

JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE GOLDEN JUBILEE CONFERENCE

Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi culminated its yearlong Golden Jubilee celebrations with a two day International Conference on October 3 and 4, 2018. The Theme of the Conference was “Empowering Women through Transformative Education”. It created a dialogue on the issues of gender empowerment, its meanings, importance and role of various agencies in general and higher education in particular.

Speaking at the Inaugural, the Chief Guest Prof. Yogesh K. Tyagi, Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi highlighted the need for education to be truly transformational in the sense of enlightening students and bringing behavioural and attitudinal changes in order for it to be empowering.

Prof. (Retd.) Karuna Chanana in her Keynote speech brought out the state of art in research on Gender and Education in India which included the heartening statistics that gender gap in higher education enrolment in India is on the decline in recent years.

The conference had 12 eminent speakers at 3 Panel sessions which included Padma Shri Meenakshi Gopinath (ex Principal, LSR); Prof. Shyam Menon (CIE Delhi and Former Vice Chancellor Ambedkar University); Prof. Ravinder Kaur (IIT Delhi); Prof. and Ambassador (Retd.) Veena Sikri (Convenor, South Asia Women’s Network); Prof. Anita Ghai (AUD); Dr. Mary E. John (CWDS Delhi); Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar (Associate professor JMC); Ms. Kanta Singh (UNDP India); Foreign experts: Finnish Professor Marja-Liisa Tenhunen (SHU MBA Shanghai University), British Education Expert Ms. Beckey Smith (Asst. Director, International Advance Higher Education, UK); American Professors Huma Ghosh (San Diego State University) and Akhilesh Chandra (Akron University, Ohio).

The panel discussion sessions presented different facets of the definition of women empowerment such as sex selection and violence; and agreed on the need to redefine women empowerment as autonomy and agency of the women to make choices and decisions. Economic growth along with education emerged as the key facilitators of women empowerment.

The Conference received an overwhelming response from researchers from all parts of India (from University of Kashmir to Calicut University in Kerala). Around 40 delegates, whose papers were accepted by the reviewers, presented their papers in 4 Thematic Technical Sessions.

On the side-lines of the Conference, some students’ activities were organised too. These included Poster Making Competition and On-the-Spot Acting Competition.