



THE NATIONAL COLLEGE

AUTONOMOUS

Jayanagar, Bangalore: 560 070

Institutional Distinctiveness – Gender Sensitization

2021-22

Irrational gender stereotypes are deep rooted in our patriarchal society. Unless these misconceptions are eradicated, all the attempts to bring out gender equality will be futile. National College has taken several measures to enhance safety and security of the girls by installing CCTV cameras. The college has different committees such as Anti Ragging Committee, Students Grievance Committee and Sexual Harassment Committee which are very efficient to provide quick relief to the students and to ensure the decent atmosphere on the campus. The college also celebrates International Women's Day every year to bring and raise awareness about the status and dignity women among the students. The IQAC of the college has taken an initiative to sign an MoU with DURGA India, Rural India Supporting Organization to conduct various activities in collaboration with so as to sensitize the students to the gender issues prevalent in the society. Signing an MoU with DURGA India was indeed



Objectives:

- To organise and conduct fun games & activities for students to establish rapport with them and get to know each other.

- To kick start the discussion about and around gender, establish significant rapport with the students and initiate conversations and an understanding about the difference between gender v/s sex
- To continue the discussion around gender, the difference between gender v/s sex, and deconstruct the idea of what is perfect. To also introduce the students to the idea of LGBTQIA+ and the various types of gender.
- Building perspectives through storytelling
- Team discussion
- Opinions sharing
- Listening and speaking
- Constructive argumentation
- To enable conversations within students
- Understanding the importance of rules, roles and responsibilities, power dynamics and the aspect of the unconscious use of the gender lens in our everyday life
- To give participants a space to express their opinions through creative ways [Island activity]
- To enable conversations within students about Active Bystanders and have a DARE orientation to create more Active Bystanders/DARE'S in and around their college campus

Highlights of the session: The students came out of their comfort zones and expressed themselves entirely The final segment was the dumb charades game where the students although the clues were difficult to work with, they managed to get past and do extremely well.



All students were active during the rapport establishing activity while during the core of the discussion some of them were very enthusiastic and contributed to the discussion, while some held back and listened attentively. The students found the discussion very interesting and interactive. The conversation around Gender v/s Sex was initiated and the difference in simple terms was understood by them. The students performed an instance via the theatre of the oppressed and understood the terms: oppressor and the oppressed. The students were

given the homework of thinking of their ideal boy/ideal girl according to them. The students shared personal experiences about how they have heard so many stereotypes with respect to their gender from their birth to the games they played or the toys they chose. They also briefly mentioned how these stereotypes in some sense limited their choices.

The main purpose of the session was to create a healthy environment for students to openly express their views and listen to varied views of people. While discussing different topics, there was a statement that said, Gender Equality can never be achieved. This conversation led to one person clearly distinguishing that men are physically stronger than women. The argument heated the situation but it was taken well. All students were active throughout. The purpose of the session was to enable conversations with the students through creative forms to be able to express their opinions, understand the importance of rules, roles and responsibilities in our everyday life and listen to the views of all participants. The activity was a team oriented one so all the students were very involved actively.

The students portrayed great artistic skills in terms of expressing the creation of their island (a paper sketch-pen activity) and explained the process, the allocation of resources and all the things they want in their island. A team activity, the students had to also assign roles, rules, and responsibilities for the various roles that individuals will be responsible for in their island. Some students unconsciously assigned roles to the other teammate looking at their physical capabilities (like strength, physical stature and the gender of the person), while others assigned roles to themselves as they felt they could do it best based on their skills and understanding of the role in place which was one of the observations made. Participants exhibited good presentation skills, coordination and teamwork.

The purpose of the session was to enable conversations with the students about understanding who is a Bystander and how one can become an Active Bystander and enable others to do the same in any given situation. Students shared instances of their experiences in public spaces and also, considering the bigger picture, wanted to facilitate a change in their own ways by training to be active bystanders.



Outcome: With a view to taking up women's issues and problems, the college aims at creating awareness about various gender related topics such as gender equality, rights of women, self-defence techniques, personal hygiene and sexual harassment etc. It also provides a platform for women to share their experiences and views regarding their status in the society and to suggest ways to improve and empower themselves..

The participation of the girl students in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is really noteworthy. The girl students are also involved in the college administration. They work as student representatives on various administrative committees in the college. The number of female students participation in extra-curricular activities such as sports, cultural events, N.C.C. and N.S.S is also very significant. Active participation and achievements of female students in these activities is also remarkable. Physical Facilities such as Ladies Common Room and sanitary napkin vending machine are available for female students. As a result of these measures taken by the institution, healthy atmosphere is created for women and their performance in each and every field has become remarkable.