

Gandhi Study Circle: Report

Gandhi Study Circle of Vivekananda College—a college committee to promote Gandhian values among students, held a virtual talk on Mahatma Gandhi and Women Empowerment on 16th April, 2021. The event was one of the first programmes chalked out by the committee for the academic year January 2021 to December 2021. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Alok Bajpai, a renowned scholar and researcher on Gandhi, and former Nehru Memorial fellow. The event received a fairly good response from the participants which included both students and faculty members from the college including the committee members who were left mesmerized with the speaker's erudition and clarity of thought on Gandhi's contribution in empowering the women, in India and outside.

The talk began with the singing of one of Gandhi's favourite bhajans—Vaishnava Jan by Mansi and Pallavi, students from the Music Department under the supervision of Dr. Deepa Varshney. This was followed by the explanation of the song in Hindi by Dr. Dilip Jaiswal which, he said, had been originally composed in old Gujarati by Narsih Mehta in 15th century and evoked quintessential human traits and feelings like compassion, non-violence, empathy and affection.

Dr. Alok Bajpai started the talk by reflecting on popular attitude towards Gandhi when it came to the question of women in his personal as well as social life. He argued, "Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to Indian freedom struggle is vividly known to all of us in terms of his strategies and techniques of Satyagraha, non-violence, civil disobedience etc. to fight the colonial powers and how India as a nation pulled itself out of those clutches of domination and oppression. Yet, when it comes to talking about his role as a social reformer and challenger to patriarchal norms in the Indian society to bring women of all ranks and size on equal footing with their male counterparts, there is hardly any acknowledgment of this aspect of his life either in academia or public consciousness." To elaborate upon his main argument, he discussed many incidents from Gandhi's personal life and social interactions which not only highlighted a never-before-seen side of Gandhi to empower women but also busted many myths maligning his image during his interactions with women.

Before the close of the talk, Dr. Bajpai replied to questions from the audience with patience and utmost clarity.

The session ended with a vote of thanks to the honourable guest, Dr. Alok Bajpai from the convener of the committee, Mrs. Anita Bakshi. She listed the takeaways from the informative talk for both students and faculty members and thanked the audience for their overwhelming participation as well as the organizing team for a coordinated team work.



GANDHI STUDY CIRCLE

Vivekananda College

University of Delhi

Accredited By NAAC With "A" Grade

INVITES YOU TO A TALK

महात्मा गांधी और महिला सशक्तीकरण



DATE: APRIL 16, 2021

-DR. ALOK BAJPAI

TIME: 3PM

MEET LINK: <https://meet.google.com/iin-fvhj-eci>

Convenor
Anita Bakshi

Officiating Principal
Dr. Hina Nandrajog