

**12th Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Lecture Series on
'Relevance of Savitribai's work to Social Work Practice'**

By Dr. Shewli Kumar

Organized by Women's Development Cell of CSWNN

REPORT

Date of the event: January 4th, 2023

Time: 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Participant Classes: BSW-I, BSW-II, BSW-III, MSW-I & MSW-II

Organizers:

WDC Members:

- ❖ Dr. Saman Afroz (Convenor)
- ❖ Ms. Roshni Alphonso (Faculty Representative)
- ❖ Ms. Swati Karekar (Administrative Staff Representative)
- ❖ Ms. Maya Barsing (Administrative Staff Representative)
- ❖ Ms. Vaibhavi Kulkarni (MSW Student Representative)
- ❖ Ms. Ichcha Shinde (BSW Student Representative)

Guest of Honor & Resource person: Dr. Shewli Kumar, Associate Professor and Chairperson,
Women centered Social Work, School of Social Work, TISS- Mumbai.

Title of the event: 12th Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Lecture Series on 'Relevance of
Savitribai's work to Social Work Practice'

Program Schedule:

- ❖ Lecture by Dr. Shewli Kumar
- ❖ Song and drama performances by all the classes based on Savitribai's life
- ❖ Felicitation and Vote of thanks

Summary of the event:

The program began with Dr. Saman Afroz, Convenor WDC welcoming the gathering and introducing the theme of the lecture series which was 'Relevance of Savitribai's work to Social Work practice' Dr. Saman briefly re-touched upon the life of Savitribai, about how despite of all the obstacles and hardships she took up the cause of Women's education and achieved it in the orthodox Indian society, thereby sowing the seeds of feminism in Indian social life. Thereafter, a short documentary on Savitribai's life was played to better orient the audience for further performances and lecture.

As a mark of tribute to Savitribai and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's work, groups of students from all the classes of BSW I, BSW II, BSW III, MSW I and MSW II performed role-plays and songs (including traditional ovis and poems written by Savitribai) depicting the social barriers experienced and conviction and strategies demonstrated by Savitribai to overcome them and uphold the cause of Women's education. Another important aspect highlighted through the performances was how education was the primary cause of Savitribai's work and how it hence crossed all the perceived social boundaries of caste and religion, as she worked with Fatima Shaikh towards this common goal of getting women educated. Yet another observation through all the performances (which included literature and poetry written by Savitribai as well) was that all of them were performed in Marathi language which depicts that a strong thought on mere basis of its content and emotion can reach through entire globe, cutting across all the barriers of caste, religion and language.

Dr. Shewli Kumar began her lecture on 'Relevance of Savitribai's work to Social Work Practice' by appreciating all the performances and emphasized upon how an art form is an effective way for social reformers and social workers to inculcate their work into and reach their intended audience through the source of curiosity and entertainment. She then moved forward to explain how feminism is not an ideology to consider as some rocket science of men bashing, but a judicious act of demanding equality in basic and advanced rights of

progress like education and claim no discrimination on the basis of gender at all. Moving on to talk about Savitribai's life, Dr. Shewli touched upon the intersectional feminist approach experienced and demonstrated by Savitribai where she sowed the seeds of equality with so much of ease and without actually using any technical terms for it. Dr. Shewli explained how Savitribai experienced and fought against discrimination not only on the basis of gender but also for other aspects like caste and class. Final crux of her lecture was that as social workers we need to be aware of these multiple layers of discrimination and particularly while working with women, we need to develop this lens of intersectionalism and work with more prioritization and sensitivity.

Vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Roshni Alphonso to express gratitude towards everyone who was involved in meticulous planning and successful execution of this event.

The event ended with distribution of snacks among the students.

Outcome of the event:

WDC was successful in raising awareness about the event which became evident through students' active participation through performances and also during the lecture. Students were able to reflect upon their own personal and professional life experiences where they observed layers of discrimination against women and appreciated the values given to us by honorable images like Savitribai to give us all the strength and conviction we need to fight against these odds. Across the span of the session, students were able to connect the points presented by Dr. Shewli through the perception of Savitribai's work to their field work experiences and asked good questions towards the end of the session to understand ways to tackle difficult instances of discrimination.

Feedback:

As all the performances were mostly in Marathi, the compering script could have been in English to reach the non Marathi following audience. Apart from this, the effort behind participation of students and faculties was appreciated.

Attachment I: Invite poster for the event:



**College of
Social Work
Nirmala Niketan**



**Women's Development Cell,
College of Social Work,
Nirmala Niketan**

**Celebrates 192nd Birth Anniversary of Savitribai Phule & Invites
you to the 12th Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Lecture Series, on**

***'Relevance of Savitribai's work to Social
Work Practice'***



**January 4th,
2023**

2 to 4 p.m.



**First Floor Hall,
College Of Social Work,
Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai**

Dr. Shewli Kumar
Associate Professor and Chairperson,
Women centered Social Work,
School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai

Faculty Representatives:
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Ms. Roshni Alphanso

Admin Staff Representatives:
Ms. Maya Barsing
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Student Representatives:
Ms. Vaibhavi Kulkarni (MSW)
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Attachment II: Glimpses of the event:

