

VAMA

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL, VASANTA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, RAJGHAT, VARANASI

Celebrating International Women's Day on

WAR AND PEACE THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN

"VAMA"
An E- magazine
VOLUME-III
Year: 2023-2024

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL AT A GLANCE

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From The Principal's Desk

I am extremely happy and proud of the Women's Development Cell of the College for launching the Volume III of the E-Magazine VAMA on the occasion of International Women's Day. This gives a platform to students' creativity and reflects their thoughts, opinions, aspirations and vision for the future. All the faculty members and student representatives of Women's Development Cell have indeed done hard work and a commendable job. I am sure the forthcoming issues with each passing year will take the talent of students to the advance level. I appreciate the initiative and look forward to the forthcoming issues. With best wishes...

Prof. Alka Singh
Principal
Vasanta College for Women
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Coordinator's Note

It gives me immense pleasure to present before you the 3rd Volume of VAMA, an annual e- magazine of the Women's Development Cell, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi. The e-Magazine aims at promoting the ability of critical thinking and creative writing in students by giving them a platform to express their ideas, perspectives and experiences. This e-Magazine is fully a students' initiative, student members of the Women's Development Cell take charge of all responsibilities related to publication of the e- Magazine- collection of write-ups, compilation, editing and designing.

The theme of the present Volume 'War and Peace through the Eyes of Women' is very relevant in the present times where we are seeing rampant increase in the intra-state and inter-state conflicts. Wars and armed conflicts pose existential challenges to every section of the population but their impact on the lives of people on the fringes is more devastating. Therefore, it seems necessary to see wars and armed conflicts from the lens of these marginalised groups, here comes the significance of perspectives of women on war and peace. Unfortunately, women, despite being the major sufferers in war situations, remained largely invisible on the discussion tables where wars were planned. Further, although, women have been present in war literature but mostly as victims of violence. However, women's relation with war and conflict is very complex and multi-dimensional that needs to be uncovered. The critical role of women in peace movements around the world has uncovered that women are not merely victims of wars but they have immense potential to work as the agents of peace.

The present Volume of the e-magazine has been planned with the objective of encouraging the young women to reflect on War and Peace and to write their own experiences and perspectives. I congratulate the whole team for working relentlessly to complete this mammoth task. My best wishes to the contributors and the editorial team. I also express my gratitude to the Principal of our College for her constant support and guidance.

Prof. Preeti Singh
Coordinator
Women's Development Cell
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Varanasi

WAR AND PEACE THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN

1. Storms, by Astha Mishra BA (Hons) Arts 1st Year

It has passed, the storm I again sit here Picking the pieces Fixing the damages They weren't my own It was bestowed upon me by the storm The storm wasn't my fault But consequences are The storm has rained on me since my birth It didn't make me strong like the heroes in stories It didn't shape me like rocks It made me hollow, broken down with leaks everywhere I am never gonna be whole again My pieces are scattered My pieces are destroyed My pieces were found dead within the storm





2.स्त्री : एक योद्धा" Khushi Yadav B.A Psychology 2nd Year

किस- किस की दासतालिखूँ मैं ? लिखते हुए रुह काँपउठती है।

एक माँकी कराह, एकपत्नी के त्याग काक्या वर्णन करूँमैं?

मेरी कलमसे न्याय न मिले तो क्या लहू लिख दूँ मैं ?

यदि लहूसे इंसाफ मिलना हीहोता तो आजहर युद्ध पूजाजाता

परंतु खून की बहतीनदियों में , ढेर भरी उनलाशों में ,

सूनी मांगो में, क्या ख़ाक इंसानियतमिलेगी?

उन क्रूर आतंकियोंको रक्त रंजित सड़कों, सर कटे ढेरों सेकहाँ संतुष्टि मिलतीहै?

वे सरकाट कर आँगन मेंफेक देने कोआजादी कहते हैं!

वे मासूम औरतोंके साथ बलात्कारको अपनी ताकतसमझते हैं!

आखिर महिलाएं इनका खिलौना क्यों बन गईं ? बात चाहे महाभारत की द्रौपदी की हो

या विभाजन की अबलाओं की या कश्मीरी गिरिजा टिक्कू की या बौडिका की लड़ाई में रोमन महिलाओं की हो या गुजरात की बिलकिस बानो की हो





युद्ध तो बीत जाता है जब एक स्त्री घर को घर बनाती है जाने वाले चले जाते हैं खुद से ऊपर अपनों को रखकर रह जातीं हैं युद्ध के पीछे खुद को न्यौछावर ही कर देती है। सिसकियाँ और असहनीय पीढ़ा ! फिर क्या गुज़रती होगी उस पर जब वे जीती नहीं हैं युद्ध के बाद, उसके सामने ही उसके अपनों के महज साँसें गिनती हैं। प्राण नोच लिए जाते हैं एक स्त्री के लिए युद्ध कभी खत्म नहीं होता उसकी देह को - अपमानित करना अनिवार्य समझ वह हरदम युद्ध से जुझती रहती है लिया जाता है। उसके दुष्परिणामों से लड़ती है वे भूल जाते हैं एक बार को पहले क्रूर मंजर से लाशों के ढेर लगाना फिर उसकी स्मृतियों से पर औरतों को जलील करना फिर अपनी ही दुर्बलता से वे स्वयं की सर्वप्रथम प्राथमिकता समझते हैं। <mark>आखिर क्यों अनंत काल से पुरुष</mark> उन हैवानों के चेहरों से अपने अस्तित्व की लड़ाई में औरतों और जिन्हे अब मसलने की चाह उतनी प्रबल नहीं रही बेजुबानों को झोंकता आया है? क्योंकि अपनों के प्रस्थान की ज्वाला ने युद्ध तो शस्त्र से किया जाता था <mark>उसके हृदय पर अवसाद की राख उड़ेल दी है</mark> वह योद्धा युद्ध में न हो सकी पर जंग ए जिंदगी में हरदम योद्धा ही रहती है।

3. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Kamna Singh BA (Hons) Social Science 3rd year

In my contention, war is peace and peace is war.

Damage can be emotional, psychological, financial, physical which can hurt you in some way. You should raise your voice against it, without thinking about whether you will succeed or not. If you are right, just initiate right action at right time.

Otherwise, your inner conscience is ready to offer you a war, in which peace can't be established for your lifetime. The fighter is you and the enemy too. It reflects that no war means no peace.

ESSENCE: Show courage to stand up for yourself, even if a small injustice is done to you. No matter of winning or losing it. You will be happy or at peace because at least you tried.





4. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Dipmala M.A. Political Science (1st year)

Her Struggle: Unveiling Unspoken Pains

War, a term often confined to violence and weaponry, transcends the battlefield. To me, it encompasses not just clashes of arms but the gritty wars of life and survival. Picture a canvas where women bear the weight of unrest, a story untold, a resilience - a saga more intricate than we dare to imagine. War With Weapon: A Tale of Women's Resilience. In the turbulence of World Wars, women emerged as unsung heroes, bearing the weight of increased responsibilities and confronting the haunting spectre of sexual violence. Post-war, the resilience echoed through reconstruction, yet beneath their strength, lay emotional scars etched by the wartime symphony. Amid the tragic tale of the Partition in 1947, countless women carried the burden of displacement, sexual violence, and profound loss. An estimated 75,000 to 100,000 faced the harsh reality of abduction and rape, leaving behind a haunting legacy of trauma, disruption, and indescribable tragedy. The 2002 Gujarat riots unleashed violence, displacement, and loss upon women. Bilkis Bano's case epitomizes the challenges faced, underscoring the urgent need for justice and accountability post-communal unrest. In Hindu epics, Sita and Draupadi symbolize historic views of women as property. Subjected to or dealing with public humiliation, they stand as symbols of societal norms disrespecting women's autonomy. The War of Life & Survival with a Women Body. Beyond physical warfare, a war of life and survival unfolds. The Pew Research Centre unveils a staggering toll, with over 9 million girls missing; in India due to female infanticide from 2000 to 2019. Dowry perpetuates women's suffering, fuelling discrimination and domestic violence. Grim statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau report a stark escalation in dowry-related deaths since 2007, extinguishing a woman's life each passing hour. Born from economic vulnerability, Sati inflicts profound suffering on widows, illustrating societal hardships and limited options for women. Widows in India grapple with societal norms enforcing isolation, stigma, and economic hardship, perpetuating their silent suffering and marginalization. Women's perseverance triumphs in securing voting and education rights, paving the way for greater gender equality.

In this intricate tapestry of women's struggles, each story resonates, revealing the indomitable spirit that persists amid the trials and tribulations of history. However, Buddha's timeless insight that life is suffering resonates, particularly for women. Society, with its rules and perceptions, compounds challenges for women, akin to an extra layer of difficulty. This specific lens perpetuates gender biases, unequal opportunities, and societal expectations, necessitating transformative change towards a more equitable and compassionate world. In recognizing this complex intersection, we lay the foundation for positive transformation, dismantling barriers and ensuring a future where women progress knows no bounds.





5. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Aditi Singh Kaushik

Alumni - M.A (Political Science) 2nd Year



When the echoes of war come to a standstill, and a proclamation of a winner is made – the winning side celebrates, and the losing side immerses in reconstruction of the losses incurred by them – both physical and mental. However, history is a testament to the fact that women have always faced the brunt of a war, no matter what side they're on. This stands true not only for a war, but any kind of inter and intra-state violence throughout the course.

UN Women estimates that in contemporary conflicts, as many as 90% of casualties are civilians, mostly women and children. It has also been observed that rape and sexual violence are used as weapons of war as a tactic to humiliate and instill fear in those communities losing war.

The world remembers the Red Army entered Germany in 1944 and seized Berlin to essentially bring the war to a close in 1945. The end of the Third Reich and the monstrosity inflicted by Adolf Hitler came to a brutal end and brought victory for the allies and the entire world. However, what is unknown to relatively a major chunk of the population is the atrocities committed by the Red Army itself.

Historians estimate that at least 2 million German women were raped at the end of World War II. A documentary titled A Woman in Berlin shows the plight and trauma faced by German women who were sexually assaulted and raped by the Soviet Army. For a long time, researchers were reluctant and hesitant to dwell into the atrocities committed against German women because they, rightfully so, did not intend to minimize or diminish the atrocities committed by the Hitler and his group of enablers in the Third Reich itself. However, what stands true is – women of both sides have always had to face the consequences of a war. From Europe to Asia, the shadows of gender violence entered the Indian subcontinent as well. The partition of India and Pakistan – orchestrated by the British administration, in an utterly haphazard plan of action led to millions of people, particularly women being raped, killed, displaced and looted. Hundreds of thousands of women were pushed into prostitution, a major chunk of them underwent forced religious conversion – leading to none of them ever being the same again.

Jisha Menon in her book, "The Performance of Nationalism: India, Pakistan and the Memory of Partition" highlights that "the female body was used as a terrain through which dramatic acts of violence were exchanged", which further positioned women "between symbolic abstraction and embodiment." Sexual, physical and mental trauma faced by women during a war, conflict and any kind of violence shuns them into silence and shame. When the period of reconstruction assumes pace with the end of a war, when a community or a country begins to enter into a period of 'normalcy', women still stand at the doors of the so-called 'normalcy', reluctant to enter, due to the enormous amount of shame and stigma they face despite being a victim.

For years, countries have failed to provide a solid community and institutional support to survivors of gender violence, particularly women, who incurred an enormous magnitude of pain and agony during a conflict or war – and which primarily amounts to the reason why a numerous amount of such women have buried their trauma deep inside their hearts and minds for decades, with some narrating their plight, and some taking the pain to their graves.

6. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Sonali Shukla

M.A Sociology 1st Year

वह पुरूष है गर्म खून है पुरुषार्थ का अर्थ ही है पौरुष दिखाना उसे युद्ध पसंद है , अपने बाहुबल पर भरोसा है

ओर महिला, उनका क्या ? कहते हैं महिला समाज का आईना होती है फिर चाहे युद्ध की घोषणा हो किसी से किसी को लड़ना हो किसी ने नही पूछा महिलाओं से क्या उसे युद्ध चाहिए। सबने समझ लिया उनकी तो मौन स्वीकृति है।

दिखता नहीं समाज को की युद्ध की सबसे बड़ी आहुति महिलाएं ही तो देती है। कोई विधवा होती है, कोई भाग्य को रोती है किसी का बेटा काल का ग्रास हो गया किसी के सुहाग का हास हो गया। किसी के आंखों का तारा चला गया घर में जो था वो सहारा चला गया।



स्त्री होना युद्ध मे अभिशाप हो गया, नीचा दिखाने को कोई उनका बदन नौच गया युद्ध मे सबसे ज़्यादा अत्याचार महिलाओं पर ही तो हुआ

किसी का बदन से खेला गया तो किसी को दर्द देकर पौरुष का घृणित रूप दिखाया गया। मणिपुर में क्या हुआ, महिला ही तो निशाना बनी वीडियो सिर्फ उसीकी निकली जहाँ उनके अस्मिता को लूटा जा रहा था बदन की नुमाइश हो रही थी। युद्ध महिलाओं के लिए अभिशाप ही तो है अब तक बनी

बताइए क्या किसी ने कभी महिलाओं की सुनी ? खिलजी के कारण जब पुरुष विहीन संसार था हुआ,

महिलाओं को फिर अग्नि ही तो स्वीकार हुआ। ओर शांति , ये तो स्त्री का सबसे प्रिये गहना है शांति में महिलाओं का क्या ही कहना है, स्त्री गृहिणी है, स्त्री निर्माता है, स्त्री ही निर्माण है। स्त्री हर घर का स्वाभिमान है। स्त्री घर को घर बनाती है, देश को सुंदर बनाती है।

स्त्री जननी है, जननी से ही जन्मभूमि है। माँ का आँचल शांति का प्रतीक है। हर एक हारे का सुख है। स्त्री आत्मा के जीत का प्रतीक है। युद्ध के विनाश में स्त्री अमन की आशा है महिलाएं शांति की भाषा है।

7. ARMAGEDDON

Pratichi Gopal

M.A. Political Science 1st year

The city was burning under his rage
It vexes the whole generation till date
But still, he won't stop
For burn down castles or erased generation
Nothing mattered to him
She witnessed the ruins of her kingdom
It strangled her being
The suffocating helplessness scratched her deep-dermis
And one day the invisible burns broke the barriers
They crossed the threshold and
incurred the ethics so fraudulently
That

That one Luna night, She decided rebellion against the fiendish demon For the love for her kingdom, her native land She disguised her valour bodice with armor And fueled her subjects with mutinous viction She sculpted her life with a sole motive of a free nation Of a free kingdom with festive imagery She fought through her youth which forgot that she was that one regal princess Who was destined to rule? But was evicted from her reign For which she fought till her last breath Though she died in her recurring youth, She created a whole generation with rebellious fire She left the treacherous demonic king in dying affliction Though she was yearned by her subjects

Even on her death bed

she justified her throne's demeanor

By paralyzing the hector's petrified backbone





8.War and Peace through the eyes of Women Shambhavi Rai

M.A. English 2nd Year

Comfortable in my own skin It took me 10 years to love my body as it is, to love all the texture, blends, the things I consider as imperfections, and the way it is sculptured. I think in our life, we learn to love our body thrice - Once, when our mom and dad call us beautiful at the age of 4 and we immediately agree with them because first, Parents never lie and second, we are too young to differentiate and understand beauty standards. The second time we fall in love with our bodies is when with time and age, puberty embraces, and I'm using the word 'embrace' and not 'hit' because some people really do grow into their looks after puberty. I think puberty is also selective in providing favors. Because I have seen many people who remained plain even after getting matured. And don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that plain is not beautiful. See this distinction came from the roots of stereotypical beauty standards that had been fed in our minds from a very young age. We need to unlearn a lot of things! The third time we fall in love with our bodies is after its rebirth. And I'm not talking about an actual demise and actual rebirth in 'the cycle of life' kind of way. It's more of a philosophical theory. We are born twice. One birth has an exact date, the date we put on all our documents and when the world greets us. The other birth doesn't have a specific date. It's a series of lying awake in your bed, exhausted but with no trace of sleep. Leaving the bed in morning feels as if there is nothing left that adds meaning to your life and the day ahead feels like a burden. A punishment you got for the crime you don't recall committing. This birth is very personal. Nobody knows about it but you. Now you'll think why is this writer talking about birth when we started with loving our bodies? I'll tell you why. The second birth, as I said, is a series of many things. It comes with a lot of lows in the beginning, a mixture of lows and medium highs in the middle and finally it completes with you growing around your pain after acknowledging it. You must have thought I'd say that there are only highs after that, but no, sadly, life doesn't work like that. Now this first and the middle part tries to make you weak: mentally, physically and spiritually. The pain becomes so unbearable that you try to harm yourself physically just so you can have a visible proof of its existence, a constant reminder. Maybe because you are growing too comfortable in your pain and because it feels familiar. After your rebirth, you finally see your body as it has always been - worthy of your love. You see the cracks on your thighs, breast and stomach as silver linings. The wrist that bears numerous marks of your failed attempts at killing yourself, has healed and is now a battle scar, a reminder of victory. The color of your body that you never seemed to like, taught you that beauty and love comes in all shapes and shades. Maybe it's time you leave your past self in the grave, where it belongs and embrace your new self with warmth and affection and most importantly, respect. Because you know, for others to realize your worth, you need to acknowledge it first.

9. Unseeing EyesEllora SenM.A. English 2nd Year

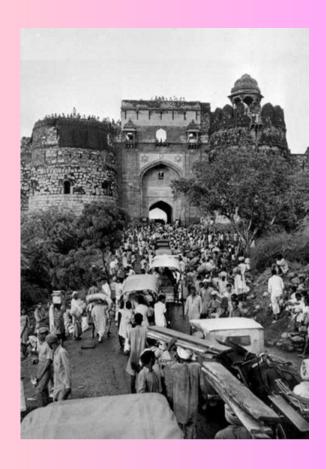
Eyes stare unseeing
The body still but not at rest

The doctor cried 'khol do'
Hands reached automatically to undo her pants
The thud as they dropped on the floor
echoed endlessly through the halls

Whispers of the horrors she had faced abound A million violations, invisible but present Caged her mind

A daughter, one lost and now found
At what cost to herself had she survived?
Looking at her blank stare
I wonder if she survived at all
Or if she was reduced to her mortal shell
Endlessly demeaned and forever lost,
in the haze of her own mind.

This poem is inspired by one of Manto's short stories about the partition of India and Pakistan.





10. क़त्ल और मानवता

क़त्ल और मानवता

मेरी नज़रें जहाँ तक देख सकती हैं मैं खून देखती हूं सांप्रदायिक दंगे, युद्ध या श्रेष्ठता का प्रदर्शन, हर स्तर पर देख सकती हूं मानवता का कत्ल और स्त्री का दोहरा शोषण.

कारण ज़मीनी सीमा हो या प्रकृति पर अधिकार की बात श्रेष्ठता साबित करने के लिए क्या युद्ध जरूरी है?

क्या सही है इन संघर्षों में मेरा गौरव मानक होना कि गर छिनना हो किसी का गुरुर या उसे आहत करना हो तो चीर देना स्त्री के ओढ़े हुए कपड़ो को या शरीर नोच लेना या बदल देना माँस के टुकड़ों में.



इस दौर में
हर दौर में
मैं करती रहती हूं कोशिश
मानवता के कत्ल को रोकने की
'मेरे कत्ल' को रोकने की.
मैं कोशिश करती हूं
इस बहते खून को
समेट कर रख लेने की
कि गर कोई इस जंग मे
मरने वाला हो
खून की कमी से
तो उसे दे सकूँ
रक्त के साथ
ज़िंदगी

और हर उस ज़ख़्म पर लगा सकूँ मरहम जहाँ से बह रही है शत्रुता.

> मेरी नज़रे देखना चाहती हैं शांति और अमन और कि जहां तक मैं देख सकूँ मुझे दिखे अमन प्रिय मानव और सर्वोपरि मानवता।

11.War and Peace through the eyes of Women Aditi Agnihotri

M.A. Political Science 2nd Year



Violent conflict disproportionately affects women and girls. It intensifies pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination. Women are also active agents of peace in armed conflict, yet their role as key players and change agents of peace has been largely unrecognized. Women's understanding, capabilities and experiences are essential for the success of peacekeeping efforts and for sustaining peace. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 affirms that peace and security efforts are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflict the delivery of relief and recovery efforts and in the forging of lasting peace.

There are so many cases in which women suffer a lot in conflict zones, for example; In 1994, Rwanda was ravaged by genocide. Nearly a million people are estimated to have been killed in just over a hundred days. The Rwandan genocide is infamous, however, for its effect on women due to genocidal rape. In the same period, about 250,000 to 500,000 women were estimated to have been raped. "Rape was systematic and was used as a 'weapon' by the perpetrators of the massacre zones, Wartime sexual violence is not just committed by some individuals, but rather it is often deployed as a tool to further political/military gains, to prove a point.

This becomes especially challenging in the absence of justice delivery mechanisms and the lack of criminal infrastructure. To that extent, rape has also been normalized as an inevitable outcome of war. In a similar vein, Bharat H Desai and Balraj K Sidhu observed in their 2017 article in EPW, 'Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones: A Challenge for International Law?': The struggle to ensure justice for women victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is aggravated by pre-existing exclusions and discrimination that typifies women's status in many societies. It, in turn, has a compounding effect in exacerbating gender vulnerability in war-torn societies. Commander Gordana Mitrovic said that Women are disproportionally affected by conflict. For example, women are often targeted by gender-based violence. We need to respond to the specific needs of these women, by ensuring we listen to their needs and implement more inclusive approaches to address their needs for protection.

More than 600 million women and girls lived in conflict-affected countries in 2022, a 50 per cent increase since 2017. Civilians around the world need greater humanitarian aid than ever before—but countries are instead increasing military spending, which topped USD 2.2 trillion in 2022.

Apart from this harsh condition of women in war, there are some cases in which women play a crucial role in peacekeeping operations; Captains Tamanna and Nayma are Bangladeshi's first female military pilots, serving in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). They strive to be role models for local women and girls while overcoming dangerous challenges in the region, Gladys Ngwepekeum Nkeh is a United Nations Police (UNPOL) officer from Cameroon, working with the UN peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. She coordinates with local communities in CAR's capital, Bangui, to ensure security and empower women and girls in the region.

The increase in women's participation in global peacekeeping operations has been shown to improve the effectiveness and stability of a mission. Missions with more women personnel are more likely to achieve their mandate and bring sustainable peace

12. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Shivani Chaurasia

M.A. Political Science 2nd year

Exploring the lens of women in 'War and Peace,' we unveil a tapestry of resilience, love, and societal roles. From Natasha's youthful ardor to Marya's quiet strength, Tolstoy encapsulates the diverse experiences of women. These characters navigate the tumultuous backdrop of war, offering a unique perspective on its impact. Amidst battles and political upheavals, the women's stories reveal the human side of conflict. Natasha's emotional journey mirrors the turbulence of war, emphasizing the interconnectedness of personal and historical narratives. Marya, on the other hand, exemplifies stoicism, challenging traditional gender norms. By focusing on these women, the novel transcends a mere historical account, delving into the complexities of femininity in times of crisis. Their narratives serve as a powerful commentary on the societal expectations placed on women during wartime. Tolstoy, knowingly or unknowingly, provides a glimpse into the overlooked resilience of women. The novel, through their eyes, becomes a testament to the often unacknowledged strength that sustains societies in the face of adversity. In 'War and Peace,' the women emerge not merely as passive observers, but as active participants shaping the destiny of nations. Thus, the narrative intricately weaves together the threads of war and peace, showcasing the profound impact of women in both realms.



13. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Purva Chakravarty

M.A. Psychology, Final Year

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform." - Diane Mariechild. Throughout history, women have played pivotal roles in shaping the outcomes of war and peace, often making significant contributions that go unrecognized. From the front lines of conflict to the negotiating tables of diplomacy, women have left an indelible mark on the course of human history.

During times of war, women have demonstrated remarkable courage and resilience in the face of adversity. One such figure is Florence Nightingale, known as the founder of modern nursing. During the Crimean War, Nightingale and her team of nurses provided critical care to wounded soldiers, revolutionizing healthcare practices and saving countless lives. Her dedication to compassionate care and medical innovation set a precedent for the vital role of women in wartime healthcare. Moreover, women have played crucial roles in peace negotiations and conflict resolution efforts. A prominent example is Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist who mobilized women across ethnic and religious divides to end the country's devastating civil war. Through grassroots organizing and nonviolent protest, Gbowee and her fellow activists played a pivotal role in bringing about the peace accords that ended years of conflict in Liberia. Furthermore, women have made significant contributions to peacebuilding and reconciliation in post-conflict societies. Wangari Maathai, the founder of the Green Belt Movement, pioneered environmental conservation and sustainable development initiatives in Kenya. Her efforts to empower women through tree planting and community-based projects have not only improved environmental sustainability but also fostered social cohesion and economic resilience in communities affected by conflict and poverty.

Among many others, women have made significant contributions to India's struggle for independence, social reform, and nation-building, leaving behind a legacy of courage, resilience, and commitment to peace and justice. One of the most prominent figures in India's struggle for independence is Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi who was a prominent leader in the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against British rule. She displayed extraordinary courage and leadership during battles and became a symbol of resistance against colonial oppression.

Sarojini Naidu, often referred to as the Nightingale of India, was a poet, activist, and key figure in the Indian independence movement. She played a crucial role in mobilizing women and galvanizing public opinion against British rule through her powerful speeches and in the realm of politics and governance, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit stands out as a trailblazer. As the first woman to hold the office of President of the United Nations General Assembly, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit played a key role in shaping India's foreign policy and promoting peace and cooperation on the international stage.

It goes without saying that through their contributions in war and peace, these women, along with a large number of such strong women have inspired generations to strive for progress, justice, and equality. Their stories serve as a testament to the indomitable spirit of women and their vital role in shaping the nation's destiny.







14. Love in the War: through the eyes of Army Wives

Joyashree Dey M.A. 2nd Year

Almost twenty-four years after India's enormous victory at Kargil, stories of the war continue to be narrated with immense pride. Yet, one undeniable perspective has been largely ignored - that of the army wives. What does a soldier's wife go through, when her husband marches off to a near-suicidal mission? And what does it take to survive, even thrive, having sustained serious mental traumas in battle who do not even take an active part in it? The heart-touching stories of unimaginable valour in the face of broken dreams lost hopes and shattered families prove that bombs & amp; bullets can only pierce the bodies of soldiers, but their stories will live on in the hearts of these brave women forever, women who have dedicated their lives to the nation, without even a uniform or rank to call their own. The story of the boundless bravery of the Indian troops, as well as the emotional tumult experienced by their families both during and after the war gives us Goosebumps still today. While there are many books describing the Kargil War and the heroic acts of our men, there is not even a proper article which rather takes the chance to tell the story from the point of view of a wounded officer's spouse. An army officer's wife herself has not only seen the war but has also borne the brunt of it passively. She has married to an unpredictable future and entered the world of defence forces, only to face a ruthless war and separation month after month. Even many newlywed couple have sacrificed their eternal love for the ultimate patriotism and duty to the country.

The mental status, emotions, and interactions within the Indian troops' women whose beau marched forward on the peaks of Kargil for the suicidal missions are beyond imagination. I often have wondered what I would have done if I was faced with this dilemma: of being against war in one hand but married to a man forced to fight it.





15. War and Peace through the eyes of Women Ananya Keshari B.A. Political Science 3rd Year



As we all know that war causes destruction and destruction can not be the solution of anything, so rather then war we should maintain peace and try to find out the solution through it. In this whole war and peace conflict, women have affected allot both physically or mentally . Not only women are affected by war natural resources, children, economic situation of the society, and more are affected by the it. Women are victims of unbelievably horrific atrocities and injustices in conflict Situations; this is indisputable. As refugees, internally displaced persons, combatants, Heads of household and community leaders, as activists and peace-builders, women and Men experience conflict differently. Talking about society and the natural resources of the society, the exploitation of the natural resources has created 'economies of war 'where armed forces and other powerful people have brought instability in the society in order to have control over valuable resources and over land. Violence on the women experience during war, had a long term impact on it. At that only institution of governance and law are weakened. Until the state security and formal institutions are rebuild, Women's security is threatened inside and outside of the home. Sometimes Women's are not always victims. They actively work to improve their condition. Trafficking and sexual slavery are inextricably linked to conflict. Women are trafficked out of one country into another to be used in forced labour schemes that often include forced prostitution. They are pushed into marriage with members of opposing groups either directly, through abduction, or in order to protect their families. They are abducted by armed groups and forced to accompany them on raids and to provide everything from Food to sexual services. Many sexual slaves are also used for dangerous work like Demining contested areas, forced to risk their lives to make a field or a hillside safe for Soldiers. Displacement of women and children happen during war time.

Women are send for the different camps as well. During war time situation of women's and children become worse and exploited. Domestic violence are one the activities done in war and peace time. Talking about her medical condition Armed conflicts have been major causes of disease, suffering and death for much of human history. The fatalities, injuries and disabilities suffered on the battlefield are obviously direct effects of conflict. But there are also health consequences from the breakdown of services and from population movements. The diverting of human and financial resources away from public health and other social goods contributes to the spread of disease. These indirect consequences of war may remain for many years after a conflict ends. Both the experience of conflict itself and the impact of conflict on access to health care determine the physical health and the psychological well-being of women and girls in very particular ways. Women are not only victims of the general violence and lack of health care – they also face issues specific to their biology and to their social status. To add to the complexity of the picture, women also carry the burden of caring for others, including those who are sick, injured, elderly or traumatized. This in itself is stressful and often contributes to illness. At last I would like to conclude by mentioning that during war time specially for Women's and children an organization should be made in the hand of the state that will protect them and will provide all type necessary services as to prevent them from different types of violence

16. Women in War, Women in Peace Aditi Yadav MA Political Science, 2nd Year



Women have long been integral to both war and peace efforts throughout history, often playing crucial roles that are not always recognized or acknowledged. In times of conflict, women have served in various capacities, providing essential care and support to those affected by war. They have worked as nurses, caregivers, and activists, tending to the wounded, comforting the grieving, and advocating for peace.

During times of war, women have also taken on combat roles, fighting alongside men on the front lines. From ancient warrior queens to modern-day soldiers, women have shown bravery and resilience in the face of conflict. Despite facing discrimination and barriers to entry, women have proven themselves as capable fighters and leaders in times of war.

In addition to their roles in conflict, women have been instrumental in promoting peace and reconciliation. Women-led peace movements have been successful in advocating for nonviolent solutions to conflicts and bringing about positive change. Women have a unique perspective on peacebuilding, often emphasizing dialogue, empathy, and community-building as essential components of sustainable peace.

In post-conflict settings, women have played key roles in reconstruction efforts, helping to rebuild communities and promote reconciliation. Women's participation in peacebuilding processes has been shown to increase the likelihood of lasting peace agreements and reduce the risk of conflict recurrence. When women are included in decision-making processes related to peace and security, their perspectives and experiences can lead to more inclusive and effective outcomes.

Despite their significant contributions to both war and peace efforts, women continue to face challenges and barriers in accessing equal opportunities and recognition. Gender stereotypes, discrimination, and lack of representation in leadership roles are some of the obstacles that women face in their efforts to contribute to peace and security.

Empowering women to fully participate in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention and resolution is crucial for building sustainable peace. When women are included in peace negotiations, ceasefire agreements, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, their perspectives can help address root causes of conflict, promote social cohesion, and ensure that the needs of all members of society are considered.

In conclusion, women's roles in war and peace are diverse and significant. From providing care on the front lines of conflict to leading peace movements and rebuilding communities in the aftermath of war, women have proven themselves as essential contributors to building a more peaceful world. Recognizing and valuing women's contributions to both war and peace is essential for achieving lasting security and stability for all.

17. From Factory Floors to Home Fronts: The Post World- War Journey of Women Akansha MA English 1st Year

Amidst the turbulent tides of life, through hardships and ease, women have steadfastly illuminated their indomitable presence. Be it being at the front or contributing from the backdrops their role remains indispensable in the evolution of the society.

The World War remains toughest in the annals of history as it brought a miserable time for the people all over the world. The period also observed profound transformations in the roles and perspective of women. Breaking the confines of traditional stereotypes, they reshaped their place in the society. By playing a pivotal role on factory floors to household they made it clear they are no less.

Women in Work Force- During the war period, women replaced the fixed place associated with male dominated industries to fill the gap left by enlisted men who bored across Atlantic and the pacific in the warfare. They became economically independent. The iconic of Rosie the Riveter is an allegorical symbol in US for Women's Independence working in shipyards, factories and the ones producing munitions and war supply. She is known to the world for women's economic advantage.

Shift to Homefront- After the war came near to end, the expectations of women again started to change. The returned servicemen took their jobs and women had to look after the household responsibilities. Even after these pressures women resisted submitting the pre-war roles. Women found themselves framing a balance between their newfound freedom and assigned expected role of femininity.

It is often said that the true nature of a person is revealed at times of the greatest adversity and Women's have been proving their capability since ages, the legacy of women's Wartime Contributions is still looked upon shaping the thoughts for upcoming generation of women.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL

National e-Conference on "Journey of Women's Studies Centers in India":

Problems, Potentials and Prospects" (4th-5th August, 2020)

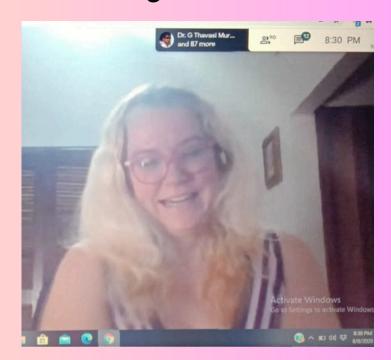


Women's Development Cell has successfully organized a National e-Conference on the topic "Journey of Women's Studies Centers in India: Problems, Potentials and Prospects" from 4th-5th August, 2020. This workshop aimed at providing a forum to the scholars and practitioners of Women's Studies to reflect on challenges and opportunities for Women's Studies Centers in India and to explore the possibilities of networking and collaborations. The event was attended by several students from varied departments.

International Web-Talk on "Rethinking Gender and Human Security:

A Global Perspective" (8th August, 2020)





International Web-Talk was auspiciously organized by Women's Development Cell on the topic "Rethinking Gender and Human Security: A Global Perspective " for our college students on 8th August, 2020. The main objective of the Web-Talk was to analyze women's position and challenges who are at the margin: The unheard voices of women refugees, women migrants, sex workers, health workers, women prisoners in the COVID 19 crisis and to create a meaningful dialogue on the need for a gender sensitive framework of human security. The Eminent speakers of the Web-Talk were Prof. Araceli Alonso (Co-**Director of UNESCO Chair on Gender, Wellbeing** and Culture of Peace, 4W Director of Gender, Health and Clinical Practice, Co-Director 4W-TREETS (Social Transformation to End Trafficking for Sex), Gender and Women's Studies, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US).

The second speaker was Prof. Anita Singh (Professor, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University & Co-Coordinator, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, FSS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi).

The third speaker was Prof. Geeta Patel (Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures & Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, US).

The fourth speaker was Dr. Lindsey Churchill (Associate Professor of History & Director, Women's

Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center & Program Director, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Central Oklahoma, US). The event was attended by a number of students and various faculty members from different universities of India as well as of Abroad.

वसंत महिला महाविद्यालय में ई-वार्ता का आयोजन

वाराणसी (सन्मार्ग)। वसंत महिला महाविद्यालय के महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ के द्वारा अंतराष्ट्रीय ई-वार्ता का आयोजन रीथिंकिंग जेंडर एंड ह्यूमन सेक्युरिटी ए ग्लोबल पर्सपेक्टिव विषय पर किया गया। स्वागत उदबोधन प्राचार्या प्रो. अल्का सिंह ने किया एवं डॉ प्रीति सिंह, समन्वयक महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ ने संबंधित विषय से सभी को अवगत कराया और विषय की गंभीरता को सबसे साझा किया। प्रथम वक्ता प्रो.अनिता सिंह ने अपने विचार में बुद्धन स्ट्रीट थिएटर की बात की जिसमें समाज मे संकीर्ण सोच की शिकार औरतों को एक मंच दिया जाता हैं, जिससे वह



अपनी चेतना को जागृत करके समाज मे अपने हक की मांग व जगह बना सकें।

द्वतीय वक्ता प्रो.गीता पटेल ने अपने विचार में पेंशन सिस्टम की बात साझा की जिसमे उन्होंने औरतों का श्रम बाजार द्वारा दोहन और उनके जीवन की स्थितियों से समाज मे जेंडर उच्चतर व निम्नतर बदलाव आ रहे हैं। तीसरी वक्ता प्रो.अर्सली

अमेरिका से अपने विचार में महिलाओं की स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं और जेंडर में सतत विकास सिद्धान्त की बात की जिसमें तीन पुरुषों के मुकाबले मीडिया में एक औरत की चर्चा की जाती हैं, जो कि सोचनीय हैं। डॉ. लिंडसे चर्चिल अमेरिका से अपने विचार में कोरोना काल के कारण सेक्स वर्कर्स एवं सेक्स संबंधी समस्याओं और उनके निवारण के लिए उठाये गए कदमों को साझा किया। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ. योगिता बेरी ने किया। डॉ.रचना पाण्डेय व डॉ जी. तावासी मुरगन ने सभी वक्ताओं का परिचय दिया और डॉ. संवेदना सिंह ने रिपोर्ट लेखन किया।

Celebration of International Women's Day (8th March, 2021)



Women's Development Cell has celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March, 2021. The event was attended by various students from different departments of our college.

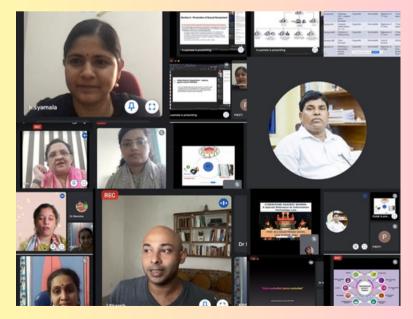


One Day Legal Awareness Workshop on "Legal Provisions & Protective Measures for Women" (29th July, 2021)





One Day Legal Awareness Workshop was organized by Women's Development Cell on the topic "Legal Provisions & Protective Measures for Women" on 29th July, 2021. The workshop aimed at making students aware about the legal provisions and safeguards for women. It also provided information as of to empower the youth of our country with the knowledge of their legal rights and duties, ultimately to be able to share power equally, gain full access to the means of development. The workshop was divided into three sessions. The first session was on the topic "Cyber Crime Against Women: Special Reference to Information Technology Act". The lecture was delivered by Prof. G.P. Sahoo (Faculty of Law, BHU, Varanasi)





The second session was on the topic "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013". The lecture was delivered by Dr. K. Syamala (Associate Professor cum-Director (Research & Training), National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi).

The third session was on the topic "Manipulating Your Society-Glimpses of Security Threats in the Modern World and Things You Can't Do About It" and the lecture was delivered by Mr. Utkarsh Verma (Software Engineer, Infosys, Pune). Many students became a part of this session.

Celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava (25th September, 2021)

E-Quiz Competition was jointly organized by Women's Development
Cell & The Department of Political Science under the aegis of IQAC on
the topic 'Role of Women in the Indian National Movement &
Constitutional Development" on 25th September, 2021 to celebrate
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava.



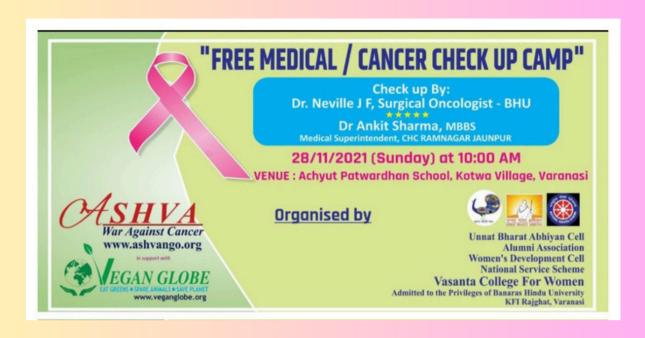
Student Development Programme on "Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities in Present Times" (24th November, 2021)



Women's Development Cell, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi in association with ICFAI Business School has organized Student Development Program on the topic "Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities in Present Times" on 24th November, 2021. Lecture was delivered by Prof. Arun K Kaul (Faculty member, IBS Gurgaon). The program was attended lots of students from different departments of the college.



Cancer Check Up Camp (28 November, 2021)

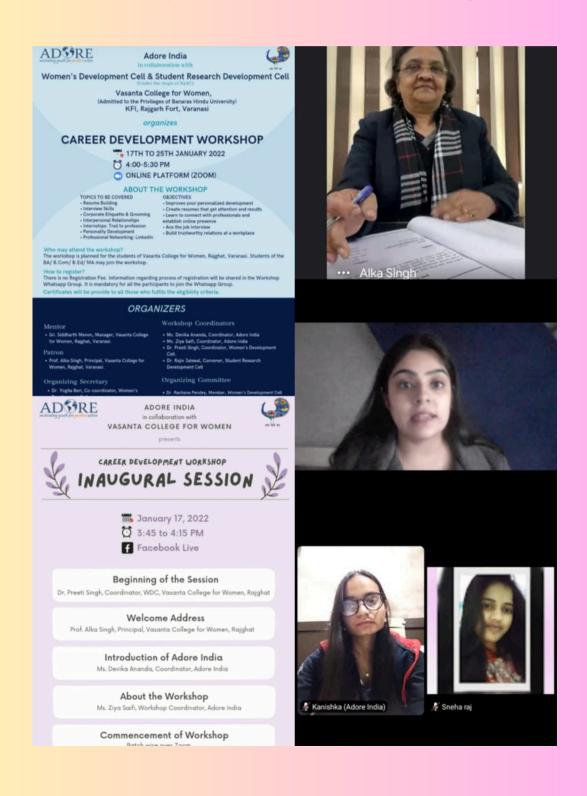


A free medical/Cancer Check up Camp was organised jointly to create awareness by Women's Development Cell, Alumni Association, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell and National Service Scheme of Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi at Achyut Patwardhan School, Kotwa village and it was facilitated by Dr. Neville J.F. and Dr. Ankit Sharma.



Career Development Workshop (17th-25th January, 2022)

Adore India in collaboration with Women's Development Cell & Student Research Development Cell under the aegis of IQAC has successfully organised Career development Workshop from 17th-25th January, 2022. The main objective of the workshop was to improve personalized development, to create resumes that get attentions and results, to ace the job interview and build trustworthy relations at a workplace. The workshop was attended by various students of the college.



'Shades of Womanhood' (Women's Day, 2022)

'Shades of Womanhood' was a
Women's Day celebration on the
occasion of International
Women's Day 2022. The events
included Poetry Recitation, Collage
and Poster Making and MonoActing and their presentations.

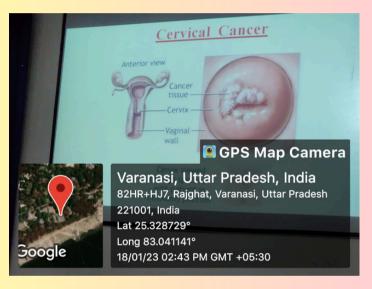


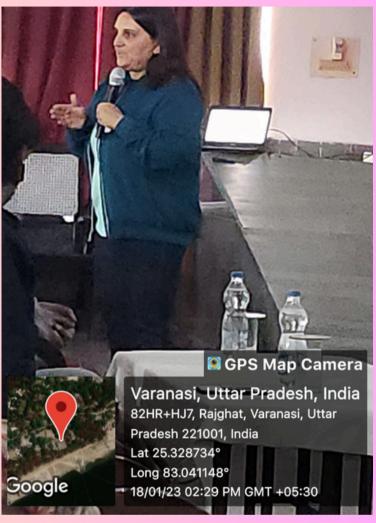


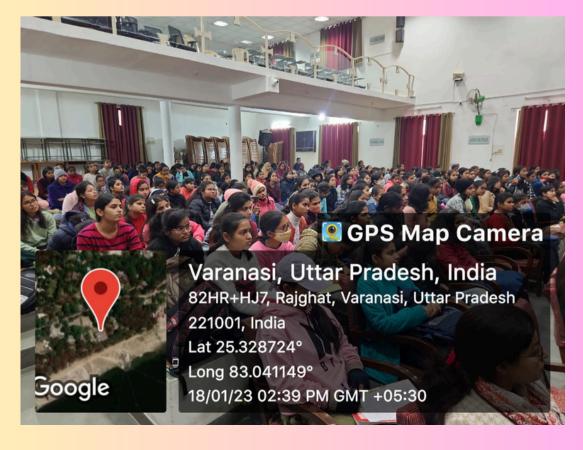


Health Talk (18 January, 2023)

A health talk was organised on 18th January to make students aware of cervical cancer and it's preventative vaccine.

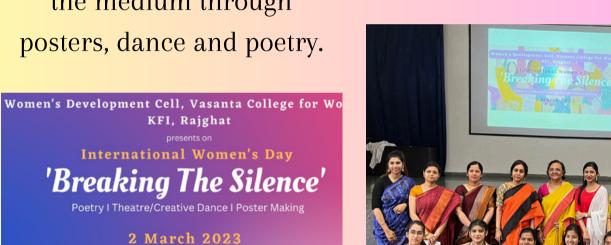






International Women's Day 2023 'Breaking The Silence'

'Breaking the Silence' was a cultural event organised on the occasion of **International Women's** Day (2023). The event included presentations by students, who interpreted the medium through





Auditorium, 1:15 pm come one, come al





वसंत महिला महाविद्यालय में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस का आयोजन

प्रहरी मीमांसा संवाददात

वाराणसी। वाराणासी में महिला विकास प्रकोष्ट बंसत महिला महाविधालय वे तत्वाधान में ÷ब्रेकिंग दि साइलेंस÷ (चुप्पी तोड़ो) विषय पर एक सांस्कृतिक उत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। जिसके अंतर्गत रंगमंच, पोस्टर मेकिंग, कोलाज मेकिंग, स्व रचित काव्य पाठ आदि प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया।विद्यार्थियों ने विभिन्न माध्यमों से पितृसत्तात्मक समाज के विरुद्ध अपने स्वर मुखरित किए और चुप्पी तोड़ी। सांस्कृतिक उत्सव का समापन समारोह 02 मार्च को महाविद्यालय के सभागार में किया गया। समापन समारोह की मुख्य वक्ता महाविद्यालय की प्राचार्या प्रो. अलका सिंह रहीं। प्रो. अलका सिंह ने अपने वक्तव्य मे कहा कि हम +महिला सशक्तिकरण+ से +सशक्त महिला+ की संकल्पना की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं और मानसिकता बदलने की आवश्यकता है। इस अवसर पर महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ की ई पत्रिका +वामा+ के



अवसर पर शिक्षा विभाग की शिक्षक डॉ विभा सिंह पटेल ने अपनी स्वरचित कविताएं प्रस्तत की। तत्पश्चात प्रथम द्वितीय एवं ततीय

और नाटक प्रस्तुत किया। इसके साथ ही ओपन माईक कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत अर्थशास्त्र विभाग की प्रो विभा जोशी, इतिहास विभाग की डॉ श्रेया पाठक समेत विद्यार्थियों महिला वित्तीय सशक्तिकरण, घरेलू हिंसा, महिला शिक्षा और सुरक्षा समेत विभन्न विषयों पर चुप्पी तोडने की बात कही। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ.आकांक्षा त्रिवेदी द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन एलोरा सेन ने किया तथा प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुति पूर्वा के द्वारा किया गया। इस सांस्कृतिक उत्सव का आयोजन डॉ. प्रीति सिंह समन्वियका महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ , डॉ. योगिता बेरी सह समनवियका महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ तथा डॉ. रचना पांडेय सदस्य महिला विकास प्रकोष्ठ के निर्देशन में किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में कॉलेज की छात्राओं ने श्रेया सिंह, अदिति मैथिल, विनती पांडेय, श्रेयशी

मिश्रा, नव्या राय, निकिता राय,

कश्यप ने सिक्रय भूमिका निभाई।

One-Day Workshop On Gender Sensitization (6th November, 2023)

One day workshop was conducted on the topic, "Gender sensitisation: A Clarion Call for Today" on 6th November, 2023 at the College Assembly Hall. The objective of the workshop was to broaden the perspective about gender issues. The workshop thus helped the students to became aware about gender issues and became more sensitised towards it.



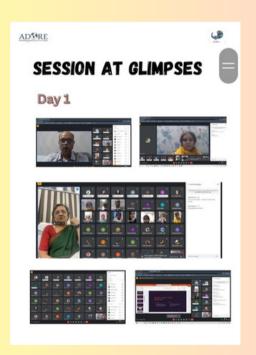


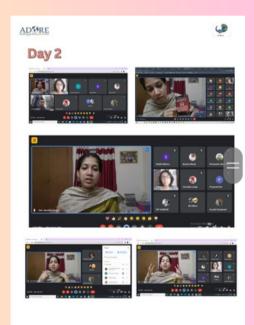


Workshop on Cyber Security (7th November - 9th November, 2023)

A Cyber Security Workshop was conducted from 7th November, 2023 to 9th November, 2023 through Google Meet. The workshop stived to provide a holistic understanding of both technical and legal dimensions of cybersecurity. This made the students were made aware of Cyber Security Technical aspects and Cyber security legal aspects.

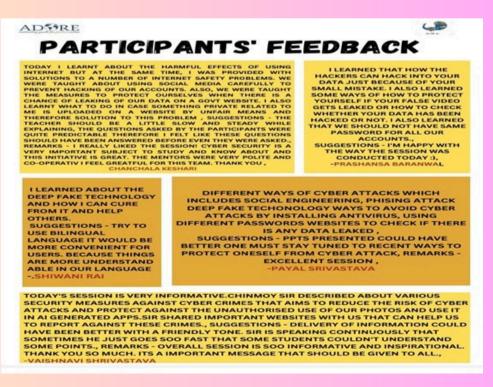






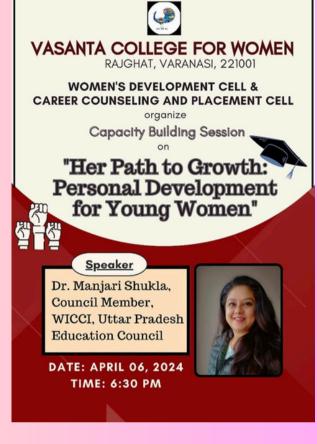




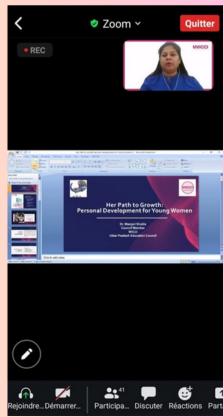


Capacity building session on "Her path to Growth: Perssonal Development For Young Women" (6th April, 2024)

A Capacity Building Session on "Her Path to Growth: Personal Development for Young Women" on 6th April, 2024 in the online platform of Zoom. The session aimed to make women aware about their worth. The respected speaker Dr. Manjari Shukla Council was Member .WICCI. Uttar Pradesh Education Council. Various suggestion were given to women as to how can they empower themselves and make there Stress better. was given improving not only physical but also mental health.









Thank You!