## Seminar on Understanding the Malnutrition Challenge in India

(under "Annual Lecture Series, 2022-23")

The Economics Departments of Janki Devi Memorial College has organized a seminar on "Understanding the Malnutrition Challenge in India" (under "Annual Lecture Series, 2022-23") for faculty and the students of the Economics Department on October 14, 2022 in room no.67.

## The Program:

Vaanshi Kaushik and Shruti Kumari welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Dipa Sinha, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Dr. B R Ambedkar University, Delhi. The speaker was felicitated by Dr. Shilpa Chaudhary, Teacher- in- Charge, Economics Department, JDMC, with a small token of gratitude.

The session enlightened the students about malnutrition and the challenges faced by India regarding its redressal. The speaker threw some light on the South Asian enigma and the paradox that India faces, which is that the proportion of children that are malnourished in India is exceptionally higher than a country with such per capita income. She also emphasised the factors that affect malnutrition and the significance of the nutrition a child is provided in its initial 3 years of growth.

The speaker further made a comparison of Indian children with those in rest of the world in terms of malnutrition and also briefed about the indicators and causes of malnutrition, stressing on how the Covid- 19 pandemic only amplified the already poor situation of malnutrition in the country as well as globally. She also elucidated that malnutrition is a multi-dimensional issue and how in a deeply patriarchal society such as ours, women's burden increases even more as a cause and effect of malnutrition amongst children. The speaker spoke about the significance and the issue of affordability of good quality food and balanced diets in India. She also addressed the question of whether malnutrition is a behavioural problem or a resource problem.

She threw light on some of the key state interventions in India to address the problem of malnutrition such as National Food Security Act, Public Distribution System, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, ICDS, Maternity Entitlements, etc., and the shortcomings that they face. The speaker expressed that the two main issues of malnutrition in India according to her are food security and gender disparity. She also explained the official definition of food security with the attendees of the event. With this, the speaker concluded her lecture and addressed all the queries of the students effectively.

Lea Chaudhary gave the vote of thanks. The seminar brought together approximately 96 students, including faculty and students of the Economics department. It was a very enriching and interactive session.









