**MPVM Organizes Workshop on Gender Sensitization**

A highly motivating workshop on gender sensitization was held at Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir for the students of the senior secondary students. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Smita Agarwal, the Director of the Centre for Women’s Studies of Allahabad University. The team was welcomed by the Secretary of MPVM Samiti Prof. Krishna Gupta. She explained to the students how the social constructs of gender bias are deterrent to a developing country.

The first session was conducted by Dr. Smita Agarwal who explained the difference between biological features and gender discrimination. She tried to sensitize the students to the fact that they should not encourage such stereotypal roles but as growing adults contribute to a healthy social environment.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Ruchika Verma who showed short video clippings to demonstrate how the gender notions have been built and supported by the patriarchal society. She also spoke about the need to explode such myths about women being the weaker sex, soft and submissive and the men being associated with power, aggression and domination. She emphasized that such an artificial division of human abilities was unnatural and needed to be addressed and rectified. Some of the video clippings tried to sensitize the boys to look at girls not as objects but as someone’s sister or daughter and to self introspect their own attitude and behaviour towards women. Real transformation can happen when men learn to look beyond their role as earners and learn to move alongside women as true companions. The session ended with the third speaker Dr. Raj Kumar who appraised the students about the sexual harassment laws and how girls may protect themselves against harassment and molestation at workplaces or public places. The Principal of Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir Mrs. Sushmita Kanungo thanked the speakers for their valuable presentation.