

Promoting Women's Education and Awareness Program for Woman Empowerment

Objective: Since the inception of college, it has been the aim of the college authority to provide the facility of higher education to women of the locality and the adjacent villages and towns. The **International Day of Women** is observed almost every year in college and outside the campus to make women conscious of their rights, hygiene and other issues.

Context: Ranaghat College is a coeducational college. The authority of college has developed infrastructural facilities for women separately. Along with educational and infrastructural facilities, women have opportunity to develop their skill in extracurricular activities too. Some programs are organized specially for women regularly to facilitate them to become conscious citizens of India.

Practice: Women constitute a vital wing of society and their education contributes to the overall development of society. It was not always possible for women to travel a long distance for higher education in the past. Hence the college authority decided in the very beginning to make proper arrangement for imparting higher education to women at their doorsteps in the remote town of Ranaghat. For about seventy four years, Ranaghat College has fulfilled the dream of a considerable number of women to become graduates and obtain postgraduate degree. Almost half of the learners of college are women who feel convenient to come to college and receive education in hygienic and secure atmosphere of the institute. There are separate common rooms and toilets for female students of college. Women have the opportunity to undergo NCC training in a separate unit and they also join NSS every year in a large number as volunteers and get involved in social service. Various sporting events like Kbadidi and Badminton matches are organized for women in college to promote their talent in games and sports. The female students of college take a keen interest in observing International day of Women regularly. In 2019-20 sessions, female learners and the teaching staff of college organized a seminar and various programs to observe International day of Women on a large scale. The renowned teacher, writer and social activist named Smt. Satabdi Das delivered lecture on the topic **An Equal World is Enabled World** and shared her valuable ideas on the issues of women in her lecture. Along with the seminar, the female learners performed various items as a part of cultural program and presented a power point presentation on the women activists and achievers. In the last session, the International Day of women was observed with great enthusiasm. Some extension programs were also organized on this occasion in addition to the program organized in the campus. The extension programs were organized in the localities adjacent to Ranaghat. The program titled **Gender Equality Today and Sustainable Tomorrow** was held at college on this occasion which was marked by the enlightening lecture of the renowned recital artist named Smt. Tapasi Singh and the cultural program.

Evidence of Success: A large number of female alumni of Ranaghat College settled in different kinds of occupation bear proof of great success of the venture undertaken by the authority of college to educate the women of the locality. The overwhelming response of women in the localities where extension programs were held as a part of observance of International Day of

Women highlight the great success of the venture undertaken by the devoted members of teaching staff and authority of college. The success of the initiative to promote women is evident in the growing number of female learners admitted every year in college and their excellent performance afterwards.

Problem encountered and Resources required: Social issues, security matters and financial constraint have come in the way of promoting higher education of women and organizing specific programs for them. However, resources and necessary help have been made available by the college authority. The women in the vicinity of college and around it have got convinced about the necessity of their education and found the environment of college convenient and secure for them. After being convinced, female learners have turned for academic activities in large number and participated in the specific programs organized for them.

