

Report on Gender Equality: "Perspective of an Indian Army lady officer"

The Gender Equality Monitoring Cell, Shillong College organised a talk on *Gender Equality: "Perspective of an Indian Army lady officer"* on the 12th November, 2022 at 1 pm. The Cell organised this programme to highlight the importance of issues related to gender equality, women empowerment, economic freedom and legal rights of women. The NEP 2020 recognises that female students are disadvantaged in additional ways and so females form at least half of each of the four Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) that have been identified within this policy. The policy aims to focus on specific issues of gender stereotyping and customs and beliefs that have perpetuated the unequal treatment meted out to girls, including their education and to address the issue of gender inequity in the recruitment of teachers in rural areas.

With the issue of Gender Equality and the NEP, 2020 in mind, the Gender Equality Monitoring Cell invited (Retd.) Major Ketholebeinu Kuotsu, the First Naga Lady officer to be commissioned into the Indian Army and a Kargil war hero as the Resource Person. (Retd.) Major Ketholebeinu Kuotsu was received by the college through a grand welcome by NCC cadets.

The programme was compered by Ms. K.M.A Kharsotun, Department of Sociology, Shillong College. After she was escorted into the venue where the programme was to be held, Major Kuotsu was welcomed with a bouquet of flowers presented to her by Ms. Aroma Lyngdoh, Department of Biology.



(Retd.) Major Ketholebeinu Kuotsu welcomed by NCC Cadets, Shillong College



Dr. G J Dkhar delivering the Welome Address

The programme formally began with the Welcome address that was delivered by Dr. G.J Dkhar, Convenor, Gender Equality Monitoring Cell. In her speech, she emphasised the need to highlight issues related to gender equality and other pertinent issues related to women and their rights. With the implementation of the NEP 2020, emphasis has been given to gender sensitisation, sex education in the curriculum and other related issues. She conveyed her gratitude to the Resource Person for being willing to share her first-hand experiences which would no doubt have a

tremendous impact on the students, especially the female students.



Ms. Kharsohtun hosting the programme



Ms. D. Lyngdoh introducing the Resource Person

The Welcome Address was followed by the Introduction of the Resource Person by Ms. Dalari Lyngdoh, Department of Botany. Dr. H. Iangrai, Vice Principal, Self-Financing Courses then delivered a speech on behalf of the college.



The Resource Person, (Retd.) Major Kuotsu

The Resource Person, (Retd.) Major Ketholebeinuo Kuotsu then spoke to the faculty and student community that attended the programme. She stressed that the Indian Army as a whole has been evolving into a gender-equal organisation and is accepting of female recruits. She cited the example of how the Assam Rifles regiment has started a new venture, Army Jawans for girls.

She, however, stressed that the global narrative for women is one of disadvantage and a constant struggle for equal rights. The ultimate goal is gylany, where men and women are treated as equals. For example, maternity and paternity leave should be treated on an equal calibre, with the understanding that parenthood is not a gendered responsibility. According to her, gender equality should start at home for impacts to be made visible in the social and economic atmosphere. The traditional household work that women perform such as grocery shopping and raising children have to be liberated from the stereotype of lesser work so that men can also partake in such responsibilities.

The Resource Person's talk was followed by an interactive session in which Major Kuotsu answered questions from faculty, students and other members of the audience.

Ms. Aroma Lyngdoh formally closed the programme with the Vote of Thanks.

