Name of the event: Talk on "Pedagogy of cooking: 'New' Woman and the Male Cook"

• Organized by: Women's Development Cell

• Date: 19/04/2024

Venue: Online mode via Zoom

Number of Participants:

(1) Students: 50

(2) Teachers: 10

• Resource Person:

1) Name: Dr. Utsa Ray

Designation: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Jadavpur University

Contact Details: rayutsa@gmail.com

• Brief Description of the event:

Dr. Ray began her discussion on a note where she spoke about spaces of cooking and how it transformed from being private to public. She elaborated about the alterations in cooking and how they create new identities of femininity and masculinity. She provided a detailed description of the inception of cook books especially in colonial Bengal and it's transformation to a cultural epithet and consequently an object of reification. She went on to discuss the degeneration of cultural education about cooking due to a lack of interest in it especially when cooking was no longer a gender specific role, restricted to women. Her talk was largely insightful for our students to de-construct the long standing notion of women's role being constrained in the kitchen, largely because cooking was no longer a private ritual.

A brief round of a question and answer session was conducted for the audience to share their afterthoughts and queries.

 Outcome: The exercise was very helpful for students to gain insights on domesticity and the male figure thereby deconstructing gender binaries.

