



International Women's Day Celebration

Women's Development Cell, IITRAM, Ahmedabad conducted an interactive seminar "**Meet The Women Scientists**" on 11th March 2015 as the part of International Women's Day celebrations. Dr. Shanti Parana, Convener of the cell, welcomed everyone and initiated the proceedings. Research shows that positive mentoring of women in the so called STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) stem fields has far reaching benefits. Keeping this in mind, the goal of the programme was to introduce to the faculty and students alike the type of research work done by the women faculty of the institute.

Dr. Soumya Bajpai, Assistant Professor in Mathematics, detailed her past research in *Finite elements method* and the current work in progress. Dr. Mahuya Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, discussed very lively her research on *Porous Materials: Some Aspects & Challenges*. Dr. Urjani Chakravarty, Assistant Professor in English, whose area is Sociolinguistics discussed her research on *Reader's Creativity & Interpretation of Unfamiliar Neologisms*. She, very interestingly discussed the word Neologisms and how a human brain interprets the meaning of a particular word. Dr. Krupa Shah, Teaching Associate in Electrical engineering enthusiastically discussed *Transformer Diagnostics*, explaining the social need of her research to save the wastage of electricity. Nisarga Malaviya of Semester II, Civil Engineering made a presentation on Fibonacci sequences and Golden Ratio and explained the prevalence of Fibonacci numbers in nature.

Students also were very enthusiastic to be the part of the celebration and they came up with topics focusing on the extraordinary contributions of the women in one or the other area for the betterment of the society. Focusing on one such example Preeti Kumari Yadav narrated the biography of Chhavi Rajawat, an MBA graduate and the youngest sarpanch of India. Kavina Mehta read and presented her view on Tessy Thomas, project director for Agni-IV missile in Defense Research and Development Organization. Profile of Chanda Kochhar, the managing director of ICICI Bank and its chief executive officer (CEO) was described by Sunanda Katewa. India's first women photojournalist was scanned by Tejaswani Vadthyavath. Vaishali Iyengar discussed a very motivating story of Malala Yousafzai the youngest person to receive the noble Peace Prize. The students tried their best to contribute in the celebration.

Lastly, a very thought provoking and inspirational story of Pandita Ramabai, a Sanskrit scholar and reformer was narrated by the Dean of Academics and Students' affair Dr. B V Kamath. The program concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Shanti Prasanna. The potential of women of India and especially women educators was felt by one and all and hopefully will inspire our girl students to take up research in a big way.

