



GENDER SENSITIZATION CELL COMMITTEE
DARJEELING GOVERNMENT COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT (2021-22)

Gender sensitization refers to the raising sensitization of gender equality concerns. It helps people in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the realities of both sexes. Gender sensitization makes the students understand the difference between sex and gender, how gender is socially constructed and the stereotypes around gender roles. It helps them determine which assumption in matter of gender are valid and which are stereotyped. Gender is socially learned behaviour, based on social expectations from men and women. The women and children are most vulnerable group of this situation. And, it's the undue pressure on boys and girls to live up to the established norms of masculinity and femininity. Girls endure unwarranted social control, discrimination and domination. Boys discouraged from being emotional, gentle and fearful. Gender sensitization gives a clear and precise view about Gender and help to understand that gender is not about 'women'. It's about people.

It is a very remarkable thing that Darjeeling Government College has a good number of students from transgender community as well. Transgender boys and girls often face discrimination, bigotry and hatred from their families, friends and classmates. Their self-esteem and self – confidence hit really hard because of this exclusion and they end up taking undesirable jobs. Thus, as an academicians and member of a civic society as well, it is our responsibility to treat them equally and give them equal opportunities of education and career development.

AIM OF THE COMMITTEE

The Gender Sensitization Cell Committee of DGC is aimed at sensitizing adolescent girls and boys towards existing gender inequalities. With understanding comes ability about attitudinal changes towards Gender based violence. The concepts of equality and non-discrimination are necessary to understand because the gender question is not just about

women and men and how they interact, but it would help in sensitizing students about curbing the gender biases prevailing in the society and would help in empowering women and other marginalised gender groups to achieve their goals. Institutions that do not focus on gender sensitization have cultures where inequality and discrimination have become normal. The normalization of this kind of culture leads to higher turnover, higher number of absenteeism etc. Such a policy propagates the existence of a superior gender. The aim of Gender Sensitization Cell Committee is to find a way to reduce the barriers caused due to discrimination and gender bias. Creating the right kind of gender-sensitive environment in the institution and society as well leads to mutual respect regardless of their gender.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Gender Sensitization Cell Committee 2021-22 has been formed with the following members

Sl. No	Name	Department	Position
1	Dr. Shraddhanjali Singh	Hindi	Jt. Convenor
2	Sudha Lama	History	Jt. Convenor
3	Safin Pramanik	Philosophy	Member
4	Banani Dutta	Mathematics	Member
5	Ekramul Kabir	Physics	Member
6	Raj Kumar Chhetri	Nepali	Member
7	Alina Pradhan	Political Science	Member
8	Pinkey Lhamu Lecha	Microbiology	Member
9	Dewki Limbu	Geography	Member
10	Nima Sherpa	Nepali	Member

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

In the beginning of the academic year the Covid-19 lockdown was continued. The activities of the Committee remained stagnant and no programs were planned until late in the year when offline classes were finally started. The committee meetings were started late in the year and it was planned to conduct various awareness programs, workshops, seminars, special lectures after the winter vacation in collaboration with the other sub committees of the College

On **8th March 2022**, the committee has celebrated International Women's Day in College Auditorium with the staff and students of the college. The program was organised to promote gender equality, honouring women's achievement, raising awareness about women's issues, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment and encouraging female students to pursue their goals and aspirations.



Darjeeling Government College has always recognized the importance of community education and social awareness. By actively engaging with society and spreading awareness, it has contributed to the overall development and well-being of the community. That is why, the college prioritize not only classroom education but also contribute to society and raise awareness. On **8th March 2022**, the volunteers of NSS, DGC visited Shiksha Sangh HS school, Ging and spread awareness on topics like menstrual health-hygiene, good touch bad touch, human trafficking etc to both male and female students. Sanitary pads were also distributed among girl students. The group was guided and escorted by Prof. Sanjogta Bomzan, Assistant Professor, Department of History, DGC.





On 29th April, 2022 the Anti Sexual Harassment Committee has organized an awareness talk at the Seminar Hall for sensitizing the students and staff to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day. Prof Nisha Tamang, Department of Geography, talked about the myths surrounding menstruation and means to ward away the myths in her presentation entitled “*Breaking the Silence: Yes I Bleed*”. Prof Priyanka Saha, Department of Zoology, discussed about the ‘Physiology of Menstruation’



There was an overwhelming response from the students and staff alike. The most inspiring aspect of the program was the presence of male students who wanted to understand the silence surrounding menstruation and the pain a woman undergoes during the menses. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Prof Sisir Tamang, Department of Zoology.

On **1st June, 2022**, the NSS observed the World Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day (though the actual date is 28th May). Observing Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day in the college was an important step towards raising awareness and promoting menstrual health. An awareness campaigns was organised to educate students about menstrual hygiene and empowering them to break the stigma surrounding menstruation.

The program has two parts, in the morning few of the female volunteers of NSS, DGC, roamed around college premises and road stretch till Padmaja Naidu Zoological Garden along with fake period stain on their pant. They have tried to capture the reactions of students and public alike. They compiled the clips and then played it in the seminar hall of the college with other volunteers and students in the afternoon. The second half of the program included an inclusive and comprehensive discussion about menstrual health. Few of the students spoke on the different aspects of the topic. The whole idea was to have a social experiment and humble attempt to assess as how people react seeing a girl with period stains in public and then to discuss on how to dispel various kind of myths and levels of taboo still prevailing with periods.



The year ended on a fruitful note with the participation and active support of all the staff and students of the college. All the programs conducted by the Gender Sensitization Cell Committee of Darjeeling Government College have presented a compilation of information on gender awareness, bringing forward the distinction between sex and gender whilst

defining other gender related terminology. It brought light on the ways in which gender and other gender related terminologies are socially constructed and the important role that education can play in sensitizing the students to change their mindset.

Dr. Shraddhanjali Singh

Jt. Convenor,

Gender Sensitization Cell Committee

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