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Tags : India Education News, Students at Lady Shri Ram College, Lady Shri Ram Students Interact with Gita Gopinath, Economics Department of Harvard University

Harvard professor looks for changes in Indian education system

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New Delhi, Dec 17: Students at Lady Shri Ram College got an opportunity to interact with Gita Gopinath, an alumnus from the 1992 batch and tenured professor at the economics department of Harvard University. This meeting allowed students to get a hang of the way economics is taught at the esteemed university.

Gopinath is the third lady professor and first Indian following Nobel recipient Amartya Sen to have received the privilege. She is also the original woman professor of Indian origin to have taught economics at Harvard.

She not only discussed about her Harvard experience but also touched on issues such as global financial crises and international economics. He spoke specifically of the economic conditions at Ireland and Greece. Students also received information on the research she has done in exchange rates and global prices.

Gopinath stressed at the imbalance in demand of high quality education and its supply in India. She also emphasised on the requirement of variety and flexibility of educational options available to undergraduate students in India.

She reasoned that there are several angles from which the present world financial crises could be read - complacency and differences between real and academic worlds. She explained that the problems were not unexpected but somehow some important details were missed in analysing economic situations. However, she expressed hope at the way this crisis has been handled.

Gopinath mentioned that economics had a human dimension to it - something which often leads to mistakes in India. During the meeting she was asked about differences between undergraduate students at Lady Shri Ram College and Harvard. She stated that while talent was almost same, approach to education was the major point of difference.

She mentioned that at Harvard students had more options and the emphasis is more on ease and preferences of students while in India set patterns are being followed.

She stated that the flexibility provided to students at Harvard enables them to do well early on in their careers and stressed that such steps need to be replicated in India if it wants to improve the quality of undergraduate education in India.

Gopinath also informed students on various ways of carrying out their academic research highlighting the importance of hard work and discipline.

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