

## **Interactive Panel Discussion on Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships across Institutions: Past and Present**

### **TITLE OF EVENT/ PROGRAMME (SEMINAR/ WEBINAR/ WORKSHOP/ EXTENSION LECTURE/ EXTENSION ACTIVITY/ ANY OTHER ACTIVITY):**

Interactive Panel Discussion on Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships across Institutions: Past and Present

**THEME OF THE EVENT/ PROGRAMME:** celebration of International Women's Day

**ACADEMIC SESSION:** 2023-2024

**DATE:** 9th March, 2024

**VENUE:** Seminar Hall, Centenary Building, Asutosh College

### **OBJECTIVE/ PURPOSE:**

This event aims to

1. Raise awareness about gender empowerment.
2. Highlight the importance of gender equality in all spheres of life.
3. Discuss the role and position of women in Asutosh College over the years.
4. Provide a platform for dignitaries to share their insights on women empowerment and interpersonal relationships.
5. Address questions and queries from the audience regarding gender equality and empowerment.

### **SPEAKER/S / RESOURCE PERSON/S:**

1. Dr. Anupama Chowdhury, Principal, Women's College Calcutta
2. Dr. Debarati Chakrabarty, Assistant Professor, Performing Arts, Presidency University
3. Namrata Chakraborty, Research Scholar, University of Calcutta
4. Pew Roy, Senior Assistant Editor, TV9 Bangla

**TARGET AUDIENCE/ PARTICIPANTS:** Faculty members and students of Asutosh College

### **BRIEF REPORT ABOUT THE EVENT/ PROGRAMME:**

The International Women's Day celebration, organised by Women Empowerment (Gender Equity) Cell in association with IQAC, Asutosh College, was a resounding success, raising

various issues associated with gender empowerment and spreading awareness about the need of gender equality in every sphere of life. Dr. Nima Lama initiated the programme by setting the theme for the day: Invest in women, accelerate progress. Dr. Sayani Mukhopadhyay, convener of gender equity cell and member of the Governing Body, highlighted the activities of the cell in her introductory speech. This was followed by the screening of a short documentary film (directed by Rishi Bhattacharjee) on the role and position of women in Asutosh College over the years. The principal, Dr. Manas Kabi, delivered the welcome address for the event and honoured the dignitaries with *Ananya Sammanana*, a recognition of women's struggles and achievements in a world of gender inequality. Floral tribute was offered to the portrait of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee. The dignitaries were felicitated by the faculty members of the college. IQAC coordinator Dr. Sraboni Roy addressed the gathering talking about the importance of women empowerment in a gender-biased society. The four guests of honour - Dr. Anupama Chowdhury, Dr. Debarati Chakrabarty, Namrata Chakraborty, and Pew Roy - enlightened the audience with their views on interpersonal relationships across institutions over the years. Pew Roy spoke about the various institutions that bind women - both social and professional - and the need for women to find their own breathing space and liberty within these institutions. Dr. Anupama Chowdhury spoke about the politics of representation and the urgency of women, both cis- and trans-, to represent themselves and their needs in all spheres of life in order to build a gender-inclusive society. Dr. Debarati Chakrabarty problematised the hierarchisation of gender binaries instead of the binaries themselves, explaining that the only way to aim for a gender-inclusive society is to place male and female attributes at the same level instead of claiming one gender to be essentially superior to the other owing to certain biological attributes. Namrata Chakraborty enriched the audience by bringing a psychological viewpoint into the discussion, highlighting the need for communication, consent as well as healthy boundaries within relationships to ensure safe space for women. This was followed by a question-answer session where the queries of the audience were addressed by the panelists. A short cultural programme by the faculty members of the college was another key highlight of the day. Finally, Dr. Bidisha Maitra Sen delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the programme.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

The expected outcomes of this event are as follows -

1. Increased understanding of gender empowerment issues among the audience.
2. Enhanced awareness about the need for gender equality in society.
3. Inspired individuals to take action towards women empowerment.
4. Strengthened interpersonal relationships across institutions.
5. Encouraged dialogue and discussion on gender-related topics.
6. Fostered a sense of community and inclusivity within the college environment.

**GEO-TAGGED PHOTOGRAPHS:**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET:**