April 29, 2021

Press Release

## Webinar on Microfinance and Women Empowerment

Department of Commerce and Business Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, organized a Webinar on 'Microfinance and Women Empowerment' on April 27, 2021. The webinar was organized to enable the students understand the concept and various issues of microfinance and has been attended by about 85 participants including students, research scholars and faculty members.

Prof N.U.K. Sherwani, Head, Department of Commerce and Business Studies, welcomed the speakers, Prof. Rais Ahmad, Department of Agricultural Economics. & Business Management, Aligarh Muslim University and Dr. Vardah Saghir. In his welcome address Prof N.U.K. Sherwani emphasised upon the significance of Microfinance and its role in women empowerment. He explained how microfinance act as a conduit for extending financial services to the microfinance sector in the country by raising resources from banks and other sources.

Prof. Rais Ahmad explained the evolution of microfinance and discussed that microfinance can be a very useful part of integrated empowerment and poverty alleviation interventions. He further discussed as to how micro-finance institutions connect women entrepreneurs through small joint liability groups. Each member of the group receives a certain amount of loan without any collateral or cumbersome documentation process, which can be used for income generation purposes. He cited that various studies have shown that women prove to be more financially responsible with much better repayment capacity. The rise in the number of SHGs and their loan disbursal rates indicates the growing empowerment of women in India.

Dr. Vardah Saghir, an alumnus of the Department discussed research based evidences to explain the role of microfinance in women empowerment and she further presented an overview of the status of microfinance in India. The webinar was followed by question & answer session where several students and research scholars raised some thoughtful question which were aptly answered by the expert. The webinar ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Naseeb Ahmad, in which he thanked the Vice Chancellor, Prof Najma Akhtar and Head of Department, Prof. N.U.K. Sherwani, for encouraging such webinars/ events on regular basis. He thanked the resource persons Prof. Rais Ahmad and Dr. Vardah Saghir for the thoughtful sessions and thanked the faculty members, guest faculties, research scholars and the participating students for attending the webinar.

Public Relations Office Jamia Millia Islamia



