



## BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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### **The Report on Seminar “Communal Harmony- Peace, Harmony and National Integration”.**

The Head, Mrs. Evangeline Rajkumari, Department of Sociology organised Seminar for I, II & III BA students, & NSS Volunteers 2 staff and 50 students actively participated in the Lecture session on “Communal Harmony- Peace, Harmony and National Integration” on 19th Nov 2024.

The session was graced by the esteemed presence of Ms. Shyni K.P., a distinguished legal professional, academician, and scholar. Ms. Shyni K.P., with her vast knowledge and eloquent presentation, took the audience on a journey through India's historical, socio-political, and legal landscape.

**1. Pre-Independent and Post-Independent Eras:** Ms. Shyni began by tracing the roots of communal harmony in India, emphasising how the freedom struggle united diverse communities. She highlighted the efforts of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi in promoting the ideals of non-violence and coexistence. Post-independence, the lecture delved into the challenges of maintaining unity in a diverse nation. The framing of the Constitution, with its emphasis on secularism and equality, was discussed as a cornerstone in fostering communal harmony.

**2. Development Strategies under Indira Gandhi:** The lecture touched upon Indira Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, focusing on her developmental strategies to address socio-economic disparities. Ms. Shyni discussed the Green Revolution, which bolstered agricultural production, and nationalisation policies that aimed at equitable resource distribution. While these strategies had their critics, they played a pivotal role in shaping India's economy and social fabric.

She also addressed the boom after the Emergency (1975-77), highlighting the resilience of democratic institutions and the economic recovery that followed. The lessons from this period underscored the importance of balancing strong governance with individual freedoms.

**3. The Hijab Case in India :** Ms. Shyni then moved to contemporary legal issues, beginning with the Hijab case. She elaborated on how this case raised questions about individual rights versus institutional regulations. The verdict, which upheld the Karnataka government's decision on uniform policies, was analysed for its implications on religious freedoms and the principle of secularism enshrined in the Constitution.

**4. The Right to Death Case :** A detailed discussion followed on the landmark Common Cause v. Union of India case, which recognized the right to die with dignity. Ms. Shyni explained the legal framework surrounding passive euthanasia and living wills, linking it to Article 21 of the Constitution. She emphasised the ethical and moral dimensions of the case and its impact on Indian jurisprudence.

**5. The Kashmir Issue:** Ms. Shyni provided an in-depth analysis of Kashmir's journey from being a princely state to becoming a region marked by persistent conflict. She traced the historical backdrop of its accession to India in 1947, the implications of Article 370, and the recent abrogation of the special status in 2019. The lecture highlighted the legal, political, and human rights dimensions of the issue, emphasising the need for dialogue and development to achieve lasting peace.

The seminar reflected Ms. Shyni's deep understanding of the subject and her ability to connect complex legal concepts to real-world scenarios. The guest lecture was an intellectually stimulating experience, leaving the audience with a deeper appreciation of India's legal and socio-political evolution. Ms. Shyni K.P.'s expertise and engaging delivery made this session a memorable and impactful event. The college extends its heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Shyni K.P. for sharing her invaluable insights and to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

