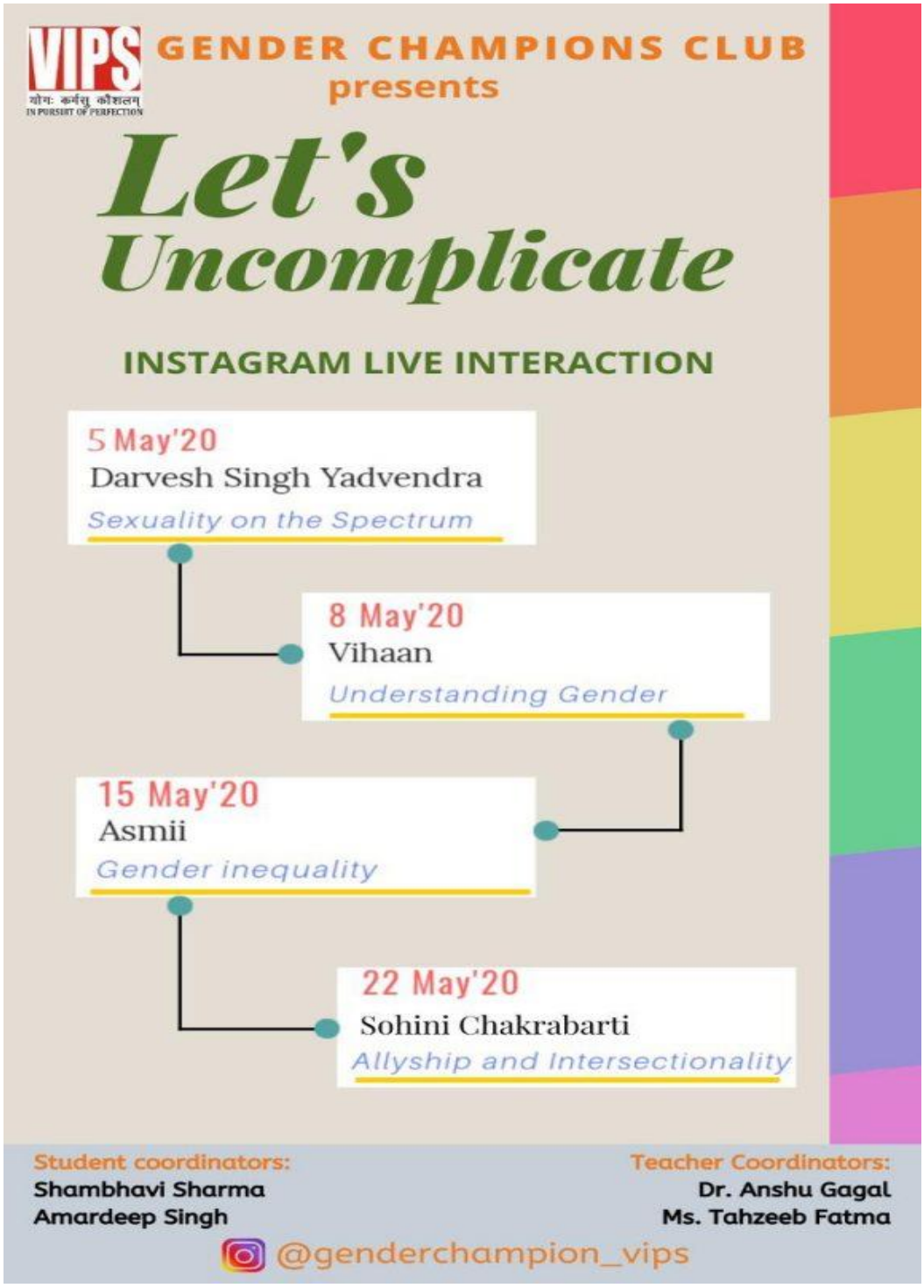
Gender: beyond the binaries



VIPS
योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्
IN PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

GENDER CHAMPIONS CLUB
presents

Let's Uncomplicate

INSTAGRAM LIVE INTERACTION SPEAKER



Vihaan
Nazariya QFRG

8 May 2020,
Friday, 7pm
"Gender - Beyond the binaries"

Student coordinators:
Shambhavi Sharma
Amardeep Singh

Teacher Coordinators:
Dr. Anshu Gagal
Ms. Tahzeeb Fatma

@genderchampion_vips

- **Name of the Organization:** Gender Champions Club
- **Type of Activity/Event:** Centralized
- **Title of Activity/Event:** Let's Uncomplicate (session 2)
- **Faculty Coordinator(s):** Dr. Anshu Gagal and Ms. Tahzeeb Fatma
- **Student Co-ordinator(s):** Shambhavi Sharma and Amardeep Singh
- **Date & Time: From**: 8th May 2020, 7 PM- 8 PM
- **Venue:** Instagram page of Gender Champions Club
- **Poster of the announcement of Activity / Event:**

The Gender Champion Club of VIPS organized an online live session through its Instagram handle (@genderchampion_vips) on 8th May 2020 at 7 PM. Vihaan, member of Nazariya (Queer Feminist Resource Group) was the speaker of this insightful session named, "Gender- Beyond the binaries". Amardeep Singh, student co-ordinator Gender Champions Club, VIPS, moderated the session. The session received 175 views in total wherein people joined in to watch the session and also communicated their observations through remarks.

The Session commenced with the moderator introducing Gender Champions Club and the motivation behind conducting these sessions, and welcomed the guest of the session. The speaker first introduced us with his name and work with the Nazariya, resource group. He then mentioned his preferred pronouns: "him" and "his". The session started with a basic question about the definition of gender, to which the speaker replied that for him, gender is something more than a social construct and how along with gender comes the whole idea of gender identity. He further added that he identifies himself as a "man".

He explained the difference between assigned sex and gender identity of a person and how the trans people feel that they are beyond these binaries of men and women. The speaker further elaborated on how the identities such as: transgender, gender nonconforming, gender queer and nonbinary are different from each other but are often thought to be inter related. He explained that gender is spectrum and people are free to associate themselves with any gender of their own choice.

The discussion then proceeded towards how to politely ask a person belonging to the community about their gender identity or their preferred pronoun, he however stressed that there is no need to know someone's gender identity but one can simply ask the preferred pronouns or can use safe umbrella terms like, "they" and "them".

Issues and challenges especially faced by trans community in their everyday life were addressed. Vihaan stressed that security check points and washrooms are the most difficult places to go in as the fear of mis-gendering follows trans people everywhere. There is no gender-neutral washroom available for them and they also have to undergo a lot of discrimination at their work place. Talking about violence and discrimination the speaker pointed that such acts are not just restricted to public

platforms but are faced by the individual at home too. The process of coming out in front of parents is the most difficult yet important one.

Vihaan suggested to use one's friends or trusted people as a "safety kit" while coming out in family. But before taking this step it is very important to accept yourself first. Self-acceptance is more important than social acceptance. One should educate oneself and get rid of internal homonegativity (if any).

The session also discussed the Nalsa judgement, (which said that the gender identity is self-determination of identity) and Transgender Bill which is now an Act at length. The speaker addressed the concerns with the Transgender Act one of which is the jail term for sexual abuse or rape if a trans person is 6 months-2 years only, something that is inherently discriminatory and affects the safety of trans people.

The speaker answered questions from the audience in the last ten minutes if the interaction. The session ended with a vote of thanks to the guest for explaining the idea of gender beyond the binaries and for an insightful and informative session. The moderator also thanked the management of VIPS for proving the Club with the opportunity to hold these sessions to raise awareness and address these significant issues, he thanked Prof. Shilpa Khatri Babbar and teacher co-ordinators Dr. Anshu Gagal and Ms. Tahzeeb Fatma for their guidance and support.

The session was well received by the audiences who kept responding through comments while the session was on. The live session was able to generate a discourse around how gender is much more than the binary notion that people assume and gave insight into the concerns and discrimination faced by the trans community, it also educated on the need for sensitivity and inclusivity in the society for one and all.