

Awareness program on “Gender Equality”- 13th April 2018

An Awareness program on “Gender Equality” was organised by the Gender Equality Monitoring Cell of Shillong College on 13th April 2018. Due to the lack of space, the program could accommodate only the Second Semester Arts students from the morning and day sections. The Resource person for this program was Smt. K. Sohtun, a faculty member from the Department of Sociology and also a member of the Cell. A number of Teaching Staff also attended the program. Introducing the program, Smt. V. C. S Dkhar delivered a short speech, where the students were made to understand about the aims and objectives of the Cell and more importantly the need of having such a Cell in the educational institutions, taking into account the gender discrimination that is so prevalent in this day and age. Smt. V.C.S Dkhar also introduced to the students the other Professors who are members of the Cell, informing them to be free to approach any of them in case they face any gender issues or discrimination. The Resource person, Smt. K. Sohtun then delivered her lecture on the topic, “Gender Equality.” She stressed on the fact that gender equality entails the concept that both men and women are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without limitations set by stereotype rigid gender roles and prejudices. In simple terms gender equity implies fairness of treatment for men and women according to their respective needs. To make the students understand better, Smt K. Sohtun cited examples from everyday living, referring to instances where both of the parents are required to share the responsibilities of parenting and catering to their children, as in most families today. The role of parenting should no longer be considered to be an exclusive female role. Many other examples were also given. The Lecture was easy to understand with a number of important facts being highlighted. The Lecture was followed by a lively discussion. A number of clarifications were made against the queries of the students with each and every teacher member of the Cell taking active part in the interaction. On that day the class representatives were also appointed as ‘Gender Champions’, following the mandate of the University Grants Commission. By the end of the program, most of the students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity that they were given, to become sensitive regarding gender discrimination and the need for Gender Equality.



