

**A REPORT OF THE LECTURE PROGRAMME organised by**  
**INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES BANGALORE.**

**DATE : March 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

**VENUE: MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE, BANGALORE**

**Science Career Initiative-Women in Science**

The Lecture Programme started with a welcome address by Sr. Juanita, Principal, Mount Carmel College. The principal stressed upon the fact that perseverance and hard work go a long way in helping women achieve success, and one must have passion for what they do. She concluded saying that the journey to achieving one's goals is not easy but one must keep trying and never feel discouraged because of one's gender.

**Lectures**

Next speaker **Professor Rohini Godbole (IISc)** talked about two aspects: Women in science and the discovery of a new boson particle: Higgs Boson. She emphasized on the fact that individuals irrespective of their gender should come up purely based on their merit, capabilities and hard work.

The description of the discovery of the proton-proton collision to yield one Higgs boson particle that manifests in one in a billion collisions was very dynamically explained with illustrations, videos that made it a very interesting talk for the audience.

The Second speaker **Dr.T.N.C. Vidya (JNCASR)** talked on "Social Organization in Female Asian Elephants". It was enthralling and interesting as it took us on a journey of how female Asian elephants interact, how their networking is structured and organized as compared to the African elephants. There are marked differences between the social behaviour of Asian and African elephants, in their group strategies, defence against predators and behaviour during crisis such as food shortage.

The last speaker was **Dr. Attreyee Ghosh (IISc)** . This talk enlightened us on various aspects of unknown facts of our planet Earth. The structure of the earth was explained in a lucid manner, bring out clearly the fact that ample research needs to focussed on understanding our own planet better to help cope with disasters and calamities such as earthquakes, tsunamis if we are well equipped with the fissure lines, geography of the area. Earth science is an important and practical subject as it directly relates to the safety of mankind.

### **Interactive Session**

The second part of the programme was an interactive session. Other than the three above mentioned speakers, we had Dr, Prabha Chatterji , an industrial consultant in the panel . Prof J, Chandrasekharan could not come for the lecture programme.

Students asked questions about the (i) necessity of reservation in research Institutes for women, (ii) post marriage social responsibilities in women (iii) poor quality of science education in school level etc. The panellists unanimously agreed upon the fact that there should be no reservation for women scientists. They believe the bar should not be lowered for women. The social responsibilities to be shared with other family members and not to try to be a super woman. Dr. Prabha Chatterji made it clear that in industry you need to prove yourself. Dr. Attreyee Ghosh pointed out the flexible timing research scientists enjoy, even though it's a 24 hour job. Dr. Vidya asked the students to follow their passion and prioritise.

At the end, 11 students from the college who has shown interest in pursuing higher studies and research was given a copy of the book, LILAVATI' S DAUGHTER.