

Annual Report

Department of Sociology (Jan 2023 – Dec 23)

Societas, the Sociology Association at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, orchestrated a seminar on Technological Modernity and Social Experience in Colonial North India on January 23rd, 2023. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, an assistant professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Sciences, Delhi, served as the guest speaker. His lecture explored the impact of technological advances, focusing on mobile phones and railways, on the social fabric of colonial North India. Delving into novels and historical contexts, Dr. Kumar illustrated how modernization influenced societal elements like class, caste, gender, and occupation. He highlighted the challenges faced by women, changes in traditional occupations, and the emergence of urban centres. Dr. Kumar drew parallels between colonial-era impacts and contemporary society, shedding light on enduring consequences.

An online orientation session on "Why sociology?" was organised on February 1, 2023. Conducted by Dr. Nita Mathur, a seasoned sociology professor at the School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University, the session aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of sociology's theoretical framework and its practical implications in daily life. Dr. Mathur explored various facets of sociology, distinguishing it from common sense and emphasizing its role in policy, governance, and social construction of identity. The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from the first-year Class Representative, expressing gratitude to the esteemed speaker and Principal Professor Kalpana Bhakuni.

Societas, the Sociology Association of Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, hosted its annual department meet, Cynosure'23, on February 16, 2023, with the theme 'Humor and Satire in Everyday Life.' The event commenced with a briefing of competitions, followed by a classical dance performance and a welcome dance by the cultural team. Dr. Dev Nath Pathak, specializing in folklore studies and sociology, delivered an academic lecture on humor's sociological aspects. Competitions like The Comicles, Turn-Coat Debate, and Caricature Making added vibrancy to the event. Special alumni performances, including comedy acts, singing, and Bharatnatyam dance, captivated the audience. The cultural team's singing and dancing performances marked a lively conclusion, accompanied by prize distribution and stalls managed entirely by department students.

Societas orchestrated a compelling guest lecture titled 'Disciplines, Objects, Motives: A Memoir On Method.' Professor Harish Naraindas from the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, delved into the influence of chosen objects on sociological theories and methodologies, unravelling the motives that drive sociologists. Furthermore, the Department of Sociology at Kamala Nehru College initiated an orientation session for first-year students pursuing Sociology Honours and the B.A Program (sociology). Held in L208, Kamala Nehru College, the session included introductions to the association's core team and esteemed faculty. Students were briefed on crucial departmental details and upcoming events

To introduce first-year students to the field of sociology, an engaging lecture on "Thinking Sociologically" was conducted, featuring Professor Janaki Abraham from the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics. Emphasizing the significance of observation and comparison, the lecture underscored these tools as indispensable for sociological thinking.

On November 8, 2023, the Young Researchers' Forum unfolded, providing undergraduates with a platform to present research papers under the theme 'Cities and Societies.' Dr. Mahima Varma and Dr. Nupur Ray comprised the panel for the first session, hailing from Jesus & Mary College and Kamala Nehru College, respectively. The second session featured Dr. Anurita Jalan from Maitreyee College and Dr. Jyoti Raghavan from Kamala Nehru College, highlighting diverse perspectives in sociology and related fields.

On October 11, 2023, a field trip was arranged for third-year students to Majnu Ka Tila, a Tibetan refugee settlement in Delhi. This excursion provided students with first-hand experience in examining the culture, lifestyle, and living conditions of the Tibetan community. The successful trip expanded their perspectives and enhanced understanding of diverse cultures and communities. Subsequently, students submitted their field reports to their respective teachers as part of their coursework.

The Department of Sociology screened "Elephant Whisperers," on 25th October 2023, captivating students with its exploration of human-animal interaction. The film delves into the intricate relationships between elephants and their caretakers, shedding light on societal dynamics and the profound impact of empathy. A thought-provoking experience that sparked discussions on empathy, culture, and interconnectedness.

In the realm of internships, students from the Department of Sociology in 2023 ventured into diverse experiences. Anushka Baruah immersed herself in the world of storytelling at Pixstory and also contributed her skills to the Outlook Group. Lakshita Ankem explored the dynamics of the business world through her internship at the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mahika Singh took on responsibilities in office management at ASB Security. Gitanjali Dutta embraced an internship at Pawzz, while Jazmina dedicated her efforts to the Muskurahat Foundation. These varied internships not only enriched the students' understanding of different sectors but also allowed them to apply their sociological insights in real-world contexts during their third year.

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