Post Graduate Govt. College for Girls, Sec-42, Chandigarh

Report on One-Day Workshop on Women Empowerment

On 30 Nov. 2024, Women Cell and Gender Equity Society organized a one day workshop on Women empowerment aimed at raising awareness and fostering discussions around pressing issues of gender inequality, particularly the plight of widows in India. On that day "Water" movie by the director Deepa Mehta was screened for the office staff in the Mini Conference Room. The movie was based upon the famous novel 'WATER' written by Bapsi Sidhwa in which various social issues/evils like distressing plight of Indian Widows, child marriage, misogyny and ostracism was shown and this movie is also based on widow women who were facing many obstacles before independence i.e under the British rule. It was also mentioned in the movie that about 34 million widows in India still living their lives under distress. The main concern to show this move is to make aware of the disgraceful situation of the widows of different ages, including innocent young girls of 7 - 15 years of age even in the recent times in India. In this movie there were one young, seven years old girl, Chuyia married to a much older man, who shortly after the marriage passes away. After her husband death, she is taken to the holy city of Banaras and left in the care of a wide assortment of widows who live at "widow's house". Here she meets several elderly women, including the head of the house, Madhumati; a quite, confident woman named Shakuntala and a gorgeous young woman named Kalyani. The interactive discussions following the movie screening allowed participants to express their views, share personal reflections, and consider actionable steps towards gender equity.

This workshop, through the powerful lens of Water, succeeded in raising awareness about the plight of widows, while fostering empathy and understanding within the office staff, encouraging them to be part of the broader movement for women's rights and empowerment.







