

Title: Celebration of National Youth Day

Organized By: National Social Service, Jangipur College in association with IQAC, Jangipur College

Date: 12.1.2020

Goal: National Yuva Divas or Youth Day is celebrated with great frenzy and fervour throughout India commemorating the birthday of the great visionary, thinker, scholar and curator of Indian tradition and culture Swami Vivekananda who motivated and inspired the youth to build a new India---a country free from the shackles of fiefdom, weakness and blind imitation of the West. He wanted to promote education and trust among the youth so that they are aware of the power and the role they have to play in nation building. He saw in them a potential untapped waiting to erupt in creative outpouring of ideas that could channelize India towards a better resurgent vigorously independent future. Their energy is their asset. Their intelligence can set themselves towards a revolutionary path. Keeping this goal in mind equal opportunities must be provided giving youth wings to fly and chance to build themselves. This is because a strong self-confident nation has young intelligent youth as its bedrock.

Context: Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. Building up the capacity of youth to be able to make their own decisions on health and to take responsibility for health are therefore key elements of the nation building process. The role of governments as well as youth organizations and community groups will be essential to ensure that trustworthy public health information is disseminated. Young people themselves are also utilizing online technologies to spread public health information in engaging ways such as videos to promote yoga or explain how meditation can enhance efficacy. Young innovators are already responding through social impact innovation. With the world's population expected to increase by 2 billion people in the next 30 years, it has become recognized by numerous stakeholders that simply producing a larger volume of healthier food and more sustainably will not ensure human and planetary wellbeing.

Practice: The programme commenced with an opening song (vedicstotra) sang by the students of NSS unit, Jangipur College. This was followed by the speech on the 'Relevance of Physical and Mental Fitness among the Youths of the Society' which was delivered by the



NSS Officer, Mr. Sushendu Biswas. This was followed by a speech by Dr. Nurul Mortaza who carried a comprehensive discussion on the significance of youth in the society. The life-style and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda in the present context of society was critically discussed with the audience in a lucid manner. After this interactive session, a quiz contest was organized on various aspects of Youth Day and the illustrious life of Swami Vivekananda. The programme ended with a small skit organized by seven students of Jangipur College which depicted the major events associated with the life and social activities of Swami Vivekananda.

Evidence of Success: The programme was attended by a huge number of students of the college from various streams. The quiz contest was successful with participation from five groups of students. The interactive session was very lively with discussions related to the major issues of caste and gender inequality. Posters and banners were displayed within the college campus and the adjacent locality.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The ideals of Swami Vivekananda should not be restricted to event such as this. There should be inculcation of His values and ideals through value added teaching and learning process all through the year. In organizing this programme NSS ran out of funds because the affiliating university's NSS Grant is inadequate to run such programmes in a sustained manner.

Basudeb Chakrabarti
Co-ordinator / Member
IQAC
Jangipur College
Jangipur, Murshidabad



[Signature]
Teacher-in-Charge
JANGIPUR COLLEGE
P.O. Jangipur, Murshidabad, PIN-742213

Title: Engaging Ethics in Gender Equality – Towards an Equitable Campus Life

Inspired by the IQAC, Jangipur College and organized by Women's Cell, Jangipur College in association with Samaj Kalyan Mahila Unnayan Kendra – (NGO, registered under WB Society Registration Act, Reg. No. – IL/5999)

Date: 08.03. 2020

Goal: Gender is one of the most widely discussed subject and a very significant pointer in the lives of both men and women who face discriminatory behaviour every day. It's the social construct embedded in expectations and values affecting our lives. Gender is associated with ethics and gender's ethical dimensions have taken wings with the Ethics of Care (EOC) theory in recent times when we are speaking about Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) to root out discrimination and violence throughout the world. We need to remember that one important aspect of gender discrimination that creates a gridlock in the path to achieve gender equality is when young minds go incognito instead of speaking about gender discrimination. In this case, both men and women have to come up with everyday experiences of discrimination. One site of such discrimination is surely the college campus where youth experience harassment, discrimination, lewd remarks, and negative comments often in the veil of jokes. Therefore, in order to build a positive and supportive environment in campus lives of students, effective interventionist strategies are pre-requisites for the institutional authorities so that the students i.e., women and men included find themselves in a favourable environment that encourages mental well-being, physical safety devoid of intimidation and where they do not have to conceal their identities. Keeping that in focus, the IQAC and the Women's Cell conceived an idea of conducting a sensitization programme where all students' inclusive approach would be gainful to raise awareness levels of both males and females.

Context: Students gain a wide array of experiences at the threshold of adolescence and college campus enrich their experiences where they can come on their own. However, if there is a disjointed and unengaging environment in campus it becomes an uphill task for students to emerge stronger later in life. Lack of positivity affects them and might affect their perceptions which they would carry unaltered in their future lives. Many students' especially female students experience harassment in the garb of jokes, unwarranted remarks, and sexual innuendoes which have a severe fallout on them as many a times they are not even aware what they are experiencing. This gender unconscious state has grave repercussions on their lives. In addition, this is not to say that male students are not victims of harassment but female students encounter bitter episodes of discrimination in an



extensive manner. Therefore, it is crucial to contextualize the experiences of youth and raise conscious minds to fulfil goals of gender equality.

Practice: The IQAC of Jangipur College and Women's Cell organized a sensitization programme for all students titled 'Engaging Ethics in Gender Equality—Towards an Equitable Campus Life' on 08.3.21. The programme began with the introductory remarks of the Teacher-in-Charge, Dr Naba Kumar Ghosh and IQAC Coordinator, Dr Bikash Kumar Panda who set the tone of the programme by speaking extensively on establishing an enabling favourable and positive atmosphere for both female and male students. Dr Panda concluded his deliberations by the need to make the Student Grievance Cell more pro-active. This can be a pertinent step for establishing transparency in campus life of students and become the launchpad for gender equality in campus. The keynote speaker of the programme was the convener of the Women's Cell and Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dr Koyel Basu. She emphasized the need to invoke the issue of gender equality as well as ethical dimension of gender in overcoming gender discrimination and setting up an affirmative and reassuring campus life. Her talk was followed by an ICT based presentation by Dr Basudeb Chakrabarti, Associate Professor, Department of English. He spoke on 'Exploring Experiences of Students in Campus: In a Different Voice' where he brought up issues like student perceptions on harassment based on a sample survey he made on students of his department and interestingly he came up with the finding that male students feel complaints of female students on harassment are exaggerated. Such mind-set can be detrimental for an equitable and egalitarian thinking on gender discrimination and he stressed on the necessity to ameliorate any misgivings in young minds. At the same time, he emphasized the need to focus on harassment of male students who experience less of a fit in presence of female counterparts. The programme concluded by the speech of Dr Hena Sinha, Principal, Berhampore Girls' College who came up with a different perspective on harassment in campus life of students in an all-girls college. She pointed out the often-ignored part of body shaming and racist comments faced by girls from their female friends many of whom do not refrain from making derogatory remarks. Most often, the occurrence is a fall-out of negative atmosphere at home where they experience early and forced marriages, discrimination from male siblings and racist behaviour.

Evidence of Success: The sensitization programme organized by the IQAC and Women's Cell, Jangipur College on 'Engaging Ethics in Gender Equality – Towards an Equitable Campus Life' met with stupendous success by pooling together diverse opinions on ethical dimension of gender. It helped in instilling a sense of empathy in students towards their friends by giving a holistic and unbiased perspective on gender equality in campus. What was significant about the programme was it set the path for instilling self-esteem and confidence in students with an all-encompassing gender-neutral approach and rights-based thinking towards achieving a favourable and stress-free campus life for all students.



Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The objective of this sensitization programme would lose its impact if follow up initiatives are not taken. In organizing this event we faced a paucity of funds because there is no provision of any grant from UGC on Women's Cell in the XIII Plan. However, Women's Cell overcame this problem by capitalizing the spontaneous enthusiasm of the staff and students.

Bixash Kumar Panda

Co-ordinator / Member
IQAC
Jangipur College
Jangipur, Murshidabad



[Signature]

Teacher-in-Charge
JANGIPUR COLLEGE
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