

PRESS-RELEASE

International women's Day celebrated in RGU with the theme "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"

Rono Hills: In joining with the rest of the world in celebrating the International women's day, Rajiv Gandhi University also celebrated the day with the theme "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". The day was organised by university's women wing. The First Lady of Arunachal Pradesh, Smt. Neelam Mishra, the First Lady of Rajiv Gandhi University, Dr. Vaishali Kushwaha and Chairperson of Oju Welfare Association, Smt. Ratan Anya graced the event as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and the Special Guest respectively.

Smt. Ratan Anya, the Special guest of the programme talked in length about the various initiatives of the Oju Welfare Association for the welfare of women and children of the society. One of the important initiatives by the association is the Women Helpline (WHL) number 181 which is directly benefitting the distressed and under privileged woman. Started in 2016, she shared that more than 1104 calls has been entertained in which most common ones are domestic violence which is followed by polygamy related problems. Alcoholism is one of the important problem which is tearing apart the families. Another significant initiative is the free legal aid for the victims and the distressed. Temporary shelters are being provided to the destitute women and widows. Vocational trainings are imparted to them for enhancing their skills in tailoring, weaving etc. which builds their confidence to face the society. A special children home is also available for age group of 7-18 where victims of various juveniles cases are put up majorly. Proper rehabilitations and counselling are conducted. A specialised adoption centre is also being run by the association, she added. The OJU mission school have been giving opportunities to economically underprivileged children by providing them with free education. Another significant vertical of the association is the OJU crafts centre which produces lots of products which also highlights the glory of Arunachal in terms of its crafts and beauty. She expressed her willingness to collaborate with Rajiv Gandhi University for various outreach and training programmes especially in handloom sector.

Dr. Vaishali Kushwaha the First Lady of the university in her speech emphasised on importance of women in nation building. Women today are making a mark in all field including sports, education and had charted to many other fields which many think are not meant for women. The status of the women has developed a lot, but still more to go, she added. She highlighted the history of the International Women's day and the various themes it has incorporated. This world-wide celebration awares the society about the impacable contribution of the women in the upliftment of the society. Lauding the theme "Break the Bias" this year, she noted that it will inspire all to go beyond current unequal society and believe in women's strength (Nari Shakti). She pointed out the importance of Women empowerment in holistic and sustainable development in the world.

Smt. Neelam Mishra, the first lady of the state in her speech calls upon to bring equal opportunity for all. The constitution of our country guaranteed equal rights for all but still

many disparities can be observed in the society. Talking on the theme of “Break the Bias”, she shared that it’s time to celebrate for being an empowered woman. Sharing some of her personal take on the issues of the woman in the society, she added that societal change starts with change in mindset in the family and every small steps contributes to the change. Mindset is big problem which brings in lots of gender disparities. Education is another one that can change this disparities and it should be equally provided to both the gender. She added, economic independence as a defining factor which can bring the desired change. One has to work hard to achieve the goals. A significant problem specially in our tribal state is lack of awareness. Schools and colleges should be used in creating such awareness to the younger generations. Social evils like dowry is eating up our system and it should be discouraged. She highlighted that the law of the land is very Strick and for every crime, there is a law and the law should be applied equally. The first lady sharing the famous poem by our late Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Bajpai “Kadam Mila ke Chalna Hoga”, she added, it is high time that we should create enough physical and mental strength to achieve success in life. Prof. Nandini earlier gave the welcome address. In her speech she talked about the role of woman in brining sustainable change which impart gender equality. Prof. Tage Rupa Sora who is also the coordinator of the program proposed the vote of thanks.

The programme was organised with adherence to the SoPs laid down by the government.

Various cultural programmes were also displayed which includes many group dances and songs. A Boxing match was demonstrated by two young girls which attracted the audience.

A special book “Adaptability in crisis: a psychological perspective” by the Department of Psychology was also released.

The wushu champions of the state were also felicitated. As part of the celebration, many beautiful stalls were put up in the lawn of the convention hall where selling of many apparels, accessories, plants and many authentic foods can be seen.

RGU celebrated the International Women Day in a grand manner with a week-long chain of activities which included online discussion on the theme “Women issues” by Prof. Vandana Upadhyay and Miss Radhilu Chai as the resource person. Numerous sports events like walk-a-thon, volley-ball and tug-of-war were carried out and the prize were given to the winners during the function.