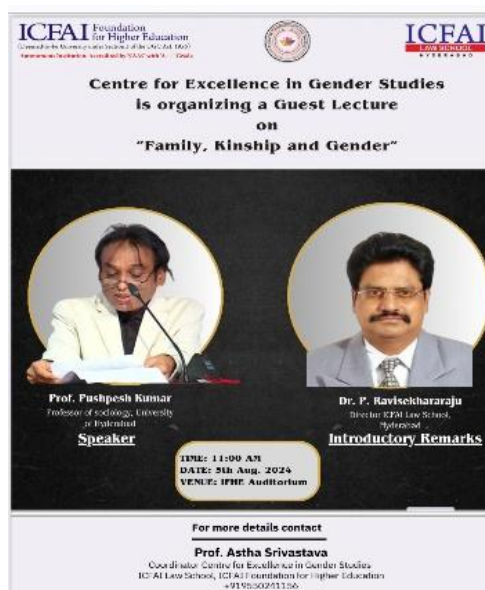


## Guest Lecture on Family, Kinship and Gender





The Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies organised a guest lecture titled **“Family, Gender and Kinship”** on **5 August 2024**, with **Prof. Pushpesh Kumar, University of Hyderabad**, as the distinguished resource person. The lecture was organised with the objective of facilitating an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between family, gender, and kinship and examining how these social institutions influence individual identities, roles, relationships, and social structures. The programme witnessed active participation of 180 attendees, comprising students and members of the academic community. The significant participation reflected the growing academic interest in issues concerning gender, family structures, and changing social relationships. The session provided an opportunity for students to engage with contemporary debates relating to gender and family beyond the conventional legal and sociological understanding of these institutions.

Prof. Kumar’s lecture examined the interrelationship between family structures, gender roles, and kinship systems and highlighted the manner in which these institutions shape social expectations and patterns of interaction. The discussion encouraged participants to critically examine the traditional understanding of the family as a neutral social institution and to consider how gender norms and culturally embedded expectations influence relationships within and outside the family.

Particular emphasis was placed on understanding gender roles and their social construction within family and kinship relations. The lecture enabled students to

reflect upon the ways in which notions of masculinity and femininity, division of labour, authority, care responsibilities, marriage, and familial obligations are shaped by social and cultural practices. The discussion also highlighted the changing nature of family and kinship relationships in the context of contemporary social transformations.

The lecture was particularly relevant from an interdisciplinary perspective, as the themes discussed have significant implications for law, sociology, gender studies, human rights, and social policy. Students were encouraged to connect theoretical perspectives on family and gender with legal and constitutional concerns relating to equality, dignity, autonomy, non-discrimination, and social justice. The interaction helped demonstrate how changes in social structures can influence the development and interpretation of legal norms concerning marriage, family, gender relations, and individual rights.

The session also provided an engaging platform for academic interaction and critical inquiry. Participants actively engaged with the subject through questions and discussion, enabling a meaningful exchange of perspectives between the resource person and the student community. The interaction encouraged students to move beyond conventional assumptions regarding family and kinship and to appreciate the diversity and complexity of familial relationships in contemporary society.

From the perspective of the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, the programme contributed to its broader objective of promoting gender sensitisation, critical scholarship, and awareness of gender-related social issues. It reinforced the importance of examining gender not merely as an individual or interpersonal concern but as a phenomenon embedded within broader social institutions and structures.

The programme also contributed to the institution's commitment to fostering inclusive and gender-sensitive education. By bringing an interdisciplinary perspective to the classroom and creating a space for dialogue on family, gender, and kinship, the lecture supported the development of critical thinking and sensitivity among students towards diverse experiences and social realities.