

REPORT ON BOOK DISCUSSION

The Department of Political Science organized a book discussion on the book “Sex - selective Abortion and The State: Policies, laws and Institutions in India by Bijayalaxmi Nanda on 31st January, 2018. The book is an incisive analysis of the countering of gender discrimination by the Indian State. The selective elimination of female fetuses due to not wanting a female child has led to an imbalance in the child sex ratio of India. The book critically examines the policies, programmes, laws and schemes that have been unfurled by the state to improve the situation.

The Author is a professor of Political Science at Miranda House, University of Delhi. She has provided consultancy to various UN bodies on Gender issues and has extensively travelled world over in connection with her academic pursuit.

The panel for the discussion had gracious presence of eminent scholars and speakers. Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya (Director at the Institute of Dalit Studies) spoke about what factors lead to the sex-selective abortion. She rejoiced the fact that the audience was filled with young girls and mentioned that this provides her hope for the future. Another important person present was Dr. Shobhana Warriar (Associate Professor at Kamala Nehru College) who shared her views on the book as well as the issue.

The event also witnessed the presence of Narendra Kumar (Publisher of the book and the Founder Chairperson, Har Anand Publications). Lastly, Dr. Nanda shared her reasons to write on the issue. She also expressed her grief on the need to write on this topic even in the 21st Century. She shared the various statistics of sex-selective abortions and read few saddening accounts of few survivors and victims of this evil practice.

The discussion was highly enlightening and was followed by an open discussion with the students and teachers in the audience.