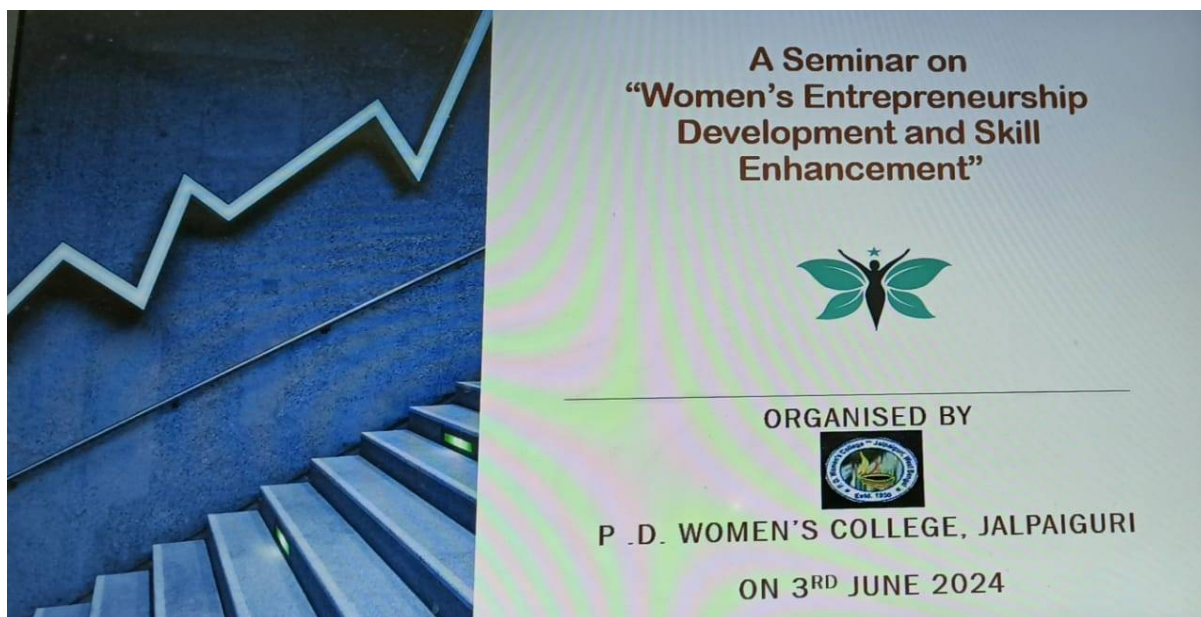


Seminar on
“Women’s Empowerment, Development, and Skill Enhancement”



Unemployment is a critical issue across all sectors in India. Women face significant social barriers that hinder their empowerment. However, the success stories of influential businesswomen who have overcome these challenges can serve as a beacon of inspiration. Consider the achievements of these women:

- **Falguni Nayar:** Founder and CEO of Nykaa, an online beauty marketplace that has expanded to include physical stores, a YouTube channel, and a magazine. Nayar boasts over 26 years of experience in e-commerce, investment banking, and broking.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw:** Founder of Biocon Limited, a biopharmaceutical company, and Biocon Biologics Limited, a biotechnology company. She is India’s wealthiest self-made female entrepreneur and was formerly the chairperson of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.
- **Vandana Luthra:** Founder of VLCC, a wellness brand offering fitness, beauty, and nutrition products. Luthra opened the first VLCC centre in New Delhi in the 1980s and was ranked 26th on Forbes' 2016 Asia List of 50 Powerful Businesswomen.
- **Suchi Mukherjee:** Founder of Limeroad, a social-commerce platform offering a wide range of products for women. Mukherjee is recognized as one of India’s most powerful women in business.

The Indian government's support for small, micro, and medium enterprises, particularly for women, is a promising sign of the opportunities available. A 2008 report indicates that 51% of the workforce comprises women, with 14% as entrepreneurs and 20% from the micro-firm industry. Inspired by this, the faculty of P. D. Women’s College, under the guidance of our esteemed principal, have taken the initiative to organize the seminar on “Women’s Empowerment, Development, and Skill Enhancement” to motivate and enlighten our students. **The seminar aimed to inspire and empower students, providing them with insights and opportunities for skill enhancement and entrepreneurial development.**

Dignitaries present in the seminar:

- **Chief Guest:** Mr. Goutam Chowdhuri, General Manager, District Industrial Centre, Jalpaiguri
- **Dr. M. Mukhopadhyay**, Associate Professor of MBA and Head of Placement and Training, Jalpaiguri Govt. Engineering College
- **Mr. Devid Barui**, Deputy Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Jalpaiguri
- **Mr. Debashish Karmakar**, SDM, Central Bank of India, Jalpaiguri
- **Mr. Manab Baksi**, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Jalpaiguri
- **Dr. Samapti Shaha**, Principal, P. D. Women's College, Jalpaiguri
- **Dr. Manabendra Nath Maitra**, Coordinator, IQAC, P. D. Women's College



The seminar commenced with a welcome song by the students, followed by welcome speech delivered by Principal, P. D. Women's College, Dr. Samapti Saha.



The lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries along with our Principal, and the faculty members of the college marked the event's official start.

Mr. Goutam Chowdhuri discussed the role of the District Industrial Centre in promoting and supporting women's empowerment and skill development at the district level, including financial assistance, technical guidance, and infrastructure support.

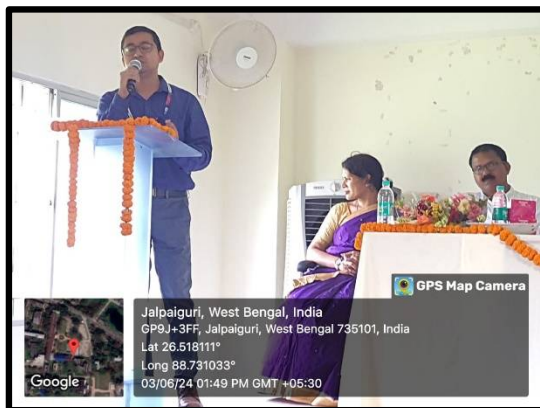
Dr. M. Mukhopadhyay delivered an inspiring speech encouraging students and addressing the upcoming threat of cybercrime.

Mr Devid Barui highlighted the State Bank of India's (SBI) leadership in financing India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), detailing various loan products available to support business needs. As of March 31, 2022, SBI had over 18 lakh MSME customers with a portfolio of ₹3,05,517 crore, comprising nearly 10.83% of the bank's total advances.

Mr Debashish Karmakar spoke about the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' schemes for the growth and development of the MSME sector, including credit support, new enterprise development, formalisation, technological assistance, infrastructure development, skill development and training, and market assistance.

Mr. Manab Baksi encouraged students by assuring them of support from the Chamber of Commerce for anyone aspiring to establish a business in any sector.

Dr. Manabendra Nath Maitra, Co-ordinator, IQAC, delivered the vote of thanks.



Outcome of the Seminar on “Women’s Empowerment, Development, and Skill Enhancement”:

The "Women’s Empowerment, Development, and Skill Enhancement" seminar organised by P. D. Women’s College on 3rd June 2024 yielded significant positive outcomes for students, faculty, and attendees. Key outcomes include:

1. Increased Awareness and Motivation:

- Students gained a deeper understanding of the various challenges and opportunities related to women's empowerment and skill development.
- The inspiring stories of successful businesswomen such as Falguni Nayar, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Vandana Luthra, and Suchi Mukherjee motivated students to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and careers with renewed vigour.

2. Knowledge of Government Schemes and Support:

- Attendees were informed about the various government schemes and financial supports available for women entrepreneurs and MSMEs. This information is crucial for those looking to start or expand their businesses.
- Detailed insights were provided on the role of institutions like the District Industrial Centre and banks in supporting women entrepreneurs.

3. Networking Opportunities:

- The seminar facilitated networking among students, faculty, and distinguished guests, creating potential mentorship opportunities and collaborations.
- Interaction with professionals from various fields, including banking, industry, and academia, helped students establish valuable connections.

4. Understanding Financial and Technical Assistance:

- Students learned about the different loan products and financial assistance programs from the State Bank of India and the Central Bank of India, specifically designed to support MSMEs.
- Technical guidance and infrastructure support details provided by Mr. Goutam Chowdhuri and other speakers equipped students with practical knowledge to aid their entrepreneurial ventures.

5. Cybersecurity Awareness:

- Dr. M. Mukhopadhyay’s discussion on the threat of cybercrime provided students with crucial information on safeguarding their digital identities and businesses, emphasising the importance of cybersecurity in today's digital age.

6. Encouragement from Local Business Leaders:

- Encouragement from Mr Manab Baksi and other local business leaders assured students of the support they can receive from the Chamber of Commerce and other local institutions in their entrepreneurial endeavours.

7. Commitment to Continued Support:

- The seminar reinforced the commitment of P. D. Women’s College to support women's empowerment and skill enhancement initiatives through continuous education, training, and events.

8. Actionable Insights and Strategies:

- Students left the seminar with actionable insights and strategies to implement in their personal and professional lives, including starting new ventures, enhancing skills, and leveraging available resources.

The seminar was highly successful in raising awareness, providing valuable information, and motivating students and attendees to actively participate in women's empowerment and skill development initiatives. The event also strengthened the college’s role as a catalyst for positive change in the community.
