

Women's Development Cell (WDC)

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The Women's Development Cell (WDC) at Lady Irwin College was established in 1987 as part of Women Studies and Development Centre (WSDC) University of Delhi. WDC is committed to advancing gender equality, social justice, and empowerment through interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach activities. United by a shared vision and motto *Vidhya Hi Sewa* (service through knowledge), we work to promote critical thinking and informed action that challenge patriarchal norms and disrupt systemic inequalities. Our objective is to nurture an inclusive space where diverse voices converge to question oppressive structures and dismantle entrenched barriers, enabling individuals to thrive regardless of any factors. The centre is actively working towards the empowerment and gender sensitization of our students and other stakeholders. At WDC, we seek to engage critically with questions of gender and sexuality, while sensitizing students to a feminist understanding of their lives and social contexts. The Cell consistently strives to initiate meaningful conversations on a wide range of socio-political issues, including gender and sexuality, health and nutrition, educational exposure and empowerment, systemic violence and discrimination against women, mental health and overall well-being, workplace ethics, and campus safety. The initiatives of the Cell include guest lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, workshops, and student-led dialogues and activities. In addition, WDC members actively participate in study circles, research projects, writing, photography, and artistic practices such as drawing, fostering an environment of collective learning, reflection, and growth.

The activities of the center include engaging students in current issues relating to women in the present social context, dissemination of information and awareness on rights, policies and programmes for women and counseling support. Women Development Cell organizes various workshops from time to time covering the areas such as self-defense, gender issues, interactive sessions on self-expression and consent and other challenges which women are facing in present times. One such activity includes a special lecture by Dr.(Prof) Chintamani, Surgical Oncology Department, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi on the theme *Breast & Cervical Cancer: A Tale of Two Cousins* held in the month of September 2024. This lecture made the students as well as the faculty members aware of the facts of breast and cervical

cancers and debunked the myths related to these. The Women's Development Cell (WDC) also conducted several *competitions* for the college students and staff members on the occasion of *International Women's Day* on 7th March 2025 themed ***Viksit Bharat and Women Empowerment***. The post graduate and under graduate students of the college actively participate in these events and get thoroughly involved in it. The activities of the center also include engaging students in current issues relating to women in the present social context, dissemination of information on rights, policies and programmes for women and counseling support. Along with **AIWEFA**, the women development cell conducted sensitization and awareness creation workshops in various colleges of the university besides at Lady Irwin College on topics which included *Intergenerational bonding, Cyber-security, drug abuse prevention and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)*. These activities empower the students to deal with related issues and can further support other girls and women in their lives.

These initiatives not only expand knowledge but also inspire transformative dialogue, empowering students to become agents of change within and beyond the university. We firmly believe that meaningful social transformation can only be achieved through collective voices and sustained action, moving us closer to a world free from gender-based discrimination and injustice. Through these efforts, WDC aims to cultivate a holistic, inclusive, and supportive campus culture thereby contributing to the larger vision of a community based on empowering initiatives, inspired action, and gender equality.