

## SERIES OF SHARING EXPERIENCES STARTED BY CENTRE FOR WOMEN STUDIES, MIER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



In order to highlight the success stories of eminent women in diverse fields, Smt. Shanti Gupta Centre for Women Studies functioning under MIER College of Education has started a series of 'Sharing Experiences' in which up coming and leading women of the state are invited to share their life time experiences primarily from the perspective of being a women in an informal interaction.

The inaugural session of the series was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in which a young and a dynamic journalist of the State Dr. Kavita Suri who is presently the Asstt. Director, Centre for Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Jammu was invited.

In welcoming the learned speaker, Dr. Renu Gupta, Director, Centre for Women Studies, MIER College introduced her as an accredited Journalist having twelve years of professional experience in both print and electronic media. As a special correspondent of 'Statesman', She covered the entire state, traveled to the line of control, international border and other conflict areas in all the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh of the troubled state to highlight the cause of women in her Journalistic writings and researches.

Dr. Kavita Suri in her interaction, talked about her emotional journey of coming from a Punjabi family. Like all typical mothers her mother was also not very keen for her to pursue a career in 'Journalism' as it involved late hours of work. It was in and through the efforts of her father who himself was a very active and popular 'Journalist' of his times that she was able to make a headway. She did all her studies in the regular time and pursued Journalism side by side in the evenings. As a leading journalist and as a researcher, she worked on a project 'Impact of Violence on Women's Education in Kashmir' where she found that young girls could not pursue education due to unstable conditions in Kashmir valley and had to stay put at home for their safety and wasted precious years specially in the rural areas. Having spent her childhood in Kashmir, her heart bled to see so much violence and bloodshed and its impact on girl's education. It left a deep psychological and sociological impact on women in general and young girls in particular who were denied education.

She also talked about obstacles she faced in her career and how she overcome them. At times she had to travel all alone in the interiors of Kashmir. She had to risk her welfare and security. Talking about the role of media in projection of women in India, she said in the positive sense it was highlighting the role of women in various fields and was instrumental in bringing a change in the mindset of the society towards certain gender issues. She strongly felt that negative projection of women in the media should be banned.

The session culminated with a viewing of a short documentary produced by Dr Kavita Suri on the 'Role of Women in Formation of Village Defence Councils in the Upper Reaches of Kashmir' where they picked up guns for their own protection.

Her achievements and accomplishments were appreciated by the staff and students. Mrs. Annie Kaul thanked her for a wonderful interaction.