



Dr. G.J Dkhar, Convener of the Gender Equity Cell, Shillong College and Assistant Professor, Department of English accompanied the students of the First and Fourth Semester of the PG section, Department of English, Shillong College to attend the “One Billion Rising 2023: Rise for Freedom” campaign at NEHU, which was one of many campaigns conducted by the North East Network across Meghalaya to raise awareness and to appeal for an end to violence perpetrated against women and children. Dr. Dkhar was also a panelist at the said event. The event was held in Nehu Campus, Shillong on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023. The day-long event comprised of dialogues, film screenings, expressions through art, dance, poetry and interactive sessions.

The One Billion Rising campaign was initially launched on in 2012 with the aim to campaign against violence against women (cis, trans and fluid who are subject to gender-based violence). The students joined writers, activists, thinkers in the global movement to end violence. The programme opened with the Welcome Address by Professor Rekha Shangpliang of the Department of Sociology.



Dr. G.J Dkhar as panelist

This was followed by a speech by the co-founder of the NGO. There was a screening on gender abuse based upon the experiences of Ms. Ella Sangma who was a victim of trafficking and abuse. Ms. Ella then came on stage and spoke to the audience, after which a short interaction with the students took place. After the conclusion of this interaction, a movie on feminism was screened for the members of the panel, student community and other audience members. A panel discussion then followed based upon the global One Million Rising movement. The panel discussion also focused on the movie that had been screened and analysed the movie and its implications. An in-depth interaction with the students followed where they asked questions and voiced their opinions and concerns.



After the panel discussion, Bakor, who is transgender shared with the audience her personal experiences with stigma and violence, societal unacceptance of people of the LGBTQIA community as the problems she faces with seemingly simple privileges like voting. Bakor also shared her photos and pictures that she invited the audience to go through.

This concluded the first session of the programme and a short lunch followed. The second half focused on performance and informal interaction. There was a dance performance and the students of the English Department, Shillong College, PG Section presented a group song to open the second session. There was a poem reading and a short talk by a Research Scholar from the Department of Sociology, Nehu. This was followed by activity-based events where students had to firstly create slogans based on freedom. The students were then divided into groups of six and took part in creative drawing and sketching activities around the concept of freedom. The groups then had to come on stage and explain their creations.

After the lively activity-based interaction, the programme drew to a close. The programme ended with a vote of thanks, a prize distribution ceremony and a photo session.



