

*But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep  
-Robert Frost*

## Unique International Women's Day at Prayas

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The program organised by Prayas Hairplitters Club was a women's day program literally. There were experts from the field of media and NGOs working for women but there no boring speeches culled out from Google search.



Instead, they were asked some imponderables, some questions which people have in their mind but don't get a chance to ask. For instance, why is there only an International Women's Day and no Men's Day?

Why is it that that women themselves justify beating up by their husbands if they have not prepared food on time? How can they protest beating up of their daughters after marriage with this kind of silent connivance?

The question that evoked the most hostile reaction from the experts was why do women turn out to be most brutal bosses when they are empowered or attain the top post?

The best part of the program was the audience participation in a big way once they got going.

Girls attending the vocational courses in Prayas PIEE and some interns from other institutes coming to Prayas JAC started talking about the shatters put on them even in a city like Delhi. How their parents did not ask them about what careers they wanted and even decided the clothes they would wear. How could anyone imagine they would be consulted about their life partners under such circumstances?

The three experts Poonam Kaushish, Executive Editor of Indian News and Features Alliance which gives its features and articles to 30 newspapers, Geetha Nambisan Director of NGO Jagori and Mamta Sehgal, who runs the NGO Savera fielded the volleys thrown at them with dexterity and encouraged the girls to start thinking and speaking out and for themselves if they wanted to be counted as human beings.



In his brief intervention Mr. Amod Kanth, General Secretary Prayas admitted that the condition of girls was really bad but he said that Prayas treated all its employees, a majority of whom were females, with dignity because he was gender neutral in treating male and female employees.

On this occasion Prayas also honoured some of the survivors of the trauma, including a husband and wife couple Sushma Saha and Suresh Saha for fighting it out bravely. It also honoured Sub Inspector Asha Rani of Neb Sarai Police Station for going out of her way to help register cases against culprits whenever a victim came to her.

But the task is too big and as Frost said in his poem "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," there are miles to go before we sleep.