

A day long workshop on "Gender Sensitization among the Students" was held at Puthimari College at the initiative of the Dept. of Political Science and with the sponsorship of the ICSSR-NERC on 30 March, 2019. The workshop was graced by three young, active and dynamic activists vocal on various social issues as resource persons along with the Principal, all the teachers, staff, journalists, and most importantly, the students. They were respectively Pooja Nirala from YUVA, Banamallika Choudhury from Nething and drama artist Papari Medhi. The principal sir Dr. Nityananda Kalita delivered the welcome adress with a brief introduction of the topic to the participants. In the first technical session, Pooja Nirala talked on various taboos associated with women on various issues like menstruation, reservation, dress etc. She also addressed the rights of the third gender, right to education and equal pay in workplaces of women, right to choose one's own partner etc. She provided a historical account of women subjugation as well as women's movements for economic and political rights. She also discussed some legal aspects in this regard.

Since, the idea was to break the stereotypes; so, we invited Papari Medhi and Banamallika Choudhury for a Performed Conversation. The two presented a performed conversation taking the main protagonist of noted writer Arupa Patangia Kalita's acclaimed novel "Phelani" as the base. The dramatic conversation touched various issues including the identity politics, ethnic conflicts and impact on women, rape as a weapon used by communities during communal clashes, sexual harassment at workplaces, gender stereotypes, patriarchy etc. etc. That was a unique experience. All the three sessions were marked by active, rational as well as emotional participation and interaction by the students with the resource persons.

The workshop ends with vote of thanks by Sujata Hati Baruah, the co-ordinator of the workshop.



