

Workshop on Gender Sensitization

Under the aegis of the Women Empowerment Cell (Gender Equity) and IQAC a one-day workshop-cum-seminar titled *Nurturing Equality and Understanding Gender* was organised on 27 September, 2023 in Room no 30. The main speaker of the workshop was Dr. Ritu Sen Chaudhuri, Professor of West Bengal State University and the Director of Centre for Social Theory. Faculty members from various departments of Asutosh College were present in the programme. About 80 students actively participated in this workshop. In a free-flowing discussion facilitated by the faculty members, students shared their experiences with some very bold and outspoken acknowledgements of their identity. Social labelling as man or woman was criticised by some of the students present who openly identified themselves as part of the LGBTQ community, while some spoke about their sexual orientations, which a hetero-normative society marks as 'deviant' or 'abnormal.' The right to choose partners as per one's sexual orientation was demanded by some. Short clippings of the *Bell Bajao* campaign to break the cycle of domestic violence were screened. Dr Sen Chaudhuri interacted with the students and pointed out that education coupled with awareness generation and sensitization programmes at all levels would bring about a change in the mindset.

