

Workshop on Gender Sensitization

A Workshop on 'Gender Sensitization' was held at English and Foreign Languages University, Lucknow Campus, on 13 October 2017. The workshop was aimed at creating awareness about gender through a series of lectures and interactive programmes for students, research scholars and teachers. Professor Pallavi Bhatnagar, Head, Department of Psychology at the University of Lucknow gave her Keynote 'Understanding the S/he Dilemma: Psychological Perspectives.' Professor Bhatnagar, a reputed psychotherapist and widely consulted academic on psychological concerns, had a flurry of interactive activities in her session. She attempted to highlight how the human consciousness is trapped by societal stereotypes on gender and how one needs to consciously break away from such orthodox thinking, perceiving each other with empathy and understanding. She also emphasized through her workshop that men and women depicted androgyny in terms of personality traits. Hence, the need to understand them as humans and not as gendered beings.

Professor Rajneesh Arora, Director, EFL University, Lucknow Campus, in his talk 'Gender Sensitization through Language Awareness' made the students aware of how gendered messages were manufactured in advertising and subliminally processed by consumers, alerting them to the dangers of sexist texts and language. These interactive sessions threw light on the ubiquity of gender, how individuals knowingly and unknowingly participated in perpetuating gender stereotypes and its preventive measures.

Dr. K. Narasimha Rao, Associate Professor, lectured on 'Gendered Geographies: Intersections of Power and Gender in Literary Discourses.' He highlighted the postcolonial discourses on gender, the *ghar-bahar* dichotomy and how women in literature and in everyday life were subjected to different manifestations of power. Dr. Saumya Sharma, Assistant Professor, spoke on '(Psycho)Discursive Perspectives on Gender' describing the interaction between language and gender and how psychological processes were significant in understanding the social construction of gender. The active participation of the students, research scholars and teachers made the event memorable and educative.