

Mother of Orphans, Sindutai Sapkal

The Value Education class was organized by the Department of Communicative English and Media Studies for semester-4 at Patna Women's College under the facilitator - MS Tauseef Hassan. The movie review of the movie 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal' was shown to the students. It was followed by a group discussion.

'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal' is an inspiring, true-life story of a downtrodden Maharashtrian woman, Sindhutai Sapkal, who fights the society's ills and finally emerges victorious. The girl who dreamt of studying, is married off to a 30-year-old farmhand, Shrihari Sapka, even before she hit puberty. After giving birth to three sons, she was thrown out of her in-laws' house even though she was pregnant. Having delivered her daughter herself in a barn, she survived by singing for food on trains. Burdened with the struggles, she tries to commit suicide twice. But Chindi gathers courage and decides to face the world. She starts wandering from place to place, singing ballads in praise of God and goodness. Even as her own daughter grows older, she starts adopting orphan girls from the streets and gives them a home. She has now changed her name from Chindi to Sindhu. Many years on, Sindhu, now known as Sindhutai, has three ashrams sheltering around a thousand kids.

Known as the 'Mother of Orphans', Sindutai Sapkal has devoted over 40 years raising 1400 children. Sindutai has won many awards and has even been granted honorary degrees. She receives no government funding, relying on private donations.

She said, "When I became an orphan, then I felt the pain of orphans, when I remained hungry, then I understood about hunger. These struggles taught me about the world and gave me strength to stand."