

Young minds meet experts

Seminar held at city college to inspire young women to take up careers in science

Paras K Jha, Ahmedabad

Nearly 300 college girls studying science had a great day at St Xavier's College here on Saturday as they had the opportunity to interact with some leading women scientists from across the country. The congregation was on the occasion of the seminar 'Women in Science: A Career in Science', which aimed at inspiring young women to take up a career in science.

Scientists present at the seminar talked about developments in their respective research areas. Shanti Prasanna, who teaches mathematics at St. Xavier's College, said: "It is an effort to create awareness on various career op-

tions available to young women and to explore new avenues for entrepreneurial development."

Prof Rohini Godbole, of the Indian Academy of Sciences, said: "Our first seminar was held in Kochi, this is the second one. This year we are aiming to arrange four seminars across the country. It is a worldwide problem that there are less women in the field of science. We are doing a survey to reach a solution to this problem."

Prof JH Coates, professor of pure mathematics, University of Cambridge, and Prof AK Singhvi, dean of Physical Research Laboratory, were also present.

Coates said, "Science needs young minds and there has been a knowledge revolution in the Asian countries, which has opened up so many avenues of opportunities to work in science, and it also gives infinite intellectual benefits in the career."

Women scientists from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research,



Creating awareness on various career options and exploring new avenues —Dhawal Bharwad

PRL, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India Meteorological Department and Zydus Cadila pharmaceutical company told the students about the latest advancement in their fields. Vidita

Vaidya, from the department of biological sciences at TIFR, talked about stem cells and their role in 'Making new neurons in the adult brain'.
Sujatha Ramdorai, mathe-

matician at School of Mathematics at TIFR, talked about 'The mystery of numbers and puzzles in the mathematics research'.

Kuljeet Kaur Marhas of PRL talked about the evolution of early solar system, while Tanuja Kulshreshtha spoke about the importance of women in science.

Kamajit Ray from IMD talked about the weather forecasting and its challenges.

'Society should take initiative'

Ahmedabad: Woman scientists present at the seminar stressed the need for encouragement and support that girls should receive to pursue a career in science and research. Sujata Ramdorai, of TIFR, said: "Women are ready for science, but the society is not. Even today, parents are worried for their daughters' marriage and social life even after they complete MSc. Our society should take initiative to see that women go beyond their role as a mother or a wife or a daughter." Vidita Vaidya, of TIFR, said: "Nowadays, there are unlimited career opportunities even in pure science and research, especially in the field of biology."

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