



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, womenempowerment, 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 Ketholebeinuokuotsu, the First Naga Lady officer to be commissioned into the Indian Army and a Kargil war hero as the Resource Person. (Retd.) Major Ketholebeinuokuotsu was received by the college through a grand welcome by NCC cadets.

The programme was compered by Ms. K.M.A Kharsohtun, 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 Ketholebeinuokuotsu 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

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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

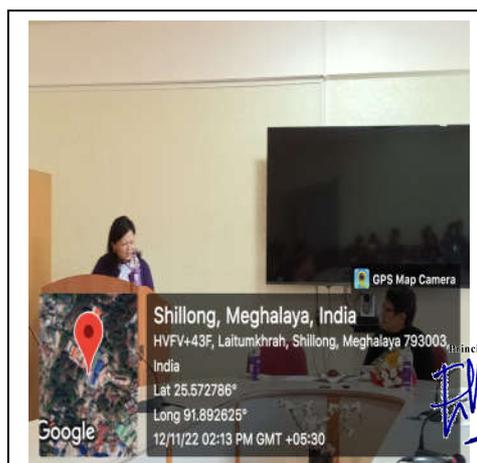
The Resource Person, (Retd.) Major Ketholebeinuokuotsu then spoke to the faculty and student community that attended the programme. She stressed that the Indian Army as a whole has been evolving into a gender-equal organisation and is accepting of female recruits. She cited the example of how the Assam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



Ms. A Lyngdoh delivering the Vote of Thanks

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answered questions from faculty, students and other members of the audience.

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



Resource Person with Gender Cell, Faculty and Students

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A one day awareness program on “Gender Equity” was organised on 14th march 2016. The program was a ended by the members of the Cell, a few teachers and students. The Convener, Smt V.C.S Dkhar gave the Introductory speech and spoke on the importance and ac vi es of the Gender Equality Monitoring Cell, invi ng further coopera on and support for the Cell. Smt K. Sohtun from the Department of Sociology presented an article on “Gender Equity”. There was a lively group discussion with ques ons and answer session. The program was appreciated by one and all, since this has widened the understanding of such issues especially among the students. Likewise there were a number of teachers who also understood their responsibility to lend a hand in making our College and our society a haven for Gender Equity.



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Street programme focussing on equality towards women (Flash Mob)- 24th June 2017



As a means of reaching out to the masses and especially the lower strata in the society regarding gender equality issues, the Gender Equality Monitoring Cell of Shillong College organised a street programme focussing on equality towards women. This program was organised with the help of the Co-Curricular Academic Sub- Committee and the Cultural Sub-Committee, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the College. After procuring the necessary permission from the District Administration, the program was conducted on the 24th June 2017 at 1 PM at the busiest cross-section of Shillong main road, namely Khyndai Lad at the Police Bazar area in the heart of the city. The members of the Cell and the Sub-Committees adopted the theme “Women’s Safety” for the occasion, taking into account the discrimination that women are facing, vis-a-vis the crime rate against women rising by the day in India particularly in Meghalaya. The program was in the form of a “Flash Mob” with the object of attracting the attention of passers-by. There were about thirty students who participated in the action-dance routine. The music was totally in sync with the theme and the appropriate sound accompaniment did the trick in capturing a mammoth crowd that soon gathered to witness the event. The reaction and the support of the spectators indicated that they could easily identify with the meaning of the theme as it was so clearly highlighted not only by the dance but also by the slogans in the banners and posters that the students were carrying along. A large contingent of NCC students from the College volunteered to monitor the crowd to prevent any untoward incident. Besides, it was heartening to note that there were also a number of faculty-members who accompanied the students to encourage and support. All in all, it is safe to conclude that the program was a total success. It was also given glowing reports by the media who covered the event. As such the message was carried through even to the homes of people through television and other media-reports. The students were congratulated for their performance by many who expressed that such a theme was the need of the hour.



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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.



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The Anti- Sexual Harassment Cell, Shillong College
Report of the Awareness Programme on “Sexual Harassment – Be Informed”
Held on 22nd April 2022



As part of the awareness The Anti- Sexual Harassment Cell, Shillong College, on the 22nd April, 2022 organized an interactive session on the topic “Sexual Harassment – Be Informed”.

Smti. Rebina Subba, Advocate, and former member Meghalaya State Commission for women was the guest speaker on the occasion, who, with her extensive experience and knowledge in the field of women’s welfare and the legalities involved delivered a thought provoking and informative deliberation on the types of harassment as well as enlightening the audience on the various Government policies related to sexual harassment in the work place. She also enlightened the gathering on the UGC guidelines to curb sexual harassment especially with regard to higher educational institutions and campuses. The session was attended by about 80 (eighty) students drawn from all departments, and a few teaching staff along with the members of the cell due to the restrictions being followed on COVID appropriate behavior.

The discussion, as intended provoked a slew of questions and requests for clarifications on various aspects which were expertly dealt with by the resource person, this being indicative of a thorough interaction by all present.

In closing, the vice-principal, Shri K. D. Roy spoke on the pertinence of such issues, and the need for an alert and informed generation of students, who are fully aware of their rights and of the remedies available to them in case of such unfortunate events.

In all, the programme was a success, gauging by the fact that the interaction between the students and the speaker was immense.



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