

CENTRE FOR GENDER STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU COLLEGE

Introduction

The Women's Cell of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko came into origin in December 2003 as a concerted effort of the women teaching faculties. This objective behind creation of this forum was to actively participate in activities academic or curricular and extra-curricular in nature initiating better opportunities and scope for girl students specially and comprehensive development of women of Boko.

Women's cell has tried to spread awareness through events on various relevant issues of society like socio-economic status of local tribal women, developing entrepreneurship spirit among women, awareness on women's constitutional rights, value education, health camp, discussion on physical and mental health, yoga training, training on self-defence etc. As an academic endeavour, women's cell published its first magazine 'Prerona'. The ICSSR sponsored national seminar on 'Society, Communities and Contemporary Trends of Culture' was another achievement of the cell followed by publication of the edited book 'Society, Communities and Contemporary Trends of Culture: Local and Global Perspectives'

Social delineations although been urged by concerns of gender identity in the recent times, yet heteronormative practices are upheld as sacrosanct. Under such circumstances, the binary of man and woman apparently offers incomplete perception of gender. The need for sensitizing and internalising gender dimensions becomes pertinent. Society's paradigm of gender therefore calls for a careful recognition of gender affiliations to suit the need of individuals and support them for being entitled to equal opportunities and dignity of living.

The academia and various social platforms along with legal affairs through association or singly been dedicated towards ensuring a canopy of support and viable platform to introduce inclusivity. However mere issuance of white paper might not serve the purpose. In this regard, organisations, corporates and institutions like the college fraternity, students and society at large can hold hands in this effort for a joint endeavour to identify areas of gender disparity and concurrently march on the path of achieving parity.

With this intent of going beyond parochial readings of gender and to encompass the multidimensional aspects associated with it, the unidimensional body of Women's Cell achieved a multidimensional status by being renamed as Centre for Gender Studies on 2nd June, 2022.

About the Centre

With context to the arising need for awareness on gender identities, challenges on the path of recognising identities and the social dilemma faced by closeted personalities leading to anxious mind deterring the overall performance whether in academic world or in society, the need for opening this centre was incredibly perceived. For an amiable environment conducive for holistic growth, excellent academic performance and skill enhancement for ensuring an emboldened future in preparation for service to the nation, such a centre becomes a viable platform to realize the nourished goals in reality. Keeping in tandem with the spirit to comprehend the issues and challenges, the centre conducted a Gender Audit to perceive degree of gender equality, the existing structures and services provided under set policies for different programmes and thereby institutionally assess the remedial measures to be enacted.

The Centre came into existence after a unanimous decision to rename the Women's Cell of the college at the behest of the Principal, Dr Tapan Dutta after an official meeting held on 31/05/2022 with the esteemed members of the cell. Accordingly, the centre was constituted with the incumbent members of the Women's Cell, in-house faculty, esteemed faculty from Gauhati University, MLA, Boko LAC, Local Entrepreneur, and Queer Rights Activist.

Objectives of the Centre

- ❖ **To perceive, study, and understand gender identities, complexities and influences**
- ❖ **To create unprejudiced/unbiased environment for promoting gender-neutral living**
- ❖ **To develop a discourse on gender identity and inclusivity**
- ❖ **To build up a knowledge repository of existing seminal texts on gender, identity, intersectionality and promote research activities that could add to the knowledge quotient of this discourse**
- ❖ **To take up activities involving teaching faculty, students, interested individuals and the greater community for growing acceptability of gender expressions whether in language, clothes, or demeanour**

Committee for Centre For Gender Studies

Chief Advisor: Dr Tapan Dutta, Principal (principaljnc13@gmail.com)

Advisor: Dr Polly Vauqueline, HoD, Dept of Women Studies,

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President: Mrs Manjira Sarma, Assoc Professor (manjirajnc@gmail.com)

Secretary: Dr Alimpa Bhuyan, Asst Professor (alimpa2010@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Dr Banashree Saikia, Asst Professor (banashrees2012@gmail.com)

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Institutional Members

Mr. Probodh Ch. Das, Assoc Professor (prabodhdas188@gmail.com)

Dr Ranjit Baishya, Assoc Professor (ranjitjnc17@gmail.com)

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External Members

Mrs. Nandita Das, MLA, Boko LAC

Rituparna Neog, Leading Queer Rights Activist of Assam

Mrs. Lalita Madhu Jain, President, Assam Handloom Council, Women Indian

Chamber of Commerce

Events & Programmes Conducted

1. Invited Talk on ‘Gender Equality, Social Reforms, and Indian Law’

Invited Speaker: Adv. Mr Tapas Kr Misra (Gauhati Highcourt, Assam)

Date: June 2, 2022

Venue: K K Handique Conference Hall

2. Josh Talk on the topic ‘Stand Up For Violence Against Women’

Invited Speaker: Suparnaa Chadda (UN Women Awardee & Curator Sabera)

Date: September 6, 2022

Venue: K K Handique Conference Hall

3. Invited Talk and Awareness Interaction on ‘Gender Consciousness and Inclusivity’

Resource Person: Rituparna Neog (Leading Queer Rights Activist of Assam, Poet, Story Teller & Development Sector Worker)

Venue: Near The Sal Trees (Playground 2)

Date: November 12, 2022



Coordinator, Center for Gender Studies