

Report

Celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Sister Nivedita
National Orientation Workshop
on
Role of Women to Strengthen the Nation: In Perspective of Sister Nivedita
28-29 October 2017

The Research Centre for Women's Studies (RCWS), SNTD Women's University, Mumbai and Shakti- National Movement for Women and Sharada Shakti, Maharashtra, jointly organized a two-day National Orientation Workshop on the *Role of Women to Strengthen the Nation: In Perspective of Sister Nivedita* on 28 and 29 October 2017 at the J H Mini Auditorium, SNTD Women's University, Juhu Campus, Mumbai.

The workshop aimed at enlightening and educating the younger generation about Sister Nivedita's work for the upliftment of our society, working towards social cultural, scientific and national progress by following the principles of Sister Nivedita, instilling among the youth love for the country and faith in its social and cultural values through the teachings and philosophy of Bhagini Nivedita, focusing on and addressing the present social, cultural, economic issues and national challenges, and bringing together a synergy among the youth and women force of the country to work towards societal reforms and nation building.

The famous acolyte of Swami Vivekananda- Margaret Elizabeth Noble is known the world over as- Bhagini Nivedita. As a female educationist, social reformer, encouraging indigenous scientific revolution and in reawakening the youth she gave her life selflessly to this country. The 150th Birth Anniversary of such a great personality provided a noble opportunity to awake the Nivedita within and to commemorate the living memories of Sister Nivedita.

The Workshop began with the deep prajwalan and lighting of 150 diyas along with arti matrubhoomi and recitation of shakti mantra. Professor Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor SNTD Women's University presided over the inaugural session. Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Samanvay Sanyojika Mananiya Geeta tai Gunde was the chief guest of the inaugural programme. Mrs. Sudhaji Tiwari, President Shakti also addressed the gathering. Key note address on *Bhagini Nivedita- A Comprehensive Life Sketch* was delivered by Shri Ranghari ji (former Rashtriya Boudhik Pramukh, revered scholar, Cochin). Dr. Archana Bhatnagar (OSD, SNTD WU) gave the formal vote of thanks. Prama, an annual magazine by Shakti, was also unveiled as souvenir during inauguration.

The two-day programme included talks by established scholars and experts from different fields as well as exciting activities. Resource persons included- Dr. Ila Ghosh (Jabalpur), Dr. Sharad Renu (Mathura), Sushree Sujata Nayak (Bangalore), Dr. Suchita Krishnaparasad (Mumbai), Dr.

Ankita Bohare (Jabalpur), Dr. Ambuja Salgaonkar (Mumbai University), Shri Iyant Sahasrabuddhe (Bhopal), Dr. Suchismita Sengupta Pandey (Uttarakhand). The workshop was divided into 11 sessions. There were different sessions involving songs (Dr. Uma Sharma and group), poetry recitation, short skit on Sister Nivedita (Dr. Ashwini Lele and Sadhana Joshi), dance performance on Nivedita (Dr. Lalita Soni and her group), mono act on Nivedita Samarpita (Dipali Katre), talk show, group activity during the two day workshop. The chief guest for the valedictory session was Dr. Rama Vaidya (Director, Division of Endocrine & Metabolic Disorders, MRC- Kasturba Health Society and Research Director, Reproductive Medicine, BSES Hospital). Around 120 delegates across the nation working for social reforms and women empowerment had participated in the workshop along with faculties and students of SNT Women's University.