

International Women's Day Celebration

Performance of a Skit on: 'Itni Si Baat'

Date: 7th March, 2025

Time: 16:30 PM to 18:00 PM

Venue: Library Building, 3rd Floor

Event Overview:

On March 7th, the Internal Committee of the International Institute for Population Science (IIPS), Mumbai, India, organized a skit/street play competition to celebrate International Women's Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about gender sensitization, women empowerment, and the intersection of gender and toxic masculinity. Titled '*Itni Si Baat*', the skit was meticulously designed to educate, inspire, and engage the audience on these critical themes, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges women face in their daily lives.

Skit Details:

To ensure an impactful and professional performance, the skit was staged for approximately 30 minutes during the event. The preparation process was thorough and collaborative, focusing on several key aspects:

1. **Script Development:** **Mr. Rohit Thapa**, a professional drama artist, guided the participants in crafting a compelling narrative that aligned with the themes of gender sensitization and women empowerment. He engaged in a detailed discussion with the participants for over two hours to understand the ongoing issues of gender discrimination among youth, ensuring the script resonated with real-life experiences.
2. **Stage Practice:** Participants underwent rigorous exercises to overcome stage fright and deliver confident performances. This included rehearsals to perfect timing, coordination, and emotional expression.
3. **Public Communication Skills:** Techniques to enhance voice modulation, body language, and audience engagement were emphasized, ensuring the skit's message was conveyed effectively and powerfully.

Skit Performances:

The skit featured 11 participants who enacted various day-to-day scenes highlighting gender discrimination. The narrative was creatively woven around a conversation between a wish-granting genie and a woman, exploring her misunderstood desires. The sequences included a traffic scene, a school scene, an office scenario, and a household situation, ensuring that all aspects of daily life were covered. Each scene was thoughtfully designed to reflect the subtle and overt forms of gender bias that women encounter.

The performance was both moving and thought-provoking, showcasing the resilience and dedication of women as they navigate personal and professional challenges. The skit not only entertained but also left a lasting impression on the audience, urging them to reflect on their own attitudes and behaviors.

Audience Engagement:

The skit was preceded by a prerequisite speech by Prof. Archana K. Roy (Professor and IC Chairperson, IIPS), who set the stage by addressing the social issues highlighted in the performance. Her words provided context and deepened the audience's understanding of the themes. The skit itself was met with enthusiastic applause and thoughtful reflection, indicating its success in resonating with the audience.

Outcome:

The event masterfully combined entertainment with education, leaving a profound impact on all attendees. Participants gained valuable skills in public communication and performance, while the audience walked away with a heightened awareness of gender issues and the importance of fostering an inclusive society.

Conclusion:

The skit '*Itni Si Baat*' was a resounding success, perfectly aligning with the goals of International Women's Day. It demonstrated the power of art and storytelling as tools for driving social change and promoting gender equality. The event not only celebrated women's achievements but also highlighted the ongoing struggles they face, inspiring collective action toward a more equitable world.

Acknowledgments:

Special thanks to the organizers of the event, the Internal Committee of the International Institute for Population Science, Mumbai, and its dedicated student volunteers. The event was made possible by the efforts of:

1. Prof. Archana K. Roy (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Reshmi R.S. (Faculty Member)
3. Dr. Suresh Jungari (Faculty Member)
4. Ms. Lavina Tauro (Staff Member)
5. Dr. P. Murugesan (Staff Member)
6. Ms. Sheetal Zore (Staff Member)
7. Prof. Vibhuti Patel (External Member)

A heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Rohit Thapa**, the professional drama artist, for his invaluable guidance and to all the facilitators, participants, and audience members for making this event a memorable and impactful celebration. The participants who brought the skit to life were:

1. Mrs. Nivedita Mishra (Hindi Officer, IIPS)
2. Dr. Archana (Project Staff, IIPS)
3. Shree Rashtrapal Bhanu Lakhan (Ex-employee, IIPS)
4. Dr. Pragati Ubale (Project Staff, IIPS)
5. Ms. Niharika Awasthi
6. Ms. Rupali
7. Mr. Chandan Kumar Hansda
8. Mr. Rishabh Kumar
9. Mr. Abhishek Gupta
10. Mr. Himanshu Jaiswal
11. Mr. Anubhav Verma

This event stands as a testament to the power of collective effort in addressing societal issues and celebrating the spirit of womanhood.

PHOTO GALLERY:







