

Report 2010-11

Faculty Convenor: Dr Anjana Shrivastava

The WDC of the college provides a forum for the students to discuss and deliberate on issues concerning women. Using a diverse range of activities, including talks by academics and activists, workshops, film screenings, street theatre, field visits and research projects, the WDC helps in creating awareness about the gender discrimination in Indian society.

At KNC, the WDC has actively partnered with groups and NGOs dedicated to the cause of an egalitarian society. Recently, we were associated with the Bell Bajao campaign against Domestic Violence organized by Breakthrough. Bridging the gap between the classroom and the community, the WDC has also participated in the Vastra Samman campaign of Goonj.

The certificate course in Women's Studies offered to undergraduate students of the college each academic year by the WDC has moved seamlessly between feminist thought and activism. The students of the WDC have turned activists and are working tirelessly towards a gender-sensitive society. At times that has meant talking to coffee shop managers to remove gender-insensitive posters from their premises; at others, it has been a street side protest against an unsafe city. The WDC has also organized melas allowing various women's groups to showcase and sell their products in the college campus.

Topics ranging across social construction of gender, women in the Indian nationalist movement, gender and advertising, political participation of women, women's movement in India and menstruation taboos were discussed in the WDC sessions. The WDC has also been responsible for conducting legal awareness workshops and for providing professional counseling services to the staff and the students of the college.

Some of the WDC students also actively participated in a course titled *Narrating Women's Lives: Canada and India* that was jointly organized by the Concordia University, Montreal and Kamala Nehru College. Deeply committed to becoming agents of change, members of the group have made several field visits to interact and understand the position of women in different social situations. Visiting an exhibition dedicated to Homai Vyarawalla, making a trip to the Sakshara mela in Dehradun, visiting the Amar Jyoti Foundation and interacting with the women at Goonj were some of the field trips undertaken by the group.