

CENTRE FOR GENDER STUDIES

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)

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

**Secretary & Coordinator : Dr Alimpa Bhuyan Boruah, Asst Professor
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Institutional Members

Mr. Probodh Ch. Das, Assoc Professor (prabodhdas188@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

- 4. An Overview of Activities for equal growth and development of gender in the College**

The centre in concord with its set objectives has been diligently engaged in the activity of sustaining a fair gender-neutral environment in the college and as a testimony, the establishment of the Gender-Neutral Toilet on the campus has become a crucial and important initiative of this centre. The presence of such a lavatory has definitely vouched for the vision and mission of this centre.

The centre has closely observed the sustained gender-neutral environment through activities taken up and celebrated in the college.

Various activities promoting the environment of acknowledging the needs of economic stability, independence and equality of women and its understanding across gender was pronounced through activities like holding exhibition of the locally produced handloom products on 13/10/23 in a bid to exemplify the inspiring journey for economic equality and sustenance of women from the fringe and adopted villages of the college.

As evidence to encouraging gender-neutral environment of the college, the JNC Students Union Election reflected the growing participation and clinching for themselves desired portfolios in the union body unlike previous years.

The celebration of International Women's Day on March 8 every year has not only supported the achieving of gender parity vision but also reinstated the faith among the Women faculties that this HEI is committed to the cause of maintaining the ethos of the reason observing such an International Day as well as the noble mission behind this centre. The celebration of this International Women's Day this year witnessed the constructive growth in relation with nearby college F A Ahmed College, Goroimari where Assoc. Prof Mrs Manjira Sarma from Dept. of Assamese, Jawaharlal Nehru College was the invited speaker on the topic "Stop Child Marriage"

The holding of the Five-Day Workshop on "Bihu Naas aru Dholbadan Karmaxala" at Jawaharlal Nehru College from 1/4/24 to 5/4/24 was another activity which witnessed an inspiring number of male and female participants joining and training under invited experts for honing their skills and thereby participate in the noble activity of growth and sustenance the rich and unique culture scintillating through its thriving presence in the world space. The large number of participants once again reinstated the faith that Assamese culture has supported the equal participation of people across mosaic of gender which has definitely uplifted it to the world forum.

The One-week long Workshop on Self Defence for Women was organized in the college from 15/5/24 to 21/5/24 to continue its Best Practice for Women Safety apart from maintaining a safe and healthy environment in the college ensured with CCTV surveillance on the campus, secured walls and active ICC- the statutory body.

The Gauhati University Arm-Wrestling Championship 2024 under Gauhati University organized on 6/4/24 and the Volleyball (Boys and Girls) Tournament under Gauhati University organized by the college from 28/04/24 to 30/04/24 provided equal opportunities to fit and well-trained sports person for their exponential growth in this field.

The HEI also witnessed this year the historic training of the whole women batch of 10 (ten) trainees of Drone pilot training under the RPTO run Drone School, first of its kind in entire North East India.

As per the various committee document of the HEI the members of the different cells shows that the number of male faculty on the committees are more than female faculties. Also, with respect to JNC Students Union, the portfolio distribution reflects that female student participation is undoubtedly rising however male student number is definitely more.

Significantly, with respect to gender ratio among students of the institute, across different programs there is a remarkable rise in the number of girl students in the UG programme. In concern with the PG programmes, the enrolment ratio in the department of Math displays a sharp rise in male student enrolment whereas with respect to the Department of Assamese, female students outnumbered males exponentially.

The overall scenario of gender ratio, equality and equity is clearly reflected in the Gender Audit prepared by the cell under the guidance of IQAC of the college.

In the coming session under the guidance of IQAC, the Centre has been to float a Skill course for the students of FYUGP which would be considered under SEC for generating a curated course. Also, the centre is enthusiastic in taking up collaborative work as it understands that with collaboration and communication, sustainability and further activities for fulfilment of NEP 2020 vision would lead to success.

Exhibition of Handloom Products by Women



Sessions of NECTAR-RPTO Drone School



Certificate Distribution Ceremony of NECTAR-RPTO Drone School



Self Defence Workshop For Women



JNC Students Union Election with Encouraging participation of Girls and Boys of JNC



International Women's Day Activity - A Collaborative venture



Jawaharlal Nehru College Staff Cricket Match at College



Rangers Participating in Specially curated activities



Participation in World Health Day



“Bihu Naas aru Dholbadan Karmaxala” from 1/4/24 to 5/4/24

