

WOMEN CELL 2022-2023

ISSUES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On September 3, 2022, an interactive meeting focusing on the "Issues of Domestic Violence Against Women" and gender sensitization was organized by the HP State Commission for Women.

Objective: The event aimed to raise awareness about domestic violence and its impact on women's lives.

Dr. Daisy Thakur, the Chairperson of HP State Commission for Women, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The meeting also saw the participation of important guests, including Law Officer HPSCW Adv. Anuj Verma, Prof. Meenakshi F. Paul, and Prof. Shiv Nath Ghosh. One of the key highlights of the meeting was the introduction of an awareness questionnaire for college students, addressing the issue of domestic violence against women.

The interactive meeting took place at the D C Office, Bachat Bhawan, Shimla. Dr. Daisy Thakur delivered an opening address, emphasizing the importance of addressing domestic violence and promoting gender sensitization in society. She acknowledged the prevalence of domestic violence and highlighted the need for collective efforts to create awareness and provide support to the victims. The chairperson stressed the significance of education and spreading awareness among college students to foster a culture of gender equality and prevent domestic violence.

Adv. Anuj Verma, Law Officer of HPSCW, provided valuable insights into the legal aspects of domestic violence and the rights of women. He discussed the legal provisions and mechanisms available to victims of domestic violence, emphasizing the importance of reporting such incidents and seeking legal recourse. Prof. Meenakshi F. Paul and Prof. Shiv Nath Ghosh shared their expertise on gender sensitization and its role in addressing domestic violence. They emphasized the need to challenge patriarchal norms and promote a more inclusive and egalitarian society.

During the meeting, an awareness questionnaire on domestic violence against women was introduced for college students. The questionnaire aimed to gauge students' knowledge and understanding of domestic violence, its causes, consequences, and available support systems. The participants were encouraged to actively engage in the questionnaire and provide their insights and suggestions.







BEAUTY PAGEANTS- A GATEWAY TO SUCCESS AND GLORY!

On September 9, 2022, Amar Ujala and GOYAL Motors Pvt Ltd sponsored the registrations for the highly anticipated beauty pageant "Miss Himachal Princess" at St. Bede's College, Shimla.

Objective: The event, organized by the convener of the Women Cell, Dr. Vandana Thakur, aimed to provide students with a platform to showcase their talents, boost their confidence, and explore career opportunities in the modelling industry. Over 60 students enthusiastically registered themselves for the pageant, which offered a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a one-year modelling contract for the winner.

The registration process for the "Miss Himachal Princess" beauty pageant was made simple and accessible to all interested participants. Girls were required to provide their personal details and hobbies on the registration forms. Once the forms were filled out, they were mailed to Amar Ujala's official website, which partnered with GOYAL Motors Pvt Ltd for the event. The sponsorship from these esteemed organizations ensured that the pageant could offer valuable career options and opportunities to the participants.

After the registration process, the selected participants would proceed to auditions where their talents, personality, and presentation skills would be assessed. The auditions aimed to shortlist the most promising candidates who would then embark on a journey of extensive training and development. The pageant provided an exciting opportunity for the selected participants to receive training from a Bollywood choreographer, grooming sessions from a renowned beauty institute (Lakme), and outfits designed by budding designers from INIFD (Inter National Institute of Fashion Design).

The opportunity for comprehensive training and development through industry experts and professionals was highly appreciated by the students. It not only gave them a chance to enhance their modeling skills but also provided valuable exposure to the fashion industry. The pageant aimed to empower young women by nurturing their talents and helping them build a strong foundation for their future endeavours.











INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY 2023

On March 4, 2023, a group of sixty students from St. Bede's College attended the International Women's Day celebration at Gaiety Theatre, organized by the Directorate of Women and Child Development, H.P. The event showcased two impactful documentaries, "No Woman's Land" and "Breaking the Ice," directed by Dr. Devkanya Thakur. The documentaries shed light on the challenges faced by women in their pursuit of equality and highlighted their remarkable achievements.

Event Details: The International Women's Day celebration at Gaiety Theatre provided an excellent platform for students to witness the screening of two powerful documentaries. The first film, "No Woman's Land," directed by Dr. Devkanya Thakur, explored the issue of genderbiased laws prevailing in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh. The film revealed that despite discussions on women's empowerment and the need to address the imbalance in child sex ratios, certain areas in India still have gender-biased laws. These laws prohibit women from inheriting ancestral property from both their paternal and maternal sides, showcasing the persisting patriarchal attitudes. Dr. Thakur shared her experiences and creative inspirations with the students, guiding them through the filmmaking process.

The second film showcased the challenges faced by women in the male-dominated field of skiing. It highlighted their remarkable achievements and the perseverance required to succeed in a sport that often lacks gender equality. Both documentaries directed by Dr. Devkanya Thakur captivated the audience and served as a source of inspiration for the students.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about the struggles and achievements of women in different fields. Dr. Thakur's documentary "No Woman's Land" was produced in 2015 and aimed to bring attention to the gender-biased laws in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh. Despite facing resistance from the male society in these districts, Dr. Thakur continued to screen the film at various platforms, eventually gaining the attention of local and national media. The issue was subsequently brought to the notice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.













CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY 2023

On March 9, 2023, St. Bede's College's Women Cell commemorated International Women's Day with various activities and discussions centered around the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for Gender Equality."

Objective: The objective of the event was to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equality and empower women while reflecting on the challenges that still exist.

The celebration began with a Nukkad Natak (street play) performed by the students of St. Bede's College. The play aimed to raise awareness about gender issues and empower women through the medium of performing arts. The students showcased their talents, confidence, and creativity, effectively conveying important messages to the audience.

Following the Nukkad Natak, an interactive session was held with Professor Neelima Kanwar, the Dean of the Faculty of Languages at Himachal Pradesh University, who was invited as the guest speaker. Professor Kanwar engaged the students in a discussion on various issues faced by women in today's world. The students actively participated and shared their experiences, concerns, and opinions on gender equality and empowerment. The session provided an opportunity for students to learn from the expertise of Professor Kanwar and engage in meaningful conversations surrounding gender issues.

Outcome: The celebration of International Women's Day at St. Bede's College provided a platform for students to showcase their talents, creativity, and knowledge. The event created an inclusive and supportive environment for students to express themselves, share their concerns, and be part of a collective effort to strive for gender equality.











