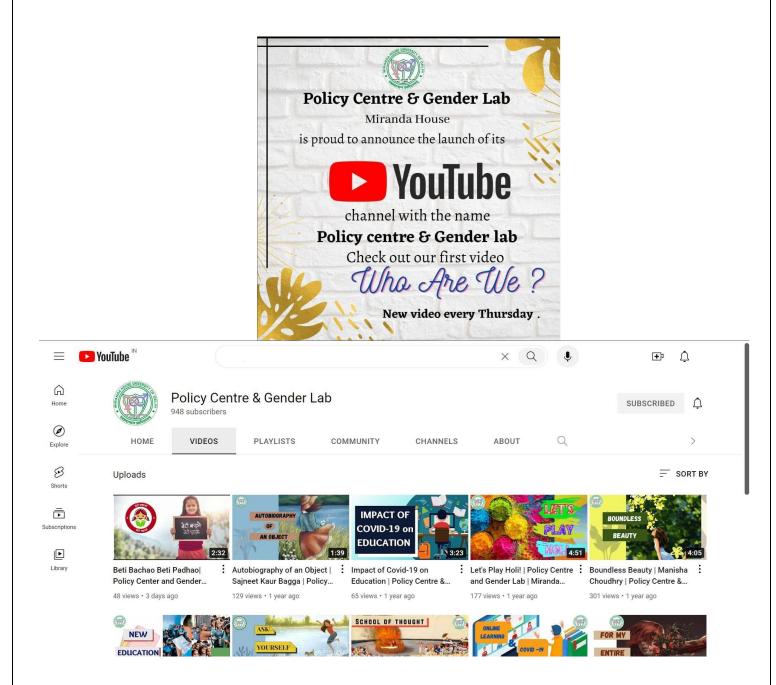


### (Link for Instagram page of Blog:

https://instagram.com/blog\_policycentre.genderlab?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

(Link for Blog page: https://policycentreandgenderlab.blogspot.com/)

The *You tube channel* gave PCGL the reach to the current generation and made learning even more interesting with the videography representation of various important issues going on around the society.



(Link for YouTube channel:

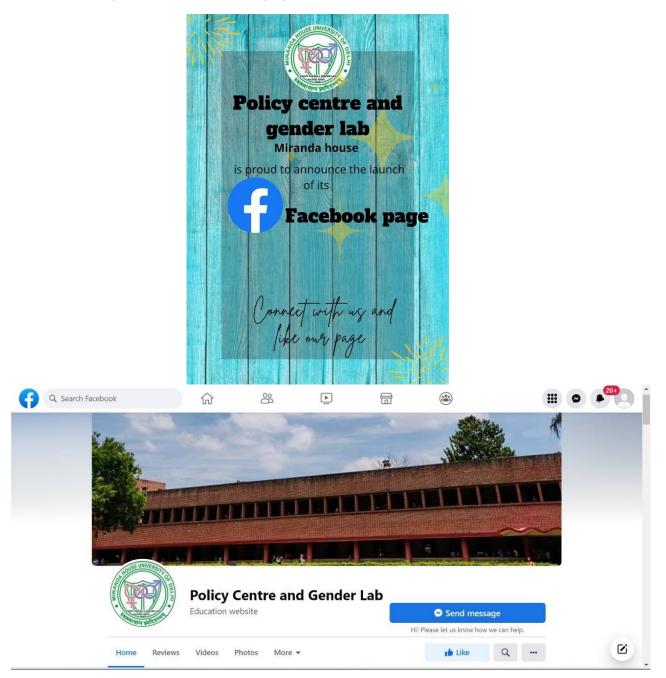
https://youtube.com/channel/UCGf5THvkZpepeA4\_BinLkrA )

In order to connect directly to the younger population, PCGL launched its *Instagram* profile. Here we celebrated each and every important day which reflected the importance of issues related in and around the question of gender

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	POLICY CENTRE & GENDER LAB MIRANDA HOUSE			
	Announces the launch of its			
	Instagram Page			
	"Your words have power to Change the world"			
	Articles, Poems and Stories submissions are invited. Kindly mention your Name, Course, Year and College.			
-	SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES TO:			
policycenterandgenderlab.mh@gmail.com				
Instagram	Q Search 🏠 🧬 🕀 🖉 🎔			
HOUSE UNIVERSITY	policycentre.genderlab Message Follow 💙 …			
	151 posts 360 followers 142 following Policy Centre & Gender Lab MH			
Hard Protect and Andrew	Let the Re-Search commence! youtu.be/4mL89z3uq5o Followed by vaishnavi71218, srush_t, sreelaksh.me + 58 more			
Orientatio Surveys	Our Blog Seminars Inforgraph Research p			
	III POSTS III TAGGED			
POLICY CENTRE & GENDER LAB MIRANDA HOUSE celebrates	Policy CENTRE & GENDER LAB MIRANDA HOUSE presents An Informative Workshop on			

(Link for Instagrampage: <a href="https://instagram.com/policycentre.genderlab?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=">https://instagram.com/policycentre.genderlab?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=</a> )

*Facebook* is the one way you can connect through the most with people from diverse backgrounds and myriad spectrums. Therefore, PCGL launched its Facebook Page to connect and engage more.



(Link to Facebook page: (20+) Policy Centre and Gender Lab | Facebook )

In order to strengthen and make the network of PCGL stronger and bolder the *LinkedIn* account was launched. This account has helped PCGL to connect to various professionals and widen its reach in the professional workspace in order to spread its aim and objectives and make it reach a larger audience.



(Link to LinkedIn page: <u>(91) Policy Centre and Gender Lab: Overview</u> | LinkedIn ) Waking up every day and checking who tweeted what to stay updated is the new normal now so to spread the ideas of PCGL, we expanded our network to *Twitter* as well as the global network of the research platform could only be enhanced through twitter.



(Link to the Twitter account: <u>https://mobile.twitter.com/centrelab</u>)

## <u>PCGL AND HER WORLD'S COLLABORATVE PROGRAMS ON</u> <u>'GENDER A WARENESS AND GENDER SENSITIVITY'</u>

## PCGL has an innovative collaboration with HER WORLD INDIA.

HER WORLD INDIA organizes well-curated Talk Shows, provides critical inputs, proactive and innovative modes of action, and solution-driven ideas. While Gender issues and subjects related to women and girls remain the core theme, serious relevant subjects of collective significance have also been addressed on its platform. It is a platform born with the idea of promoting the cause of gender, Social and contemporary issues all around.

PCGL has organised over fifty talk seminars/webinars in collaboration with HER WORLD INDIA. Ms. Rakhee Bakshee was the moderator for all the sessions. As Miranda House has diversity of students, the webinars/seminars covered a wide and diverse range of themes ranging from Women in sports, Climate change and women, Women negotiating their space for themselves, Pandemic, Sexual harassment of women at workplace, creating livelihoods for women

Various eminent experts, academicians, personalities and practitioners from Ms. Chanu Saikhom Mirabai to Ms. Rakhee Gupta Bhandari (IAS), Mr. Danish Rana (IPS) and many more joined in for these talks and made the sessions very interactive. While they talked to the students, the students also showed keen interest in knowing more and raised queries. The sessions turned out to be rewarding and were highly appreciated by the students and the faculty as well.







#### <u>ACHIEVEMENT</u>

PCGL is proud to announce that a team consisting of three members from PCGL - Medha Nandini and Diya Kirttania, Vaishnavi Singh won the Best Research Paper Award for a paper titled "Reimagining Girl's Education during COVID-19" at the One-Day International Conference on Looking at the Pandemic through Gender Lens. It was organised by the Women Development and Empowerment Cell of Kandivali Education Society's B. K. Shroff College of Arts & M. H. Shroff College of Commerce Kandivali (W), Mumbai, Shivaji University-Maharashtra.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION-

Policy Centre and Gender Lab conducted various activities and competitions to mark its *first anniversary* in 2021. On February 2, the official teaser for the celebration of the first anniversary was released on the YouTube channel.



(Link for the same: <u>https://youtu.be/YO0uV94fUaA</u>)

4th February saw the launch of another video on YouTube titled "*Students*' *Mental Health during Quarantine*" which was held as a competition days ago where participants were required to send in 30- second videos.

#### (Link for the same: <u>https://youtu.be/1P7jBRl0mal</u>)

A number of competitions were organized which includes 30- word story writing competition, an *Online Debate Competition* which was held in the PCGL blog under the topics: "This house believes that household work should not be paid", "This house believes that freedom of speech contributes to a nation's growth", "This house believes that sex work should be legalized", and "This house believes that taxation is a healthy practice". Another activity titled *''What has PCGL made you learn?''* was also conducted where the participants were required to post graphics, videos, or write-ups about what they learnt from the Lab on their social media handles as the Lab believes the young scholars to reciprocate and reflect on what they have learnt.

Policy Centre and Gender Lab provided the students with the *opportunity to submit their write ups* for a book on seventy-five Victories, Voices and Visionaries of women in Pre and Post Independent India. The young minds of the Lab selected the visionaries upon whom they want to work on and submitted insightful articles on the same.



Adding onto all this, recently in the *Job Mela* organized by Central Placement Cell under the backing of the office of Dean Students Welfare, University of Delhi, Policy Centre and Gender Lab collaborated with Her World as a potential job provider for the students. PCGL, as a platform for those who have a thirst for knowledge has been and will continue to extend its hand and will try to extend its base all across Delhi University



Convenor- Dr. Hena Singh

Ideate, Innovate, Incubate at PCGL as we believe in self-learning and introspection

## स्वाध्यायान्मा प्रमदितव्यम्