

Invited Lecture Series Report: "Gender and Cinema" by Abdul Rab Arif

The Department of Women Education at Maulana Azad National Urdu University hosted a thought-provoking lecture by renowned Music Director Abdul Rab Arif on "Gender and Cinema" as part of its Invited Lecture Series on 16 September 2025. The program was moderated by Dr. Tabrez Hussain faculty DWE and presided over by Dr. Shabana Kesar HoD, providing a platform for insightful discussions on the significance of gender representation in Indian cinema.

Arif shed light on the evolving portrayal of women in films, highlighting the shift from traditional stereotypes to more complex and inclusive representations. He emphasized the role of cinema in promoting gender equality and addressing societal issues affecting women. By drawing from his experience in the film industry, Arif provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by women in cinema.



The lecture sparked engaging discussions among students, who had the opportunity to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the topic. Arif's responses, informed by his own experiences, offered practical perspectives on the importance of representation and equality in the film industry.

Key Takeaways:

- Evolution of Women's Roles in Indian Cinema: Shift from traditional archetypes to more nuanced and diverse portrayals
- Importance of Representation: Cinema's role in promoting gender equality and addressing societal issues
- Challenges Faced by Women in Cinema: Insights into the industry's complexities and opportunities for growth

Dr. Parveen Qamar, Associate Professor from the dept, proposed the vote of thanks, concluding the successful event. This lecture series underscores the department's commitment to fostering critical thinking and discussion on pressing social issues.