

**Loyola College (Autonomous)
Chennai – 600 034**

Department of History

Dr. G.J. Sudhakar Endowment Lecture

Theme: “The Manifesto and the modern self: Reading the autobiography of Muthulakshmi Reddy”

Speaker: Dr. S. Anandhi, Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Developmental Studies, Chennai.

The Department of History, Loyola College organised Dr. G. J. Sudhakar Endowment Lecture on 22nd February 2017 at Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium.

The Endowment Lecture began with a prayer song invoking the blessings of god. Dr. L. Selvanathan, Head and Associate Professor, Department of History, Loyola College welcomed the gathering. Dr. I. Princes honoured her with a shawl and Mr. Jayakumar, II M.A History with a memento. Mr L. S. Hareesh, II M.A. History, introduced the chief speaker.



Mr. Jayakumar II M.A.



Shawl by Dr. I. Princes



Mr. L.S. Hareesh, II M.A. History

Dr. Anandhi termed autobiographies as not just personal interpretation but the influence of public events on the individual's life. Touching the gender issue, she emphasised on the point that how autobiographies have been termed with a single gender, and that of the feminine gender obliterated before public appearance. She mentioned that a woman is not belonged to a homogeneous group and that they do not share common issues.



The speaker describes Dr. Reddy as a lady of many firsts. Discussing her autobiography she highlighted the travails faced by her during her political career. She recorded that Dr. Reddy's autobiography, "*My experience as a Legislator*" recounts her initiatives in respect of social reforms and thereby be dubbed as a political autobiography. Dr. Anandhi mentioned that ailments of her sister only drove Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy to opt for medicine.



As the sole women legislative member, she stood firm and had the courage to challenge the senior legislators of Madras on issues and challenges within the legislature. Fighting for the cause of women development, she was the prime women behind the legislations that abolished the *Devadasi* system. Dr. Reddy played an important role in rising the minimum marriage age for women in India.



The lecture was followed by discussions



Mr. George, I B.A.



Mr. Lungriakding, III B.A.



Mr. Vidhyadharan, II B.A.



Ms. D. Anuradha, Assistant Professor



Dr. V. Yesubhakthan, Coordinator, Shift II

Dr. V. Yesubhakthan proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Aditya III B.A., Secretary, History Association was the master of ceremony for the programme. The program ended with the National Anthem.