

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Celebration of Sakhya



While celebrating 29<sup>th</sup> Annual day Sakhya Women's Guidance Cell organized a grand event "Creating safe spaces for women and girls" on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016. The main idea behind the event was to raise consciousness on providing safety and security to women and girls. The day

witnessed presence of 350 people at Samaj Seva Mandal to participate in the event. The chief guest of the day Dr. Geeta Balkrishnan, Principal of College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan graced the event with her presence. The Guest of honour on the occasion was Sampat Rao Patil, Senior Inspector of Vasai Police Station.

The Program began with the lighting of lamp which was joined by guests and Sakhya team.

Ms. Hilda Fernandes, Director of Sakhya welcomed the participants, this was followed by introduction and welcome of guests by Ms. Shaila Crasto. The Program was anchored by Ms. Shraddha and Ms Briliana. The 13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly newsletter; Hunkar cum Souvenir and Training Manual were released by Ms. Geeta Balkrishnan.

The girls from Little Wonder presented a graceful welcome dance. The students of College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan presented Sakhya's annual report on catwalk highlighting past one year achievements in the form of fashion show. The women from Gass Dongri sang an awareness song. The Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and other dignitaries were felicitated by staff of Sakha.

In her key note address Dr. Geeta Bal Krishnan highlighted growth and vision of Sakhya and appreciated Sakhya's effort to spread awareness at grass root level. She stressed the need to provide more safety and security to women and girls in the present scenario. She gave a message women should get financial independency to strengthen their rights.

Mr. Sampat Rao Patil shared his vision for safety and security of women and girls through better enforcement of legislation like POCSO Act 2012 and DV Act 2005.

To make the program colourful a thematic dance was presented to the tune of song by Sakhya staff and two girls.

A panel discussion was organized which consisted of Mr. Namdev, Ms. Marshan, Ms. Reshama, Ms. Rekha and Ms. Sunila, a very vibrant discussion took place for 10 minutes. The Panelists used various ways to talk about the issue.

The day saw performance of skit depicting gender discrimination and domestic violence by the students of St. Joseph College, Satpala.

The program saw felicitation ceremony of the winners of essay competition held during International day for elimination of violence against women and convocation ceremony of the participants of TOT certificate course. Dr. Geeta Balkrishnan distributed prizes to 16 students,

winner of essay completion from St. St. Joseph College and Mr. Sampat Rao Patil awarded certificates to 17 community women, participants of TOT certificate course.

Ms. Chatush Singh, the staff of Sakhya delivered the vote of thanks to all who contributed in making the program successful.

The program came to an end by singing the National Anthem.