



GENDER SENSITIZATION CELL COMMITTEE
DARJEELING GOVERNMENT COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT (2022-23)

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 academician 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 2022-23 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	Rippandi Lepcha	English	Member
9	Dewki Limbu	Geography	Member
10	Nima Sherpa	Nepali	Member
11	Jyotsana Mothey	Chemistry	Member

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

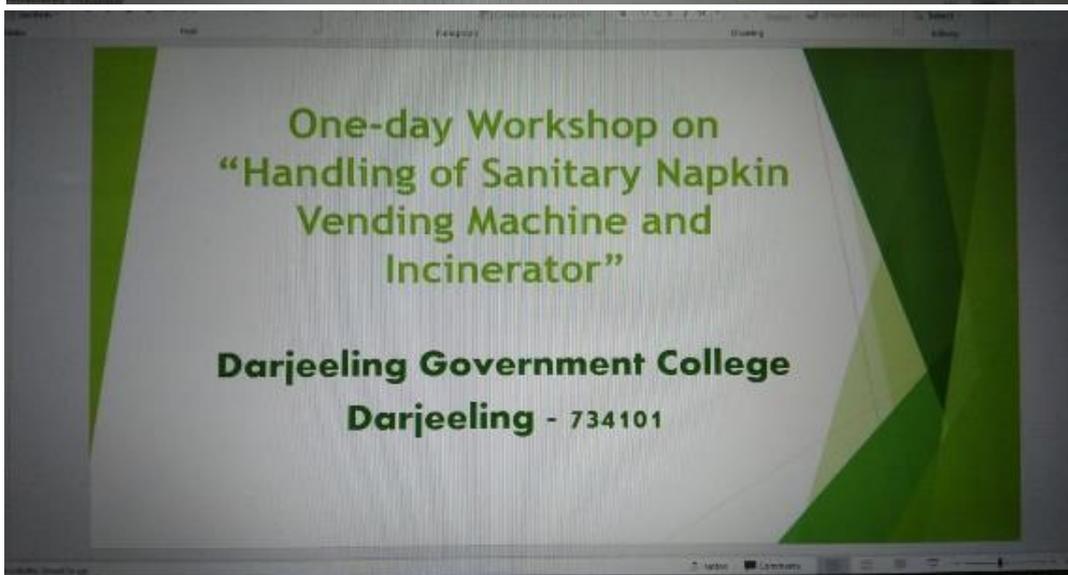
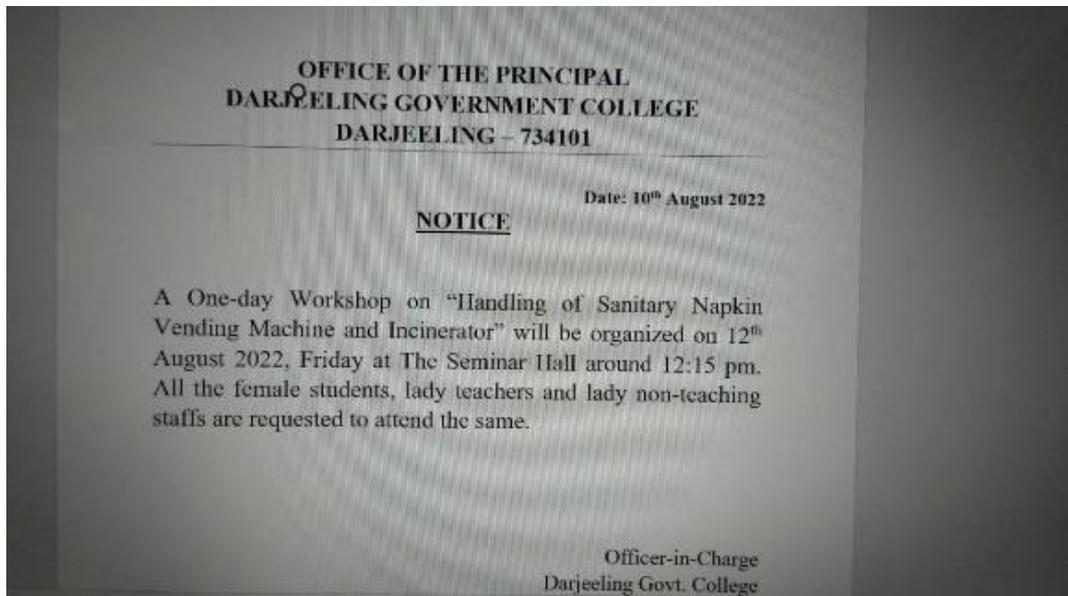
The awareness on gender sensitization would present a compilation of information on gender awareness, bringing forward the distinction between sex and gender whilst defining other gender related terminology. It will bring light on the ways in which gender and other gender related terminologies are socially constructed and the important role that education can play in sensitizing the students to change their mindset.

Keeping this in mind the Gender Sensitization Cell Committee has conducted various awareness programs, workshops, seminars, special lectures in collaboration with the other sub committees of the College.

On **10th August, 2022**, the Inauguration of newly installed Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Incinerator was done by the Officer-in Charge in presence of various teaching and non-teaching staffs and students of the college. The objective of installing the vending machine in college is to provide convenient and discreet access to menstrual hygiene products for students. It aims to promote menstrual health and ensure that students have easy access to affordable and essential sanitary pads whenever they need them, thereby promoting gender equality and supporting the well-being of female students. It was decided that the funds from sanitary pad shall be used only for refilling and maintenance of the machine.



On 12th August, 2022, one day workshop was conducted on “Handling of Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Incinerator. Prof. Priyanka Saha, Department of Zoology, has given a power point presentation on handling the machine and its importance.



On **8th March 2023**, 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.



On **12th May, 2023**, the committee has celebrated Mother's Day to honour motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in our lives.

On **1st June, 2023**, 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.



On **28th June, 2023**, in compliance with the UGC (Prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and others in higher educational institutions) Regulations 2013, modified in 2015, a meeting was convened in the ante-chamber of the Principals' Office. The OIC chaired the meeting. The ICC members, the conveners of Anti Sexual Harassment Committee and Gender Sensitization Committee and the non-teaching female staffs were present. It was resolved in the meeting to reconstitute the Anti Sexual Harassment Committee and Gender Sensitization cell as ICC (Internal Complaints Committee). Henceforth ICC will look into the matters on sexual harassment /offence in the college premises.



Apart from these activities, the Gender Sensitization Cell Committee has sent a proposal letter to the Higher Education Department of West Bengal for seeking permission and financial assistance to organise Five Special Lectures and International Seminar on Gender Sensitization. This can be concerned as the future plan of the committee. As the proposal is under consideration in the HED, the college has organised the First Special Lecture with its own expenses.

On **16th November, 2022**, Special lecture cum Seminar on '**General Ideas and Concepts of Gender Equality**' was organised in Prof. Lalita Rai Ahmed Central Seminar Hall at 11 a.m onwards. The main thrust areas of the lecture were Portrayal of Genders, Role of family, society and media, Role of educational institutions in promoting Gender equality and advocacy. The two Resource Persons were Prof. (Dr.) Amal Kumar Harh, Dean, Faculty of P.G. Studies in Arts, Fine Arts, Performing Art & Traditional Art Forms, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University. And Prof. (Dr.) Debika Saha, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal. The Officer-in Charge of Darjeeling Government College was the chairperson of the seminar.



Prof. Amal Kumar Harh's lecture was focused on the position of women in Indian tradition. He said that Gender equality is the equal perception of male and female. They are compliment to each other. He focused on the concept of 'Ardhanarishwar' and the idea of gender according to 'Upnishada' and 'Tantra'. Gender Sensitization means the process to change the prejudice and discriminative behaviour or mental makeup by raising awareness towards gender equality. He spoke about the role of education in Gender Sensitization and the role of a teacher regarding this. Lastly, he mentioned the constitutional and legal provisions for women.

Prof. Debika Saha has mostly spoke about her life experience as a woman while travelling to the different Universities throughout the world. She presented a paper on Gender Sensitization entitled, 'Breaking the Silence: Feminism and Post Humanism'. She talked about Gayatri Chakraborty Spivak and the concept of Post Humanism and Post Modernism. She mentioned a series of books related to subaltern studies by Ranjit Guha. Prof. Saha focused on four things, Marginalisation, Subaltern, Cultural Dominance, Concept of 'Other'. She said that there are some unheard voices of oppressed, marginalised class. It is our responsibility to take them in the mainstream. Lastly, she mentioned some quotes from Maria Lugan's article 'Playfulness, World Travelling'.

The overwhelming part of the lecture was that good number of students attended the lecture. To be more precise, 314 (Three hundred and fourteen) students have signed the attendance register, among which about 200 girls and 114 boys were there in the program. The Officer-in Charge of Darjeeling Government College was the chairperson of the seminar and about 20 faculty members were also present.

According to one of the Resource persons, Prof. Amal Kumar Harh, ‘Seminar is, I think, successful in motivating the students’.

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.

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