

Gender Sensitization Action Plan

The COVID 19 pandemic has affected the educational system worldwide leading to the closure of educational institutions and replacement of the physical classroom by the virtual classrooms. In response to the closure, the virtual classrooms became the only platform for all the academic exercises. In spite of this fact, the College fraternity organized a series of events as soon as the formal physical classes were resumed in educational institutions. Though the crisis related to the pandemic had an adverse impact on the physical and mental health of the students, our college fraternity, like the previous year, organized various programs in order to ensure gender equity and sensitisation. An awareness program on PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome) for the girl students of our college was conducted by the Women's Forum in order to make them understand the symptoms and provide remedies for the same. It was an interactive program where many of our students and faculty members took part. The International Women's Day was organized in the Yasashi Educational Centre, a school for underprivileged children run by the Yasashi Foundation. The Guwahati College Woman Forum donated a stand fan to the school and students were also given packets containing snacks. A poster making competition among the students of Guwahati College was also held on the theme Woman Empowerment.

The safety and security of the girl students inside the college campus is the prime concern of the institution. In order to ensure the safety of the girl students, the college fraternity conducted a 'safety-defence' training program for the girl student. As we know that sexual harassment violates women's fundamental right of gender equality and life with dignity-- a common problem affecting women in this world, irrespective of the profession that they are in. In order to ensure the safety of women faculty members at work place an 'Internal Complaints Committee' was formed. It is a body envisaged to receive complaints on sexual harassment at work place from an aggrieved woman, as well as to inquire into the complaints and make recommendations on the action required to protect women from sexual harassment at workplace. The institution provides a separate common room, both for boys and girl students. The Girls' Common Room is well equipped with washroom, wash basins and all other essential facilities.

The college fraternity ensures equal concern for both boy and girl students in all curricular and extracurricular activities. The institution offers a certificate course on human rights wherein a chapter on the rights of woman has been included in the syllabus of the course offered in order to make the students aware of their rights. Physical activities like sports and relaxation techniques can be valuable tools to help the students remain calm and protect their mental health during the time of pandemics. A yoga and stress management cell formed in our college. The Inter-college volleyball competition (girls and boys) is conducted by the college fraternity every year so that sports can be made accessible and welcoming to girl students. However, due to the pandemic situation, it was not possible to conduct the volleyball competition for the last two years. In order to reduce mental stress and depression caused by this pandemic due to home quarantine and lockdown the college fraternity after resuming classes was constantly engaged in counselling the students for their better mental health.

Annual action plan (Gender sensitisation)

The college fraternity ensures equal concern for both boy and girl students. It is decided that the following activities will be carried out throughout the year.

- 1) To conduct an awareness camp on health-related issues for the girl students.
- 2) To conduct a Workshop on gender equality and the rights of woman.
- 3) To form a yoga and stress management cell for the students and the faculty members.
- 4) To organize cultural and sports activities or competitions especially for the girl students during the time of College Week.
- 5) To form an internal complaints committee to deal with the specific grievances of the female faculty members.
- 6) To celebrate International Women's Day like the previous years.
- 7) To organize competitions among the students on various issues of women empowerment.
- 8) To conduct self-defence training program for the girl students.
- 9) Proper counselling of the students in order to reduce their stress, anxiety and level of depression.