

## REPORT

### **Group Discussion: Gender, Sexuality, and Disability: Introspection of Law and Society in the Contemporary World**

On April 26, 2024, the Center for Studies Related to Persons with Disabilities organized a focus group discussion on "Gender, Sexuality, and Disability: Introspection of Law and Society in the Contemporary World." The Focus Group Discussion was judged by Dr. Praveen Kumar and Dr. Ambika. The event was graced by Dr. Sachin Sharma, the Director of the Centre, whose efforts have been instrumental in promoting inclusivity and organizing programs that highlight the problems faced by individuals with disabilities. The presence of Dr. Santosh Kumar Sharma, along with other distinguished guests such as Dr. Ruchi Gupta, Dr. Mritunjay Kumar, Dr. Bharat Barowalia, Dr. Rohit Sharma, and Dr. Sarita, added depth and insight to the discussions, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing these challenges. The aim of the discussion was to provide a platform for students to share perspectives on various pertinent issues. Topics ranged from the intersection of gender, sexuality, and disability to the examination of relevant legal frameworks and societal attitudes.

The event commenced with Manav shedding light on the intricate intersection of disability and bullying. His presentation delved into the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in navigating social environments, where bullying often exacerbates their struggles. Through his discourse, Manav underscored the urgent need for fostering inclusive and empathetic communities to mitigate such adversities. Following Manav, Bhoomi Papnoi eloquently addressed the critical issue of disability and reproductive health. With a focus on mental and reproductive well-being, Bhoomi illuminated the profound negative impacts experienced by individuals with disabilities. She articulated the necessity of adopting a balanced approach to create a more conducive environment—one that acknowledges and supports the unique reproductive health needs of this demographic. Her insightful suggestions resonated with the audience, prompting reflections on the importance of holistic healthcare provision.

Ayush Chadha took the stage next, captivating the audience with his discourse on law and morality. He meticulously outlined various constitutional provisions and landmark judicial decisions that underscored the imperative of aligning legal frameworks with ethical considerations. Ayush's presentation served as a compelling reminder of the symbiotic

relationship between law and morality, urging attendees to uphold ethical principles in legal discourse and practice.

Arshia then presented a compelling case for period leave, shedding light on the pervasive challenges faced by women due to menstruation. With a comprehensive overview of the negative consequences associated with menstruation, Arshia advocated for policies that recognize and accommodate the unique needs of menstruating individuals. Her impassioned plea for menstrual equity resonated with many, sparking conversations on the importance of destigmatizing menstruation and promoting gender equality.

Aachal Tiwari followed, drawing attention to the pressing issue of accessibility and inclusion. Through poignant anecdotes and insightful analysis, Aachal highlighted the daily obstacles faced by individuals with disabilities, particularly concerning infrastructure. Her presentation underscored the urgent need for systemic changes to ensure equitable access to essential services and spaces for all members of society. Aachal emphasized the importance of designing infrastructure with the perspective of disabled individuals as a primary consideration from the outset. This proactive approach ensures that accessibility is integrated into the planning and construction phases, rather than being treated as an afterthought or a retrofitting process.

Kartik Sharma continued the discourse by exploring the intersection of disability rights and sexual orientation. His presentation navigated the complex terrain of identity and rights, emphasizing the need for intersectional approaches to advocacy and policy-making. Kartik's nuanced analysis prompted attendees to consider the interconnectedness of various social justice issues and the importance of inclusive advocacy efforts.

Sonia Rana then delved into the intersection of disability, gender, and society, offering profound insights into the multifaceted challenges faced by marginalized individuals. Her presentation underscored the interconnected nature of oppression and the imperative of addressing intersecting forms of discrimination. She concluded in the end that “The rainbow is a part of nature, and you have to be in the right place to see it. It's beautiful, all of the colors, even the colors you can't see.” And that’s what makes us humans as we are all the colors. Our sexuality and our disability are all of the colors. We are all the races, we are all the genders and we are all the races.

Finally, Savvy Thakur presented a queer perspective on universities, highlighting the importance of creating inclusive environments that affirm and celebrate diverse identities. Her presentation served as a call to action for institutions to prioritize LGBTQ+ inclusion in their policies and practices.

The event was concluded with a thought-provoking group discussion involving faculty and judges, followed by progressive remarks from Dr. Santosh, the Dean Academics. Dr. Santosh's closing remarks underscored the significance of the discussions and urged attendees to translate insights into tangible actions to advance inclusivity and social justice.

The Centre for Studies related to Persons with Disabilities looks forward to hosting more discussions that bring together diverse perspectives and insights to further our understanding of the issues at hand. We anticipate that these programs will continue to contribute valuable knowledge and insights to the discourse on gender, sexuality, and disability, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

