



**Report
on
Defining Childhood of India**

Date:11/08/2022

Venue:GJB1

Department of Political Science organised a workshop on "Defining Childhood of India" on 11/08/2023. Dr Ashwini Tambe was the chief guest for the day she is the current director of women, gender and sexuality studies at George Washington University in the United States. She is also the Editorial Director of Feminist Studies, the oldest journal of interdisciplinary feminist scholarship in the US She has also previously taught at the University of Maryland and the University of Toronto. Closer home you can find her featured on a podcast hosted by The Swaddle. Where Dr Tambe engages in the discourse regarding Sexual Consent and Commercial Sex Work in Colonial India Dr Tambe's research interests include transnational feminist theory, modern South Asia, sexuality studies and global political economy. Today's talk will delve further into each topic centring around her new book "Defining Girlhood in India: A Transnational Approach to Sexual Maturity Laws" exploring the legal paradoxes in age standards for marriage and sexual consent. The workshop aimed to explore the evolving concept of childhood in the Indian context, shedding light on historical, social, and cultural factors that have influenced its perception over time. As young women ourselves, we are no strangers to hoards of comments and microaggressions defining, almost dictating what femininity and girlhood mean to us. These off-handed remarks quickly snowball into societal perceptions of girlhood which adopt economic and legal tones in policy-making spheres. It was this exact transition, that prompted our guest speaker for the day, Dr Ashwini Tambe to explore the historiographies of childhood, more specifically "girlhood" in India and the rest of south Asia.

