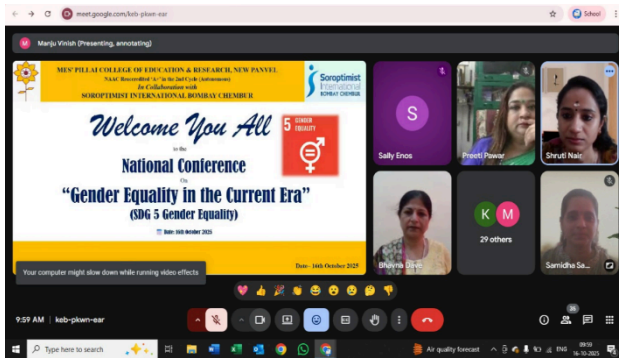


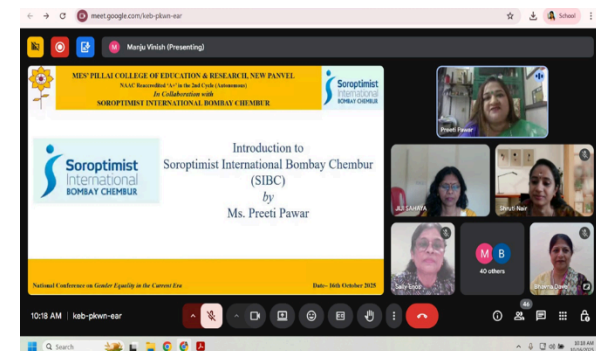
Report: National Conference on “Gender Equality in the Current Era”



MES' Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel (Autonomous), in collaboration with Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur (SIBC), organized a National Conference on “Gender Equality in the Current Era” on October 16, 2025, from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00

p.m. The conference served as a vibrant platform for reflection, dialogue, and the dissemination of research on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Gender Equality, focusing on the evolving dimensions of gender, inclusivity, and empowerment in today's digital and diverse world.

The event commenced with a Prayer Song, invoking peace and gratitude for an insightful day ahead. Ms. Shruti Nair delivered the Welcome Address. The conference reflected the ethos of the Mahatma Education Society (MES) — a visionary body committed to quality education and social transformation. Dr. Jiji Sahaya introduced the legacy of MES and the journey of PCER, New Panvel, outlining its dynamic role in fostering inclusivity and innovation in teacher education.



Representing SIBC, Ms. Preeti Pawar, Headmistress of Chembur English High School and Junior College and President of the Soroptimist Welfare Association, highlighted the organization's ongoing initiatives toward empowering women and girls through education and advocacy. She

reaffirmed SIBC's alignment with SDG 5 and its vision of building a balanced and inclusive society.

As Convenor, Ms. Shruti Nair elaborated on the purpose of the conference — to use education as a transformative tool to awaken empathy, challenge bias, and inspire social

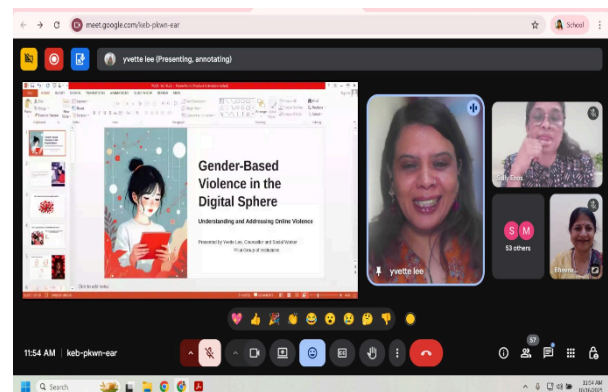
change. The platform aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, examining the roles of education, policy, and technology in redefining gender narratives.



The first expert session by Mrs. Dolly James addressed “*Gender Equality, Inclusivity, and Legal Measures.*” She explained the interrelation between equality, equity, and inclusion and emphasized the importance of embracing diversity, particularly the

inclusion of the transgender community. Discussing the POCSO Act and POSH Act, she noted that while laws safeguard equality, true inclusion stems from empathy and active implementation.

In the second expert session, Ms. Yvette Lee spoke on “*Gender-Based Online Harassment and Digital Safety.*” She discussed various forms of cyber abuse, including trolling, doxing, and impersonation, highlighting the misuse of AI and deepfakes. Her session underscored the need for awareness, digital literacy, and ethical responsibility in cyberspace.



The post-lunch session featured 15 research paper presentations, chaired by Dr. Resmy Varghese and Dr. Saramma Mathew, facilitated by Ms. Manju Vinish and Ms. Bhanu Yadav. The papers reflected diverse perspectives and innovative insights into gender issues.



The conference successfully brought together educators, researchers, and advocates to reimagine gender justice in contemporary contexts, reaffirming the shared commitment of PCER, New Panvel, and SIBC to advance SDG 5 through inclusivity, empowerment, and education.