

## **International Women's day celebrations at Anand Agricultural University, Anand**

Anand Agricultural University, Anand celebrated **International Women's Day on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019** with great enthusiasm and fervor. The theme of this year's International Women's Day was "Balance for better". As a part of the celebrations, a cyclothon, marathon, competitions (mehendi, rangoli and best out of waste) and guest lectures related to empowerment of women was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

One hundred and twenty five girl student participated in the marathon event which was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The event was flagged off by Mrs. Induben Patel, President, Mahila Mandal, AAU. The participants were divided into four groups. The winners in the first group were: 1<sup>st</sup> Snehalata Gamit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Divya Chavda and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hina Kolktra; winners of second group were: 1<sup>st</sup> Bipasha Dangariya, 2<sup>nd</sup> Devanshi Vyas and 3<sup>rd</sup> Puri Rajpriya; winners of third group were 1<sup>st</sup> Janvi Patel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barad Kajal and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thakor Anita. In the fourth group constituting faculty members, Ms. Geetaben Patel and Ms. Rithambara won the first and second prize respectively.

In the evening various competitions viz. mehendi (46 participants), rangoli (23 participants) and best out of waste (13 participants) were held. The judges for the competitions were Mr. Saumendra Sasmal, artist and teacher, Anandalya School, Anand and Ms. Jaina P. Pathak Arubindo Sadhana Kendra. The theme for rangoli competition was "Clean India / Balance for better". The winners in the rangoli competition were: 1<sup>st</sup> Sushmitha and Bournali, 2<sup>nd</sup> Krishna and Jahnvi Patel and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bhoomi Dabhi and Ritu Dave; winners of mehendi competition were: 1<sup>st</sup> Mansi Patel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dhara Patel and Poonam Soni and 3<sup>rd</sup> Zeel Sharma; winners of best out of waste competition were 1<sup>st</sup> Banshi Kataria and Komal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anjali Gami and Monali Patel and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hiral Prajapati and Saba Vora.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Dr. N.C. Patel greeted and addressed a gathering of about 450 girl students and female faculty members at the lawns of Veterinary Science College. He flagged off the Cyclothon which started from Veterinary Science College and ended at BACA Auditorium. The occasion was also attend by Director of Students' Welfare, AAU and Principals and Deans of various colleges of the University.

The Gender Committee cell AAU, Anand under the directions of Gujarat State Commission for Women, Gandhinagar, Gujarat arranged a series of guest lectures related to women empowerment on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at the auditorium of BA College of Agriculture., AAU, Anand. The event was attended by girl students and women employees of Anand Agricultural University. Dr. Suneeta Pinto, Chairperson, Gender Committee, Anand Agricultural University welcomed the speakers. Dr. Arna Das, Assistant Professor, BA College of Agriculture, AAU compered the event. In her address Brahmakumari Geetaben spoke on "responsibilities of women". She highlighted that women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family and the importance of good thoughts and discipline in life. Dr. Heenaben Gajjar, Professor, Department of Sociology. NS Patel Arts College, Anand delivered a lecture on "Women empowerment". She narrated many common women related issues based on her vast experience. Dr. Heenaben talked on the importance of education, health awareness, balanced diet, hygiene, role of science and technology and social empowerment of women. She emphasized for women empowerment through change in thinking and physical fitness including self-defence. Her mantra was "think equal, build smart and innovate for change". Advocate, Dr. Mayurbhai Khunti gave a speech on the importance of awareness to obtain

social, personal and legal rights. He demonstrated a live illustrative game which made the audience understand how to apply knowledge of awareness in our life. He underlined the importance of knowledge of laws related to womens' rights. Dr. Manishaben Gohel, Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, SM Patel Centre for medical care and education, Karamsad spoke on a very significant topic "family life education". She demonstrated the importance of balanced diet and yoga for a healthy body and healthy mind. Being a medical person she emphasized on how to deal with menopause and other medical related problems in teenage girls. At the end of the event, Dr. Jarita Mallik, Assistant Professor, SMC College of Dairy Science proposed the vote of thanks and the ceremony ended with National anthem.

In the evening representative women faculty members visited the old age home run by Shri Ramkrishna Seva Mandal, situated at Lambhvel and spent time with the inmates. A fund was raised through voluntary contributions from the women faculty members of AAU and useful articles were gifted to the inmates of the old age home. Thus, the celebrations on International Womens day ended on a happy note.





