

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS
AT
THE JAMSETJI TATA SCHOOL OF DISASTER STUDIES
4th March, 2020



The Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies celebrated International Women's Day on Wednesday, 4th March 2020 by paying tribute to the women secretarial staff of the School. Ms. Aruna Chavan, Ms. Bharati Dhole and Ms. Jyothi Shetve were felicitated at a "surprise" function for their contributions to the School. The event was put together by the combined efforts of faculty members, male secretarial staff, project staff and both senior and junior students of the School, all of whom made voluntary contributions.

A video collage of images of the three women were compiled and played to commemorate their dedicated services to the School. Ms. Lavanya compered the event and started with a brief talk reminding everyone about the significance of the day and its historical origins in the labour movement and represented struggles of women all over the world! Dr. Gurubala Murugan and Mr. Mahesh Kamble spoke fondly of their experiences and interactions with Ms. Chavan, Ms. Dhole and Ms. Shetve. Mr. Kamble referred to their work as "invisible work" without which the School cannot function. Prof. Janki Andharia, Professor and Dean spoke about the importance of Women's Day and the daily gendered stereotypes that continue to perpetuate and that many have indicated the need for greater sensitivity on gender issues on campus. She also gave away mementos to the secretarial staff on behalf of the School. Prof. Jacquleen Joseph too addressed the audience and expressed her views on Women's Day, indicating that she believed that each day should be women's day! She thanked the three 'superstars' for their services to the School and presented them with saplings. Mr. Santosh

Kumar from the secretariat spoke about his close association, help and co-operation he receives from them and thanked them for their assistance.

Both Junior and Senior students put up brief, short performances, and Mr. Naul, School Secretary thanked Ms. Chavan, Ms. Dhole and Ms. Shetve on behalf of the student community. Students and Faculty members wrote beautiful messages and signed cards for each of the women secretarial staff and a cake, contributed by students was cut and balloons that decorated the class were burst in merriment. Photos and videos were taken

The Women's Day celebration served as a reminder that we have several unsung heroes in our midst and the invisible and dedicated labour of these women must be recognised.

Lavanya Arvind
Janki Andharia
JTSDS

4th March, 2020.