

**Sophia College for Women (Empowered)**

**DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**A.Y. 2020-2021**

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## ‘Understanding Gender and Sociology through Digital Activism and Stories’

On March 1 st , 2021, the department conducted a guest lecture on the theme ‘Understanding Gender and Sociology through Digital Activism and Stories’. The resource person was Ms. Priya Goswami- an activist, independent movie maker and the CEO and founder of Sahio and Mumkin. The talk was divided into 2 sessions, one at 11 am and the then at 2 pm. Both sessions had an average of 70 attendees each.

Over the course of the talk, there were several subjects discussed under the purview of the theme. Ms. Goswami spoke about the need and importance of conversation and more importantly the need of a safe space to have these conversations. She further talked about how her AI – based application ‘Mumkin’ makes it possible to start conversing about sensitive topics. Her talk was extenuated by a well thought out presentation, which used colours and formats with the basic intension to make uncomfortable conversations seem visually appealing and normal to a certain extent. She spoke about the need to ensure that while making a conversation on anything that is triggering, you need to give a warning before initiating it. Furthermore, she stressed upon other important aspects of effective communication so as to have a fruitful conversation with a person. She lays emphasis on how different opinions need to be tackled in a conversation and how values such as empathy play a big role in the same. We also discussed about how deep – rooted a person’s beliefs are and how hard it is to question and change them.

The second session started off with her talking about the importance of Artificial Intelligence in general as well as specifically for Mumkin. She emphasised on usage of pastel and earthy hues for illustrations while talking about topics such as Female Genital Mutilation and the strong psychological impacts these colours and the illustrations have on the minds of the consumers. What struck most with the students was also the fact that everything that the application showcased, starting from the logo to the last animation, all aspects were well – thought and manifested really well in practicality. The second session ended with a quick but equally informative round of questions and answers for Ms. Goswami.



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting. The main window displays a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is orange and labeled 'ending gender based violence'. The right circle is blue and labeled 'artificial intelligence'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'mumkin'. Below the diagram, it says 'Copyright © 2022 All Rights Reserved'. The Zoom interface shows a grid of participants, a chat window on the right, and a toolbar at the bottom.

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid. The grid shows several participants with their names and initials. A chat window is open on the right side of the screen. The chat contains the following messages:

- rules made by society
- From Shri to Everyone: students plz make use of the chat box
- From A18274 DICNA ROY to Everyone: Taboo
- From A18369 Bianca Rodrigues to Everyone: female sexuality in the 21st century

The chat window also shows a search bar, a list of participants, and a 'Mute All' button.

A screenshot of a presentation slide. The slide is titled 'Keeping calm', 'TIME FOR A BETTER CONVERSATION', and 'Listening'. The content is as follows:

- Keeping calm:** FGC is a controversial topic that often sparks strong emotions. Sometimes, you might feel frustrated, unheard, resentful, upset or even angry while talking to someone who disagrees with you. But to prevent a dialogue from turning into an argument, it is important to take a deep breath and convey how you feel without letting your temper or anger get the best of you.
- TIME FOR A BETTER CONVERSATION:** FGC, FGH, or Khata? FGH is a form of dialogue that is meant to be a safe space for people to express their views and feelings. It is a time when you can share your thoughts and feelings with others. It is a time when you can listen to others and understand their perspective. It is a time when you can work together to find a solution to a problem.
- Listening:** For any effective conversation, listening to the other person is as important as getting your own point across. Listen sincerely, without judgement or assumptions. Even if you disagree with the other person's point of view, it is possible to empathize with their feelings.

The slide also features the 'mumkin' logo and 'Copyright © 2022 All Rights Reserved' at the bottom.

## SAMAJIK SOCIOLOGY

The department collaborated with celebrity author and mythologist to have a lecture on 'Women in Tamil Literature'.

The Pre-Samajik Sociology event was on 16th May 2021 and Mr. Devdutt Pattanaik was invited to speak on 'Women in Tamil Literature'. Lecture was live on facebook and was attended by more than 25 students.

### **SAMAJIK SOCIOLOGY**

Department launched its first ever flagship event called 'Samajik Sociology'. The idea was to celebrate the discipline and also to connect to our alumni.

The Main Samajik Sociology event was to be held on 17th May 2021 but due to bad weather conditions it was postponed to 18th May 2021 at 2pm. The programme was attended by around 200 attendees nationally and internationally. Programme started with a welcome of our Principal Sr. Ananda Amritmahal, Vice principal and also ex-faculty member of the dept Ms. Gilda Periera their inaugural speech. Followed by the interview of Guest of Honor Ms. Rasika Dugal. Next was a Pre-recorded interview of our Guest Speaker Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni who shared her thoughts and experiences with our students. The department hold its pride in their students and their achievements the next session was with alumni Alina Alam, Shimli Basu and Tarini Tripathi who spoke about their journey in the field they are working and the Ms. Basu and Ms. Tripathi graced the occasion with their special performances. The Batch of 2019-20 also shared their experiences with the department followed by a dance performance. The current Batch of 2021 also did an amazing dance and singing performance. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks given by Dr. Anagha Tendulkar.





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