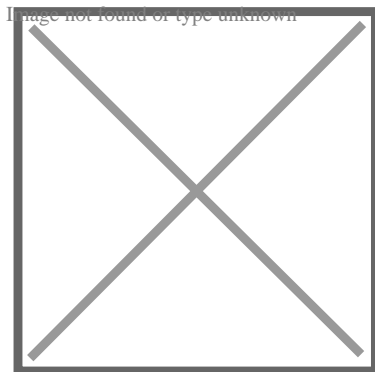
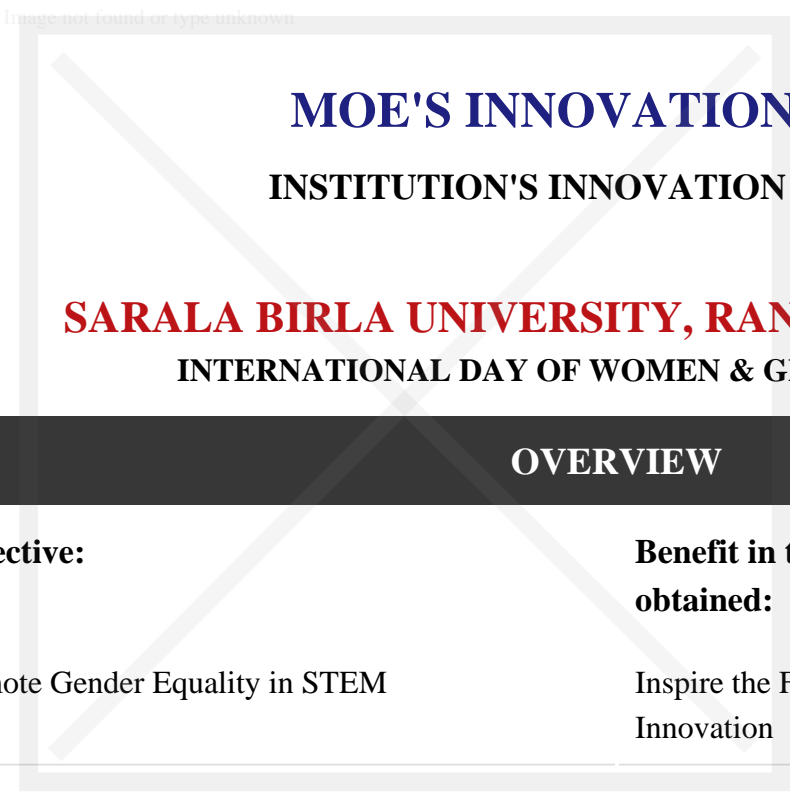


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MOE'S INNOVATION CELL
INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL

SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY, RANCHI (IC202428412)
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

Objective:	Benefit in terms of learning/Skill/Knowledge obtained:
Promote Gender Equality in STEM	Inspire the Female gender for Start-up and Innovation
Academic Year:	Program driven by:
2024-25	Self-driven Activity
Month:	Program /Activity Name:
	International Day of Women & Girls in Science
Program Type:	Other:
Level 1 - Expert Talk	null

Program Theme:	Other:
Entrepreneurship & Startup	NA
Date & Duration (Days):	External Participants, If any:
02/11/2025-02/11/2025-0	2
Student Participants:	Faculty Participants:
88	11
Expenditure Amount, If any:	Remark:
2500	Successful (Hybrid Mode)- Part Offline & Part Online
ATTACHMENTS	
Video:	null
Photograph1:	
Photograph2:	
Session plan, If any:	View Report
This report is electronically generated against report submitted on Institution's Innovation Council Portal.	

VIGYAN VIDUSHI

Celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 Feb, 2025)

The prestigious **Vigyan Vidushi: Celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science** program was organized by Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences in association with Institution's Innovation Council, Sarala Birla University, Ranchi to inspire and empower young women pursuing careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This event aimed to bridge the gender gap in science by providing mentorship, advanced training, and networking opportunities for aspiring women.



Dr. Pankaj Kumar Goswami, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and computer sciences and Faculty of applied science, in his address on the occasion of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, emphasized the essential role of both men and women in shaping the future of science and society. He highlighted that scientific progress is a collective endeavor that thrives on diverse perspectives and equal participation. Drawing upon the concept of *Ardhanarishwara*, which symbolizes the union of masculine and feminine energies, he stressed that just as creation is incomplete without balance, the scientific world too requires the contributions of both genders to reach its full potential. Despite the remarkable achievements of women scientists like Marie Curie, Janaki Ammal, and Kalpana Chawla, he pointed out that societal barriers and gender biases continue to hinder women's progress in STEM fields. Encouraging institutions and policymakers to foster inclusivity, he called for more mentorship programs, equal opportunities, and policy reforms to bridge the gender gap in science. He urged young girls to break stereotypes, pursue careers in STEM fearlessly, and contribute to global advancements. Concluding his speech, Dr. Goswami reiterated that empowering women and girls in science is not just about gender equality but about building a more innovative, sustainable, and progressive society, where both men and women work together in harmony to push the frontiers of knowledge.



Dr. Neelima Pathak, the Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics at Sarala Birla University, graced the event as the chief guest. In her insightful address, she delved into the fundamental principles of science and the invaluable contributions made by Indian women scientists and researchers

throughout history. She underscored the pivotal role women have played in shaping scientific progress despite facing numerous challenges and systemic barriers.

One of the key aspects of her speech was the issue of **under representation of women in science**. She pointed out that while women constitute nearly half of the population, their presence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields remains disproportionately low. This disparity, she explained, is not due to a lack of capability or interest but rather a result of social conditioning, gender stereotypes, and limited opportunities.

Dr. Pathak emphasized the **need to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women in science**, citing examples of pioneering Indian women scientists such as Dr. Janaki Ammal, Dr. Asima Chatterjee, and Dr. Tessy Thomas. She highlighted how these women overcame significant societal and institutional challenges to contribute to their respective fields, paving the way for future generations.

While acknowledging government initiatives like "**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**," she asserted that policy measures alone are insufficient to bring about substantial change. Real progress, she argued, will only be achieved when **society as a whole actively participates** in fostering a culture that supports and encourages women in science. She urged families, educators, and institutions to create an environment where young girls feel empowered to pursue careers in research and technology.

Dr. Pathak also spoke about the importance of **mentorship and role models** in inspiring young women to take up careers in STEM. She advocated for more visibility of women scientists in textbooks, media, and public discourse, as well as initiatives that provide young girls with exposure to science and research from an early age.

In conclusion, she called for a **collective effort** to break down the barriers that hinder women's participation in science. By challenging societal norms, fostering an inclusive educational environment, and providing strong institutional support, she believed that India could harness the full potential of its women scientists, leading to a more equitable and innovative future.




Mrs. Kavita, CEO of Aadrika Enterprises, addressed the gathering with an inspiring speech on the importance of women embracing entrepreneurship rather than limiting themselves to traditional job roles. She emphasized that women should strive to become job creators instead of job seekers, highlighting the vast potential of women-led businesses in driving economic growth and innovation. She spoke about the various challenges that women entrepreneurs face, including limited access to funding, the struggle to balance work and personal life, and the deep-rooted cultural stereotypes that often discourage women from pursuing independent ventures. Many women find it difficult to secure financial support due to a lack of collateral, limited credit history, and biases within the investment ecosystem. She encouraged them to explore government-backed

loan schemes such as MUDRA and Stand-Up India, which provide financial assistance specifically for women entrepreneurs. She also acknowledged the societal expectation that women must juggle professional and household responsibilities, which adds to their challenges. However, she stressed the importance of time management, delegation, and having a strong support system to overcome these hurdles. Addressing cultural stereotypes, she pointed out how traditional norms often deter women from taking risks in business, calling for a collective change in mindset where families and communities actively support women in their entrepreneurial journeys. To help aspiring women entrepreneurs, she highlighted several government and institutional support systems, including the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) schemes that provide financial aid and skill development programs, as well as the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), which offers marketing assistance and technology upgrades. She also spoke about other initiatives like the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) by NITI Aayog and various self-help groups that empower rural women in business. Concluding her speech, Mrs. Kavita urged women to take charge of their careers, identify business opportunities, enhance their financial literacy, and connect with mentorship networks. She reinforced the idea that with the right mindset, resources, and determination, women can break barriers and emerge as successful entrepreneurs, leading the way for social and economic transformation.

Indu K Murthy (Presenting)

Impacts of Climate Change on Women



Increased Vulnerability to Climate Disasters	Women are 14 times more likely than men to die during climate-related disasters due to limited mobility, competing responsibilities, and lack of access to information (UNEP, 2012). Disasters and climate change make up 60% of climate refugees, often being considered one of the most vulnerable groups in displacement settings (UNHCR, 2013). Natural disasters and related scarcity highlight the role of domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual assault, particularly in post-disaster settings and camps (UN Women, 2013).
Food Security and Water Scarcity	Women comprise 43% of the global agricultural workforce, yet have less access to land, credit, and technology, making them more vulnerable to droughts and crop failures (FAO, 2014). Climate change-induced droughts force women to travel longer distances to fetch water, increasing their risk of physical exhaustion, health issues, and GPs (UN Women, 2013). During food shortages, women and girls often eat last and eat less, leading to higher rates of malnutrition and anemia (FAO, 2013).
Health and Well-being	Rising temperatures and extreme weather events contribute to higher rates of malaria, meningitis, and reproductive complications (WHO, 2013). Disasters, particularly prolonged weather, are more vulnerable to malaria, dengue, and Zika virus, which are spreading due to changing climate patterns (WHO, 2013). Climate pressures such as loss of livelihood and forced displacement disproportionately impact women's mental health, increasing rates of depression and anxiety (UN Women, 2013).
Economic and Livelihood Challenges	Women in informal sectors (e.g., street vending, domestic work, subsistence farming) are more likely to lose their income sources due to adverse weather events (ILO, 2013). Weather-related loss of assets (e.g., livestock, insurance, and seed) compounds, making it harder to recover from climate shocks (World Bank, 2013). As men migrate in search of work, women are left to manage households, farms, and communities, increasing their unpaid labor burden (UN Women, 2013).

3:01 PM | Dr. Indu Krishna Murthy Main

Indu K Murthy (Presenting)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Gender Equality

SDG 5: Gender Equality	• Empowering women as a solution to climate change.
SDG 13: Climate Action	• Gender-inclusive policies for resilience.
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	• Women farmers and food security.

3:14 PM | Dr. Indu Krishna Murthy Main

Dr. Venkata Naga

Jagathwar

Mr Umang Utkar

Dr. Venkata Naga Lakshmi Dur...

People

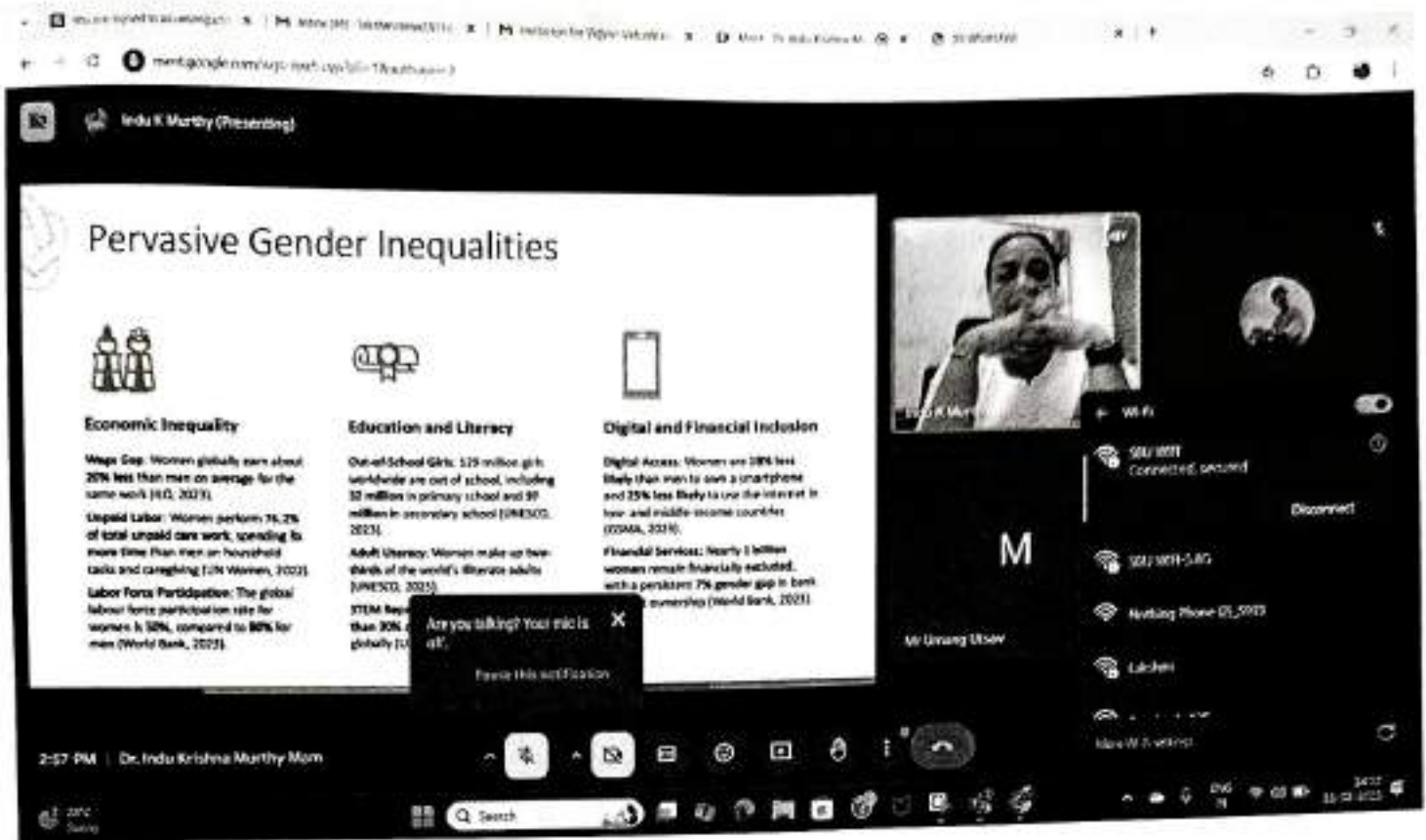
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Contributors

- Dr. Venkata Naga Lakshmi Dur...
- Indu K Murthy
- Indu K Murthy
- Jagathwar
- Mr Umang Utkar



Dr. Indu Krishna Murthy, Principal Scientist at CSETI and Sector Head for Climate, Environment, and Sustainability in Bengaluru, delivered an insightful address on the gendered impact of climate change. She emphasized that climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities, particularly women, who often face socio-economic, cultural, political, and institutional barriers. She highlighted the stark gender gap in financial and digital inclusion, stressing that women hold less than 30% of STEM research positions globally (UNESCO, 2022), limiting their influence in climate science and policy-making. She also underscored how climate-induced disasters, such as floods, droughts, and extreme weather events, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, leading to increased food insecurity, water scarcity, and livelihood disruptions for women. These challenges, she noted, are compounded by traditional gender roles that place a heavier burden on women for household responsibilities, agriculture, and resource management. She called for gender-responsive climate policies, increased investment in women's education and entrepreneurship, and greater inclusion of women in decision-making processes to foster equitable and sustainable climate resilience.

Prof. Anuradda Ganesh, a distinguished Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and former Chief Technical Advisor at Cummins India Ltd., delivered an insightful address emphasizing the transformative power of innovation. With her extensive experience as the former Head and Professor at the Department of Energy Science and Engineering (DESE) at IIT

Bombay, as well as her role as a Member of the Advisory Board at SPRERI and Learning Co-Chair of Women Leaders in Hydrogen – India, she provided a compelling perspective on the essential elements of fostering creativity and progress. In her talk, she underscored the critical need to nurture ideas rather than suppress dreams, particularly in an era where technological advancements and societal needs are rapidly evolving. She advocated for a culture of innovation that goes beyond conventional thinking, encouraging individuals to identify key gaps in existing knowledge, processes, and technologies. According to her, the true essence of innovation lies in developing solutions that address these gaps, creating a tangible impact on society.



Prof. Ganesh also emphasized that leveraging technology is not just about integrating new tools but about strategically using them to solve real-world problems. She stressed the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration, urging researchers, industries, and policymakers to work together to accelerate meaningful advancements. She highlighted that innovation flourishes when the right stakeholders, including academia, industry experts, and government bodies, come together with a shared vision.

Beyond technical advancements, she touched upon the crucial aspect of work-life balance, recognizing that sustainable growth requires a holistic approach to personal and professional well-being. She pointed out that innovating in this space—by redefining work structures, promoting flexibility, and fostering inclusive environments—can lead to more productive and fulfilled individuals. By prioritizing well-being alongside innovation, organizations and individuals can achieve long-term success without burnout.

Her address served as a powerful reminder that progress stems not just from groundbreaking ideas but from an ecosystem that supports and nurtures those ideas. She inspired the audience to think beyond conventional boundaries, take calculated risks, and drive innovation in a way that benefits both individuals and society at large.

The event concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** at 4:15 PM, presented by **Dr. Dipti Kumari, Assistant Professor, CSE**, acknowledging the efforts of all participants and contributors.

Dipti Kumari
18/02/2025