

Parivartan, the Gender forum Kirori Mal College

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Parivartan, the Gender forum of Kirori Mal College had a productive life this academic calendar despite difficulties of online mode. The academic year started with its usual practice of holding Orientation programme for new students of the college in the month of August. The number of participation, despite the online mode was significant. Subsequently, after the Orientation programme, the regular weekly meetings were held in continuance with the existing structure of work of the forum. Apart from the organisational meetings, the weekly discussion meetings also ensured the participation of student members in a more organised manner and enabled the forum to continue creating a safe space to talk about various matters related to gender. Some of the themes of the weekly discussion meetings were a) Love and politics b) Queerness c) Clothes and gender. Most of the discussions around these themes, interesting and personal for the participants, were not only vibrant but also continued into more than one meeting. Students prepared presentations and led the discussions leading to a full and deep exploration and understanding of these issues.

Parivartan also did a screening of the award winning PSBT film "**Much Ado about Knotting**" (2012), directed by GeetikaNarang and AnandanaKapur, 2012. The film is a collection of stories from society, looking at people and families obsessed with marriage, the standards of their choices, traversing the universe of classifieds, matchmaking bureaus and websites. The discussion on the film and the issues dealt within the film were lead by student members with active participation from the teaching members of the committee as well.

A talk by Dr. Sunalini Kumar - '**Gender, City and Spaces**' was held in November 2021, in the online mode. Dr. Sunalini is an Associate Professor, School of Global Affairs, Ambedkar University, Delhi. The session explored the themes of gender, violence, urban spaces, feminist urbanism, and the construction of spaces in the city.

After a few months of preparation, Parivartan team released its newszine, "**Visangati**" in the month of February, wherein a substantial number of students contributed their writings and other graphic narratives on various issues on gender.

As part of Parivartan's long standing annual tradition, 8th of March International Women's Day was celebrated by organising a few events. This year it was "**Izhaar**", an Open Mic session for students and staff members to share their creative expression through acts, poems, songs, dances and other means and celebrate the history of Women's Day. Students also participated in creating art and write collectively. There were around more than 100 participants throughout the day.

The final event of this annual calendar was the annual fest Nazariya'22 held on 22 and 23 April 2022. There were two talks: a) **History of Women's Movement**, a lecture delivered by Vani Subramanian,

filmmaker, founder - Saheli, feminist organisation and activist. b) **Kink and gender: Sexuality, desire and body from a feminist perspective**, by Jaya Sharma who is a queer feminist author and activist. She is also the founder member of both Nirantar, a Centre for Gender and Education based in New Delhi as well as co-founder of The Kinky Collective. Apart from that film maker and feminist Paromita Vohra joined us for anonline discussion after the screening of her film "**Unlimited Girls**" (2002), which creatively combines fiction and non-fiction to explore the ambiguities and contradictions in women's lives. Mainly filmed as conversations, it explores the double lives that women are forced to live and how they look at feminism and the label "feminist" itself. Parivartan has a very promising team of faculty and student members and hoping that in the post-lockdown phase, it will be able to get back properly and do its safety surveys etc which suffered in last two years.