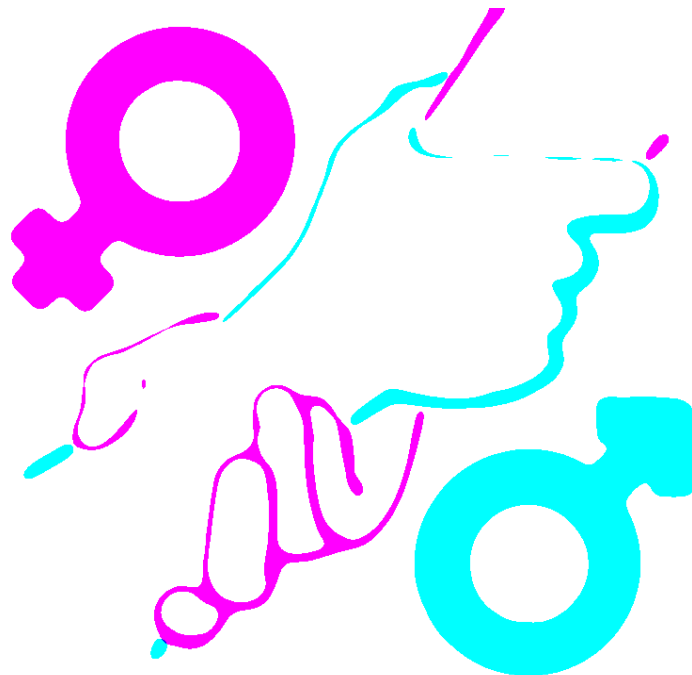


REPORT
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022
“gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”

ORGANISED BY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK (PG)
ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE

DATE: 8TH MARCH, 2022



International Women's Day 2022

“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”

Introduction

International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911. Every year International Women's Day has been observed globally on the 8th of March to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. According to the UN Women, the theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, 2022 (IWD 2022), “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”, recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all. Advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. The issues of climate change and sustainability have had and will continue to have, severe and lasting impacts on our environment, economic and social development. Those who are amongst the most vulnerable and marginalized experience the deepest impacts. Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens the most.

At the same time, women and girls are effective and powerful leaders and change-makers for climate adaptation and mitigation. They are involved in sustainability initiatives around the world, and their participation and leadership results in more effective climate action. Continuing to examine the opportunities, as well as the constraints, to empower women and girls to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability is essential for sustainable development and greater gender equality. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach.

The theme for International Women's Day is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming [66th Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW66): “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”.

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About the Programme

This year, on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2022, the Department of Social Work (PG), St. Edmund's College organised a Talk on the theme “Gender Equality Today for A Sustainable Tomorrow” on the 8th March, 2022 at the College Auditorium.

The Alumni of St. Edmund's College namely Ms. Beverley D Kharsyntiew (Entrepreneur and Owner of Enchante Tea Room), Ms. Sutanuka Deb (Project Manager for Meghalaya for ‘Promise of



the Commons’, A Foundation of Ecological Security) and Ms. Catherine D Kyndiah (District Project Manager Jal Jeevan Mission Ri-Bhoi District) were invited as guest speakers for the occasion.

The programme started with an introductory note from Ms. Hazel Wahlang who was the host during the event. The dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr. S Lamare, Principal St. Edmund's College, Dr. BW Nongbri, Dean St. Edmund's College and Alumni of St. Edmund's College Ms. Beverley D Kharsyntiew, Ms. Sutanuka Deb and Ms. Catherine D Kyndiah who were the guest speakers for the occasion.

After the introductory speech and felicitation of the guests and dignitaries, the Dean of the College Dr. BW Nongbri welcomed the august gathering. The speaker highlighted that even though over the year's IWD has been celebrated with much aplomb yet issues of gender equality and gender parity is still very much prevalent and challenging. In her speech the speaker also shared the names women personalities particularly in Meghalaya who have made



impact across socio-economic and political spheres of the society.

The Principal St. Edmund's College, Dr. S Lamare delivered a short message where he emphasized a few important points about women; that there has been a growing number of women members in different committees in the political and governance spheres, important role of women in the society, majority of the teaching



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positions in the state are being occupied by female teachers (women as educators), in Meghalaya mother is seen as the most important figure in the family but yet there is high rate of crime against women. In conclusion he expressed the need of the support of the men folks to empower women.

The principal then took the opportunity to announce that the college has installed two Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines for the female students of the college.

The short message from the Principal was followed by a speech from the college Alumni Ms. Beverley D Kharsyntiew (Entrepreneur and Owner of Enchante Tea Room) where she shared her experience to becoming a successful entrepreneur. She shared that



her key to success was by following certain personal rules and principles in the process of becoming an entrepreneur.



The second guest speaker for the occasion was SEC alumni, Ms. Sutanuka Deb (Project Manager for Meghalaya for ‘Promise of the Commons’, A Foundation of Ecological Security). She shared her experience during her days as a student of St. Edmund’s College. The speaker also stated that change and learning is as essential element in the

process of growth. Towards concluding she emphasized that if we want to inspire others, we must share what we learn and to be passionate in what we want to achieve.

Following Ms. Sutanuka Deb was a speech from another SEC alumni Ms. Catherine D Kyndiah (District Project Manager Jal Jeevan Mission Ri-Bhoi District). In her speech she focused on the issues and challenges pertaining to women such as work life balance of women, stereotype attitude of men towards women, to be gender sensitive and inclusive on gender justice and women’s rights. Being a professional Social Worker herself she also highlighted the role of women as Social Workers.



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Towards the end of the programme there was the felicitation for the winners of the poster-making competition organised by the Department to commemorate the IWD and on the theme ‘Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow’. The prize distribution was felicitated by The Principal St. Edmund's College, Dr. S Lamare and Dr. BW Nongbri, Dean St. Edmund's College. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Wandaya Syngkon, faculty member of the Social Work Department (PG).

