

**A Report on
Seminar conducted by
APARAJITHA- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CELL,
AND
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Study and Research Centre,
SSMRV COLLEGE**

Conducted Seminar on “Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitri Phule”

The APARAJITHA - Women Empowerment Cell, SSMRV College in Association with Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Study and Research Centre,SSMRV College

On 28th February 2022 organised a Seminar on “Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitri Phule” in SSMRV College Seminar Hall.

The Chief Guest for the day was **Mrs.Revatiraj Brigade**, Founder and President – Bhimaputri Brigade.

Welcome:

The event was Compeered by Mrs. Shakeela M K, Co-ordinator –Aparajitha Women Empowerment cell, SSMRV College. Followed by Invocation by ASRC organisng Secretary and Group and Welcome address by Mr.Sudeep.B.C.

About the Talk:

Mrs.Revatiaj Brigade started the semina with the introduction of Mahtama Jyothi Rao Phule opposed child marriage and supported widow remarriage, which was prohibited particularly among high-caste Hindus. Phule contended that the Aryans were foreign invaders and that the land of India rightfully belonged to the native peoples—now the lower castes. He argued that the caste system was alien to India, having been introduced by the Aryans to strengthen their dominance.

She pointed out that in her speech, Savitribai Phule and Mahatma Phule chose to work for the empowerment of women and their education. They fought against regressive practices prevalent in the society then which was even more difficult than fighting against the British, she said.

Mrs.Revatiaj Brigade said Savitribai Phule been alive today, she would have been very proud to see the growing number of girls excelling in education and receiving medals.

Smt Revatiaj specified that Jyoti Rao Phule opened a pioneering school for lower-caste girls in Pune in 1848, a time when it was extremely rare for girls of any caste in India to receive an education. He had educated his wife, Savitribai Phule, at home, and she became the teacher of the girls’ school. Over the next few years, the Phules opened a series of schools in the Pune area for girls and for lower-caste boys and girls.

she quoted Jyoti Rao Phule was a visionary much ahead of his time, he was against child-marriage and supported widow remarriage. These initiatives did not go too well with the orthodox community.He was very saddened by the plight of widows, especially the treatment meted out to widows who unfortunately became pregnant after the death of their husbands due to

exploitation by other men. He opened a home where such widows could safely give birth and care for the infants.

In order to oppose the practice of untouchability, Jyotiba and his wife let the so-called lower caste people openly into their house and let them draw water from their well. This angered people of his own caste, but he never bothered about what others thought. He was also a poet and in his writings he would criticize the narrow-mindedness of the society and the cunningness of Brahmins who exploited the gullibility of the farmers and other classes.

Later in her talk she emphasized that – Mahatma Phule’s legacy demands us to pledge to teach generations not to submit to the slave system, graded inequalities, but rather question it, and keep the revolutionary potential alive.

She specified that Savitri and Jyotiba’s life story and teachings questioned everything normative, unequal, making of mental slaves, and rebelled against them. The most relevant lesson from his life to be understood today is that he was a misfit in the slave kingdom – a radical, a rebel. He could bring about revolutionary social change.

She referred that Today education has been reduced to transmitting information. There is a fear of examination because of bookish education. Little bit we have to be practical in system, we have to brought life-oriented education. In this context, Phule’s education system is still very relevant. For him knowledge was not just information. It involves questioning, understanding critiquing knowledge. Interpretation, critique and values all three are central to Phule who way back in the 19th century gave an alternative to the information approach to knowledge. For him, "Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life”.

The session was followed by an interactive question and answer session with the Participants.

Time Duration: The Programme lasted from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Venue: Seminar Hall, SSMRV College

Attendees/ Presence:

Around 150 Participants including members of ASRC and WEC activity Centre members; Faculty and Students who are pursuing their Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree from this Institution, attended and benefited from the programme.
