

Report of the Interaction Session with Rita Manchanda and Anuradha Bhasin

Interaction Theme: Experiences of Women in a Conflict Zone

Name/Designation of the Resource Persons:

- Ms. Rita Manchanda (Noted Author/Researcher)
- Ms. Anuradha Bhasin (Editor, Kashmir Times)

Venue: Departmental Library, Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir

Date and Time: 19 April, 1:30pm

Ms. Rita Manchanda and Ms. Anuradha Bhasin interacted with the scholars and students (women only) of the Department of Social Work. The title of the interaction session was 'Experiences of Women in a Conflict Zone.

The session started with the introduction of the participants. After the introduction, the experts started with the agenda of the session, in which they sought the perspectives and views of participants regarding various socio-cultural and religious dimensions associated with the women living in the conflict-ridden Kashmir valley. The aim of the interaction session was to understand the gendered perspectives of conflict in Kashmir. The discussion was held in order to understand views and opinions regarding the same.

The participants shared their experiences and opinions regarding the experiences of women in the conflict-ridden state vis-à-vis events, practices, violence etc. Participants gave elaborate details of their experiences concerning impacts on family, loss, trauma, impact on economy, society etc. In particular, the discussion brought out that women are deeply affected psychologically due to the concern for their family safety and security.

In the session, the role of culture, politics and patriarchy in society was also discussed. The participants were asked about their viewpoints regarding the acceptance of women participation in politics, economy, education, change etc. It was observed that the social contribution of everyone, irrespective of gender, is important in dealing with the impacts of the conflict.

The session was concluded with the vote of thanks.