

Param Poojya Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti Deekshabhoomi's
DR. AMBEDKAR COLLEGE DEEKSHABHOOMI, NAGPUR- 440010 (MS)
INDIA

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
INNOVATION FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY FOR
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (ICIWEGESF 2023)**

Date: 10 -11 March 2023

Report

Day one

The Women Development Cell, Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur. NAAC Re-Accredited With "A" Grade (CGPA 3.45) recognized by UGC as College with Potential for Excellence organized an International conference on "Innovation for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality for Sustainable Future" on 10th and 11th of March 2023; The event was being organized in association with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) New Delhi and Women Legal Cell, Maharashtra Wing. The conference was held at Adv. Dadasaheb Kumbhare Hall, Main Auditorium at the college at 10 am in a very auspicious morning and featured delegations comprising of teachers and research scholars from around the world. The main objectives of the conference was to provide a great opportunity to all and come together and discuss the challenges faced by women in terms of empowerment and gender equality, as well as exchange ideas on how to create a sustainable future for them. The conference was a platform to brainstorm on challenges that lie ahead so as to streamline the existing programs and policies on gender equality and women empowerment.

The inaugural ceremony of the conference began with a symbolic gesture of lighting the candles to the two stalwarts of humanity Lord Gautam Buddha and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. The conference was opened by Dr. Mrs B. A Mehre, Principal, Dr Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, who delivered the welcome address focusing on the topics of women empowerment, equal opportunity and sustainable future. Dr. Mrs B. A Mehre emphasized on the importance of the conference in creating a more equitable society for all, where everyone has access to the same rights, freedom and opportunities to pursue their dreams and aspirations. In her address, she also highlighted the need for further research and policy-making in order to promote women empowerment, gender equality and sustainable development.

After welcoming address it was followed with the introductory remarks by Dr. Priti Singh, the Convener, Women Development Cell, She highlighted how women have impacted more than men, and how they need to be empowered in order to build a strong economy. Her speech was focused on the themes of the conference such as gender equality, sustainability, and economic empowerment. She also emphasized the importance of innovation in order to promote these goals, and to find solutions that can be implemented in order to improve the lives of women all over the world. She also expressed her gratitude towards all the teachers and participants for their unflinching support to the conference.

Later it was followed by an informative talk from the Guest of Honour, Dr Vilas A. Tabhane D. Sc., who talked about the contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar to women empowerment and congratulated the organizing committee for putting together such a wonderful seminar. He also

spoke about the topic of the conference and emphasized the need to recognize gender equality and educate girls as a step towards a great economy.

Further in the conference, Dr. Namdev.S Gajbhiye, guest speaker of the conference, paid tribute to the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and his speech echoed many of these sentiments, expressing his desire for resolution recognizing gender equality, education as the only steps towards achieving a great economy, and poverty as a roadblock in the progress of women. Further, in his speech, he deliberates on the topic of the conference and explained his passion for achieving equality and empowerment of women, setting the tone for the remainder of the conference.

The conference was filled with discussions and dialogues about the significance of gender equality, the exploitation of women in the past, and the societal reasons for gender inequality from birth. The conference also included a memorable moment when a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) was signed between the Women Development Cell and Confederation of All India Traders, with Mr. Balakrishna Bhartiya, National President (CAIT) NEW DELHI as the guest speaker. Mr. Bhartiya highlighted the importance of gender equality and the restrictions placed on women, while posing a thought-provoking question - Which is to blame for this inequality? This moment set a precedent for further discussions and debates during the conference, which has ultimately built a strong foundation for future efforts towards achieving sustainable and equal gender rights.

One of the most valued guests Varsha Deshmukh, Convener, the Women Legal Cell, Maharashtra Wing was also present. In her address, she highlighted the importance of such a conference in the modern world and applauded the organizing committee for taking such a great topic. She further added that, such international conferences will bring together experts from around the world to share their knowledge and expertise on the various topics related to women empowerment and gender equality for a better future. Participants can look forward to engaging talks, discussions, workshops, networking sessions and other activities that will help them gain insight into the current trends and challenges in the field. With its focus on empowering women and ensuring gender equality, this conference promises to be an enlightening experience for all attendees.

During the inaugural event, a souvenir was released by the hands of dignitaries. This conference presented a platform to discuss debate and brainstorm over the issue of women empowerment and gender equality in order to ensure a more sustainable future. The discussions held were focused on exploring new avenues to address the challenges in women empowerment. The vast pool of experts provided valuable insights into the topic, which helped to create a roadmap to ensure that women are empowered and gender equality is achieved in society.

The most awaited guest speaker of the conference, Arevik Anapiosyan, Ex. Deputy Minister of Education, Armenia, Current position: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator; Governing Board Member, UNESCO, Institute for Statistics and a special guest of the Conference provided insights into the three components of the program. She stressed on the importance of innovation in order to achieve gender equality, and discussed ways to promote it. She highlighted that innovation can be used to bridge the gender gap and the need for sustainable development for the future. Furthermore, she pointed out that gender inequality is an important issue that needs to be addressed in order to promote a more equitable society.

Lastly, she stressed on the need for all stakeholders to be involved in order to create sustainable practices and policies that will ensure a better future for both genders. Her speech was inspiring and informative, reminding all participants of their responsibility to promote gender equality and sustainability through innovation.

During the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Sudhir Fulzhele, President of the conference and Secretary, Param Poojya Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, in his address emphasized on the need for solutions to eradicate gender inequality. He strongly believed that education is the only solution to achieve this goal as it can equip women with financial, literacy, and independence skills. Moreover, he highlighted the importance of imparting values regarding gender equality from one generation to another, starting from parenting. He had high expectations that this conference will bring forward new ideas and solutions that can help fight against this problem.

The most renowned speaker in the area of women empowerment, Mr. Sajid Sheikh, MD of Sentinel Solicitors from London, UK, was the keynote speaker of the Conference. He marked the end of the Inaugural Ceremony with his captivating speech. He paid tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and acknowledged his efforts in building a strong nation and the role of women in it. He also mentioned numerous acts which have come into force to eliminate gender discrimination and inequality in society. To demonstrate this, he gave examples from history such as Mary Tudor's rule in England and how it positively impacted women's rights, as well as Sati Pratha which was highly condemnable. His speech was truly inspiring and proved to be an amazing start to the event.

Compeering and vote of thanks of the inaugural ceremony was given by Dr. Pratima Lokhande, Associate Professor Department of Law.

After the inaugural session technical sessions were conducted.

Technical Session –I

The International Conference on Innovation for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality for Sustainable Future was held with its first technical session chaired by Dr. Varsha Dhurve. The guest speaker of the conference was Dr. Harish Wankhede, Assistant Professor of the Center of Political Study JNU in New Delhi. In his speech, Dr. Wankhede discussed Media Culture, Caste, and Untouchability in relation to the themes of the conference. He also pointed out that cinema is an important tool to understand societal values and discussed the role of Dalit Women in Cinemas, citing several examples from Hindi Cinema such as Banded Queen and Bawander. Compeering was done by Dr. Pratima Lokhande and Dr. Varsha Dhurve gave the Vote of Thanks to conclude the session.

Technical Session – II

The International Conference on Innovation for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality for a Sustainable Future provided an invaluable platform for discovering the potential of Dalit women in the Hindi cinema industry. The Technical Session II was chaired by Dr. B. A. Mehere, Principal of Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi Nagpur. The guest speaker, Dr. Girish Wankhede, a famous film critic from the entertainment industry, discussed the role of Dalit

women in Hindi cinema, underlining the importance of their participation in the film industry and the need to understand films and their criticism. He also highlighted that women should take responsibility of their own careers and be empowered to make a difference in their lives. Compeering was done by Dr. Pratima Lokhande and the Vote of Thanks was given by Dr.B.A. Meher Principal, Dr Ambedkar College Deekshabhoomi Nagpur, making it a successful session.

DAY TWO:

Technical Session –III

Technical Session III was chaired by with guest speaker Sunaina Arya from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. Her talk focused on Dalit Feminist Theory, which examined the patriarchal society and the conditions of women in it. She discussed the various methods used by Brahmins to exploit women, such as the practice of Sati Pratha. Arya also highlighted how Dalit women were particularly vulnerable to oppression and exploitation, and how their voices were often ignored by society at large. Overall, her talk was deeply enlightening, and left the listeners with a greater appreciation of the struggles faced by marginalized women in India today.

Technical Session –IV

Dr. Archana Meshram chaired Technical Session IV, where Dr. Neeta Ujjain, Associate Professor, Mass Communication, New Delhi was the guest speaker. She discussed the important role of education and media in women's empowerment, how digital media is changing the scenario of society and its perspective towards women and the quality of life it has brought. She discussed on how education and media have been powerful tools to bring about a change in the lives of women, by giving them more confidence, more financial independence, more recognition and respect. She also highlighted the challenges faced by women in our society and how we can empower them to achieve their dreams. Dr. Ujjain concluded her session by emphasizing that education and media are integral to empowering women and bringing about a significant change in their lives.

Technical Session – V

Technical Session V was chaired by Dr. Mrs. B. A. Mehre, Principal, Dr Ambedkar College Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur. The guest speaker at the session was Dr. Vimal Thorat, Ex, Professor, IGNOU who began by paying tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Sawitribai Phule. She then discussed the existence of women in society and their empowerment, taking live examples from the society such as discrimination between parents and siblings in the home. She further discussed the high prevalence of anemia among women from underprivileged backgrounds, the fact that despite employment, the quality of life for women is still very low and government schemes for women and its flaws. Dr. Thorat also highlighted that although the literacy percentage of women in India is low, the drop-out ratio is even higher and worrying aspects such as infanticide and kidnapping of minor girls and the dowry system are still prevalent

Technical Session VI

Technical Session VI was chaired by Dr. V. A. Tabhane, where the guest speaker was Dr. Vikas Jambhulkar. Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, RTMNU. He discussed various topics such as innovation should be women centric in the current times, gender discrimination between boys and girls, gender division in the workplace, definition of equity for women, women being a subject of political and social propaganda and took the examples of feministic movement to explain his views. He blamed patriarchal society and its rigid rules as an obstacle in women empowerment. He also discussed that innovation should be gender-neutral as both men and women have different roles to play in the society. He called for a change in the mindset of people and emphasized that gender-based discrimination should be eliminated in order to bring real change in the society. He concluded by urging the need to bring real change in order to make society a better place.

Valedictory function

The valedictory function of the event on 'Innovation for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality for Sustainable Future' was held with great success, under the supervision of President of the function Dr. Mrs. B. A. Mehre, Principal, and Dr. Ambedkar College Deekshabhoomi Nagpur. The function was graced by the presence of esteemed Chief Guest, Vilas Tabhane, who was welcomed with great enthusiasm by the gathering and gave a very insightful speech about the importance of women empowerment and gender equality for a sustainable future.

A Paper Presentation and Poster Making Competition were held in the same auditorium, with the teachers and research scholars taking part in the paper presentation. The themes chosen were Women Empowerment, Innovation and Sustainable Future, to imbue the students with knowledge and awareness about these crucial topics. During the Poster Making Competition, the students brought out their creative skills, making innovative and inspiring posters. After the completion of the event, a Valedictory Function was organized to hand out awards to all the event proved to be very impactful as it was attended by various college students, parents and eminent personalities and stressed on the importance of innovation and its power of transforming lives with just a small step forward. The event was concluded on a very positive note, and all attendees left feeling motivated to strive for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Varsha Deshmukh-Convener, Women Legal Cell, Maharashtra Wing, Mr. B. C. Bhartiya-National President, CAIT, New Delhi, Dr. Vilas A. Tabhane-D.Sc, Dr. Vikas Jambhulkar-RTMNU, Dr. Vimal Thorat, Dr. Priti Singh-Convener, Coordinator, Women Development Cell were the esteemed dignitaries of the valedictory function.

The event was a great success, as it brought together all the teachers, scholars and students to collaborate on a common platform. The event was also beneficial in educating the students about current topics of importance and to foster creativity among them. The Vote of thanks of the conference was given by Dr. Archana Meshram Organizing secretary, to mark the successful end of the conference.