

# **A presentation on the status of women in India by Dr. Sushma Rohatgi, Director at the Women's Studies Centre, NBU**

## Session Information

Organised by the Women's Cell, Salesian College, Siliguri Campus.

Date: 25.02.2013

Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Location: A/v Room

## Session overview:

Dr. Sushma Rohatgi, Director at the Women's Studies Centre of NBU was invited to deliver a presentation in order to foster awareness among the women populace of the college as a step towards gender sensitisation, on the initiative of Ms. Priyanka Das, Asst. Prof., Eng. Dept. SCSC.

Flora Tirkey, Non-teaching staff and a single working mother, was requested to share her life experiences after the end of the aforesaid presentation on Ms. Nilima Moktan's (Asst. Prof., Edu. Dept. SCSC) suggestion.

The session was compered by Ms. Neha Mittal, Asst. Prof. B.Com Dept. SCSC.

Student's representative Ms. Livia Mithu Mondol from Eng. Dept. presented the vote of thanks on behalf of the students.

The session was attended by Fr.Dr. James Chacko and the women lecturers and students of the college.

Technical support was provided by Mr. Dhirodatta Subba, Mr. Subhojit Bose, Asst. Prof., Comp. Sc. Dept. and Mr. Peter Lepcha, Campus Co-ordinator.

Vote of thanks on behalf of Salesian College family, minute keeping and report preparation was done by Ms. Kasturi Ghosh, Asst. Prof., Eng. Dept. SCSC.

The session commenced with a welcome message from Ms. Neha Mittal.

The Guest speaker Dr. Rohatgi was welcomed with flowers and garland by the students.

Ms. Priyanka Das addressed the gathering on the need and importance of gender sensitisation and awareness, and briefed them on the proceedings of the session.

Dr. Rohatgi presented a very informative and eye opening report on the present status of women in India, comparing, contrasting and tracing the changes in the same from ancient to modern times. Discrimination practiced against women in all walks of life, beginning before they are born, in infancy, childhood, teenage, adulthood and old age; focusing on home environment, educational facilities, safety, health and sanitation facilities, work environment, treatment before and after marriage, and by their children. She provided statistical data to support her claims. Government provides various laws and regulations for the security of women but the same are hardly implemented. Court proceedings and govt. Bills are slow and ineffective. Attitude of men towards women is worse than that of the men; therefore it needs to be changed. Education is the first step towards women's empowerment. Dr. Rohatgi urged the gathering to share their knowledge with the less advantageous, to keep themselves ever aware and informed about the laws protecting

women and to progress on the path of empowerment with perseverance.

Ms. Flora delivered a heart rending story of her struggle. She also thanked all who were present for making her feel like family by calling her “Flora Didi”. She stressed on the need of education and urged the students to take guided and wise decisions in their lives, keeping their wellbeing and future security in mind and never losing sight of it in the hour of temptation and emotional weakness. She ended with a prayer song to Jesus and pointed out to all that sufferings are a part of life, therefore, one should not be hopeless, but face hardships with bravery and hope. Her speech drew tears as well as a huge round of applause from the gathering.

Ms. Livia shared her views and experiences on empowerment of women and extended the vote of thanks on behalf of the students.

Ms. Kasturi Ghosh concluded the session by summing up the purpose of this session and by extending the vote of thanks on behalf of the College to Dr. Rohatgi for her enlightening session and to all who were present for making the session a success.

Reported by :

Ms. Kasturi Ghosh,

Asst. Prof., Eng. Dept. SCSC



