

ARYABHATTA COLLEGE

THE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CELL

COMMON REPORT



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Samvaad 2021

DATE-: 27th September, 2021

The Finance and Investment Cell, Aryabhata college organised its first Group Discussion under 'SAMVAAD' in collaboration with Vitt, Maharaja Surajmal Institute on the topic "Economics of Girl Education" on 27th September 2021.

The discussion commenced with the address by Mr. Nishith Prakash, the speaker for the session. He talked about two of his research cases – Bihar and Zambia. His speech was really insightful as he shared his experiences and the findings of his research. He also listed the causes for the gender gap in education and the implications of girl education on society.

The speech was followed by an exclusive group discussion among the students of the two societies. The moderators for the group discussion were Parth Jaiswal and Sumit Raj. Enthusiastic participation by the students and the zeal to find solutions were very apparent and worth noticing.

The discussion covered topics like government policies to support girls' education, the contribution of girls in GDP, unjust representation in administration, and breaking the glass ceiling. The students pointed out the importance of increasing the representation of women in policy-making exercises, raising awareness about abortion laws, and sensitizing citizens towards taboo topics like sex education and abstinence.

The assembly of students believed that investing in girls' education transforms communities, countries, and the world as a whole. According to the students, the world would surely reap better returns by investing in education rather than by spending money on dowry. The students quoted facts such that we can add \$770bn to India's economy, provided we can get rid of orthodox mentality and become more welcoming to accepting women at the workplaces. Additionally, a report by Mckenzie stating increased gender diversity at work will lead to a 17% increase in stock prices was cited during the discussion to strengthen the argument.

The discussion identified the mindset of people as the grey area that requires action and as the reason why despite all the government's efforts we are still lagging. The group suggested the need to end the stigma around divorce and agreed to the equation that marriage is inversely proportional to education. The prevalent issues such as dowry, non-recognition of unpaid work, safety, and deep-rooted patriarchy were brought to the table and effectively addressed. The group brainstormed about ways to overcome social stigmas faced by girls and learnt about the role of educating girls in building the future social environment. Another important point discussed was that women should not only seek but create jobs.

Students concluded that access to education is instrumental in empowering women. And a change in the thinking process and the will to make a change would be essential contributing factors in the process. Every little effort towards the aim is going to contribute to the success.

The group discussion turned out to be fruitful and a learning experience for everyone. The topic was thoroughly analysed and led to the exchange of amazing perspectives and ideas among participants. Overall, the event was conducted with sheer smoothness and ended up being a great success.

Key takeaway points from the session

- Increase representation of women in policy making, abortion laws, sensitize citizens towards sex education, abstinence
- Women should not only seek but create jobs
- If we are more accepting to accepting women in the workplace, we can add 770bn to the economy, glass ceiling, orthodox mentality, awareness
- Mckenzie report states that increased gender diversity in the workplace will lead to a 17% increase in the stock price
- Big shift is an accumulation of small shifts
- Where are we lacking despite all the efforts put in by the Government? Target mindset of people
- Marriage is inversely proportional to education
- Better returns if money is invested in education instead of dowry
- Remove the stigma of divorce

