

## **NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GENDER ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA**

**Faculty Co-ordinator: Dr. Tejaswini Malegaonkar**

ILS Law College, Pune in association with the Human Rights Cell of ILS Law College organised a one day national seminar on “*Gender Issues in Contemporary India*” on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at the Conference Hall of ILS Law College, Pune. The seminar saw interactive discussion on the various challenges faced by men and women in various facets of life including homes, workplaces, media and the society. This seminar saw participation of over 60 students and professionals from across the country.

### **SESSION 1 Gender Sensitization**

The first session was on the topic Gender Sensitization and was chaired by Dr. Tejaswini Malegaonkar, Assistant Professor, ILS Law College, Pune. The resource person for the session was Ms. Devika Singh, Advocate, New Delhi.

The session began with paper presentation by Ms. Aditi Khobragade, student of ILS Law College on the topic of “Gender Stereotyping in Career Building”. The resource person, Ms. Devika Singh addressed the gathering about the difference between sex and gender and related societal stereotypes. The speaker tried to explain Gender and sex too, have a thin line of demarcation between them. When we talk simply about the biological difference between a male and a female, we are talking in terms of sex but when we talk with reference to the social, cultural and economic status of both, we talk in terms of gender.

### **SESSION 2 Prevention of Sexual Harassment**

The second session on the topic of *Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace* was chaired by Dr. Tejaswini Malegaonkar, Assistant Professor, ILS Law College, Pune. The resource person for the session was Ms. Devika Singh, Advocate, New Delhi.

The session began with paper presentation by Mr. Xerxes Bharucha and Mr. Jash Vaidya, students of ILS Law College on the topic of “*Internet and Harassment: A Perspective on Gender Inequality*”. The resource person, Ms. Devika Singh addressed the gathering about the difference between sex and gender and related societal stereotypes. The speaker tried to explain the ambit of definition of sexual harassment and also the difficulty in understanding what amounts to ‘physical contact and advances’. The provisions of the Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 were discussed in detail.

### **SESSION 3 Gender Inequality in the Entertainment Sector**

The third session on the topic of *Gender Inequality in the Entertainment Sector* was chaired by Dr. Deepa Paturkar, Assistant Professor, ILS Law College, Pune. The resource person for the session was Ms. Priyanka Khimani, Partner at Anand and Anand & Khimani.

The session began with paper presentation by Ms. Awani Kelkar, students of ILS Law College on the topic “*Female Representation in India Media*”.

Ms. Priyanka Khimani spoke about the difficulty faced by female artists in the film industry. She opined about the gender pay gap and the changing perceptions of the society. This was followed by a panel discussion with Ms. Priyanka Khimani and Ms. Devika Singh, where issues like the underrepresentation of transgender community in the entertainment sector, objectification of women in magazines and ads and use of derogatory words to describe women etc., were discussed.

Student Coordinators: Tishita Mukherjee, Jash Vaidya, Xerxes Bharucha, Aditi Khobragade, Shraddha Trivedi, Shreya Kunwar, Urvashi Gattani, Aditya Jhavar, Prachi Bhardwaj, Ashwini Sanap, Rishikesh Deshmukh

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Tejaswini Malegaonkar.