

Report of the Equal Opportunity Centre-2015-2016

I. International Women's Day—A post Celebration on 27th March 2015

To mark International Women's Day celebrated worldwide on the 8th of March, the Women's Cell Lady Keane College organized a Post Celebration programme on the 27th March owing to the ongoing university examination, which made it impossible to hold on the scheduled date.

This grand yet fun programme opened with the traditional drum beats performed by the students of traditional Music, Lady Keane College, in the presence of guests, college staff and students. This was followed by the welcome address by the Principal Dr.C.Massar and a brief introduction by the Convenor of the Cell, Smti S. Choudhury. She highlighted that the women's Cell has identified the key areas for women empowerment. These are:

1. Call for change
2. Right to exercise their choices
3. Access to education
4. Scope to participate in decision making
5. Economic freedom
6. Discrimination

Keeping these in mind, the cell organized a felicitation programme for well known cultural icons from the field of music and dance, focusing on art forms as a means of change. She ended her speech by saying "There are two ways of spreading light, to be the candle or the mirror reflecting light".

The guests of honour were then welcomed on stage. The artists who were felicitated were:

Smti. **Losimai Syiemlieh**(musician), Mr.**Heddingson Rynthathiang** (musician), Mr.**Phom Lytan**(musician),Smti.**Monica Chanda** (Dancer),Dr. **Helen Giri** (contribution to traditional music and reviving traditional art forms). The recipients were felicitated by the Principal with a citation and traditional shawl. Dr .H. Giri could not be present for the function, Smti. J. Begum, the secretary LKC Alumni Association, received it on her behalf. Dr. Helen Giri is also an Alumni of the College.

As a mark of appreciation for her good leadership to get ' A'grade for the college in NAAC Re-accreditation in 2014,the convener felicitated the Principal Dr. C. Massar on the occasion. This was followed by the release of College Magazine "**VISION 2014**" by Ms. Lossimai Syiemlieh, one of the guests of honour.

A guest at the Keanean Guest House at Mawphlang, Yana Bednarova who is an artist from the group "**PICASSO's PUPILS**" next presented a short documentary film entitled "**Legend from Bashista Village**" ,based on the life of an artist Nalini Pathak who never got a chance to pursue her passion of

music. In her message to the students, Yana Bednarova reaffirmed that emotions and feelings are the same to all people regardless of geographical and cultural differences, she acknowledged that the path to our dreams are not always smooth but she urged students to pursue their dreams. As a mark of respect for the guest, the traditional shawl was presented to her by the principal.

After the formal part of the programme, the audience was treated to a fun and relaxing afternoon whereby the artists were welcomed on stage and performed songs and dance to a cheering crowd. Mr. Lamphang Syiemlieh, a member of the "**AROHA CHOIR**", gave an impromptu performance in the end, with a song which turned thoughts to the creator, entitled "I look to you".

The convener's vote of thanks once again acknowledged the role of music and dance in human life—"Music", as she said, "is the language of the heart, Dance, the hidden language of the soul". She thanked all those who played a part in making the programme a success. Her special thanks was to Ms. Beena Sawkmie for her beautiful compeering of the programme and with the traditional "Khublei".

The afternoon was wrapped up with a song by the college teachers "I am Woman" followed by High Tea, before the guests were seen out.

II. The Women Cell, Lady Keane College organized a programme in the college auditorium on 15th July 2015 at 2 pm. on the Topic: **Life Skills-Self-esteem, Body image, Assertive Behaviour, Decision making, etc.** This was initiated by Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Resource Centre for Women, Department of Social Welfare. They came forward with the project of conducting awareness programme on various issues of Children and Women in different educational institutions in Shillong.

Smti.I.Warjri, Mission Director Of the State Resource Centre for Women was the resource person for the topic. Her deliberations were informative and thought provoking. The presentation connected the student's community with their problems and aspirations. At the end of the session, Smti. Warjri showed them ways and means to be positive and successful in life. The next session was taken by Smti.M.Kharkongor on the Topic: **Domestic Violence**. This was very beneficial to the girls. She mentioned many legal remedies and tried to make them cautious in life. There was a vibrant question answer session after the lectures. The students shared their experiences and tried to get remedies to their problems.

This awareness programme had positive impact on the student community.

II. Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Guwahati, organized an **Workshop on “Protection of Women against Domestic Violence (PWDVA)”** for College/University Teachers” from **24th-26th August 2015 at its premises.**

Faculty members Ms Beena Sawkmie, Department of Sociology and Ms Wanakaru Laloo, Department of Computer Science of Lady Keane College attended this Workshop. They are also members of Women’s Cell.

The broad content of the programme included analysis of the situation of Domestic Violence in India, trends, Domestic Act, 2005 and laws relating to domestic violence, existing support systems and welfare services for tackling violence within households; role of Protection Officers, Police Personnel, Service Providers; awareness generation and strategies to prevent domestic violence.

Objectives of the Workshop:

1. To familiarize college/university teachers with the trends in domestic violence over the past decade and the measures to combat it.
2. To orient them on the provisions of the “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
3. To enable the college teachers to assume a proactive role in bringing about awareness among the students and the general public on the issue.

Participants:

Around 35 teachers from different colleges from North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Orissa and West Bengal attended the training.

The workshop was concluded by course evaluation and valedictory.

Outcome of the Workshop:

On completion of the programme the teachers were well versed on existing legislations and support services to protect women from domestic violence which will further sensitize students on these issues.

Mrs Sipra Choudhary
Convener, Equal Opportunity Centre
Lady Keane College