

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

ANNUAL REPORT (2020-2021)

The year has been a very eventful and fruitful for the Department of Sociology. Despite the unforeseen situations, the department was successful in organising a variety of events for the students and faculty including the other annual festivals. From online lecture series, book discussions, students exchange in collaboration with Sophia Girl's College to Fresher's, Alumni Meet, and Farewell, the department has seen a successful year in terms of garnering knowledge and keeping up with the celebrations all the same.

On 21st May 2020, the Sociology Department conducted an International Webinar on 'Rethinking Social Change in South Asia Amidst Covid-19'. The event starred various speakers including Professor Maitreyi Chaudhuri as the key note speaker. With others from all around the asia such as Prof. K. Karunathilake from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka; Dr. Sanzida Akhter from University of Bangladesh and Dr.Uddhab Pyakurel from Kathmandu University, Nepal. The session turned out to be very diverse and informative as everybody posed their thoughts regarding the spread of deadly coronavirus.

On 23rd June 2020, the graduating batch was bid farewell by their juniors, Razzmatazz 2020. The theme for the same was-'Rock n Roll Decade Party'. The celebration consisted of super fun games like guess the song or take a sip etc. Along with few performances of singing and dancing. Though saying goodbye is never easy, but it was a glorious wrap in regard to all the amazing time spent.

Next up in the month of September, the department students arranged a celebration in the name of the professors on the special day of Teachers' Day on 5th September 2020. The theme was kept as Retro. The show turned out to be a perfect afternoon in the name of our dazzling teachers where the students had organized various games, cultural performances and everybody had a gala time together.

The Department also organised a photography competition, Lenscapade'20 on 26th September 2020. The theme for the competition was-'Pandemic through the Lens'. The turnover was quite well. The shortlisted participants were invited on the day of the event where they supported their piece of art with a few lines.

Thereafter, the Department of Sociology kick started the month of October with launching the Online Lecture Series. The Online Lecture Series-I was held on 7th October 2020 on the topic-'What Sociology of Religion Offers Us?' The speaker for

the same was Dr. Nabanipa Bhattacharjee. She is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi. She touched upon the aspects related to religion and how religion is related to sociology. It was an insightful event where students engaged with the speaker and asked their queries as well.

On 7th of November 2020, a Book Discussion event was organised. The title of the book was-‘Admitted: The Missing Guide to Craft a Winning Application and Study Abroad’. The author was Soundarya Balasubramani. The author talked about her experiences studying in The US, and talked about how her journey as a writer began. She enlightened us with her techniques of effective writing and time was to be treated very cautiously. She shared with us her love for books as herself being an avid reader and encouraged all the students to do so too. It was a very enlightening and broadening discussion leaving the aspiring authors amidst the students more motivated and inspired by the young author, to take the first step in their journey.

Soon in the arrival of the new batch, Department hosted its first virtual freshers-Convivial’20. The event was hosted on 2nd of December 2020. The theme for the same was Pyjama Party. The seniors welcomed the dearest batch of 2023 with wide smiles. Teachers as well as students created a very homely environment for the new inmates. Everybody enjoyed the day with fun filled games like ‘would you rather’ and loads of dancing and singing.

The Department of Sociology, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi conducted the Student- Faculty Exchange Program-I in collaboration with Sophia Girls’ College, Ajmer on 27th January 2021. The event included a lecture by Mrs. Geetika Yadav mam, Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, Sophia Girls’ College on the topic, “Gender and Stratification”. She began by distinguishing between the basic concepts of ‘sex and gender’ and gender bias with the help of her power point presentation. She explained the concept of Gender Stratification and inequality and how often these two terms are used interchangeably. Various topics like problems related to gender in modern societies, concept of socialisation and the importance of role played by agencies of socialisation etc were covered. Moving onto a brief doubt clearing session where students were provided a chance to interact and ask any questions regarding the lecture. The second part of this first session took place on 3rd February 2021 which focused on and covered topics such as Gender and Labour processes. The speaker for the same was Dr.Ritu Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Kamala Nehru College. The speaker stated that work in all countries is characterized by a sexual division of labour in which tasks are assigned to workers on the basis of their sex and how sex segregation is the tendency for the sexes to do different kinds of paid work in different settings. Further, other topics like changing labour with changing context, gender division of labour, gender differences and innate biological differences in capabilities of men and women, equalization of male and female wages and the concept of housework as unpaid labour were discussed. This was followed by a discussion of the labour force participation gap

which has remained unaddressed since 1995. The speaker also discussed the effects of unequal division of labour and how the freedom to work by choice, in conditions of dignity, safety and fairness is integral to human welfare. The workshop was well organized and the program was well balanced. The presentations on Gender and Labour processes provided a good background about the Gender and Development (GAD) approach and also provided a good overview about .They further allowed the participants to learn about the a broad approach to gender, placing it into discourse with labour, as we think through the dynamic relationship between gender and labour from a variety of situated and comparative perspectives, including the current and intensifying neoliberal moment. The discussions were lively and openly addressed how work affects inequality and discussed the future steps required to overcome the existing gender barriers.

Afterwards, there were two events in the month of March. On 6th March 2021, department arranged a virtual gathering in the name of their lovely alumni-Reminiscence'21 the Alumni Meet. It was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up on the old times and walk down the memory lane. Then on 10th March 2021, the department had its second lecture of Online Lecture Series. The topic for the same was-‘Masculinity in Indian Media’ and the guest speaker was Dr. Pranta Pratik Patnaik, Assistant Professor, Department of Culture and Media Studies, Central University of Rajasthan. He started the lecture with the thought of how unexplored the domain of masculinity is and the need to discuss masculinity along with other layers of masculinity. His presentation aimed to cover the following topics: Understanding masculinity-- the construction of masculinity: colonial and nationalist masculinity, masculinity as shown in the cinema/advertisements and the depiction of masculinity in the new media. He further discussed the trajectories of masculine representation in cinemas and the socio-cultural context in which cinemas were made. The changing trends over time and the variety in the role of “hero” played by actors over years was also discussed and interpreted.

Last but not the least, on 16th April 2021 the department organised its annual meet-Cynosure'21. The theme for this year's meet was, ‘Stereotypes and Society’. The event consisted of various activities along with an academic lecture on the topic-‘Ideas of Beliefs, Sacred and Stereotypes’ delivered by Professor Y.S. Alone, School of arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. Afterwards competitions such as reel making and cartoon making were conducted and accordingly winners were announced. The Professor started his lecture by explaining the formulation of stereotypes. He said that there is a process of legitimation that goes into the making of a belief system. The stereotypes are governed by the idea of your belief and sacredness and when you confront the stereotype you get a backlash in the society. Cultural manifestation and legal provision both are important. He gave the example of famous personalities who indulged in stereotypical acts. The Indian mind set is governed by many stereotypes like the idea of urban bahu and rural bahu and their conception in the Bollywood movies. In India the family value i.e., jati dharma which is sacred and comes from the divine being is considered as another stereotype. Soon

the stage was opened for questions. The doubt clearing session was quite interactive and the audience got to know about new things through the examples and stories shared by the professor. Overall it was an interesting event.