

Institute Seminar on “Rights of Transgender”

Topic: Rights of Transgender

Speaker: Dr. Manabi Bandyopadhyay

Venue: Adjacent to Library, 4th Floor, Main Building, IIT Bhubaneswar

Date: 23rd August 2019

Time: 5.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M.

The seminar began with welcome by Dr. C. N. Bhende (PIC Seminar) followed by brief introduction of the speaker.

Dr. Manabi started with her own story. She told that her father gave her name as Somnath and wanted to grow her as a boy child. Ever since childhood, Dr. Manabi took preference to feminine habits and showed signs of being a girl. However, this irked her father who wanted her to work and earn, since she was the only son among two sisters. In spite of huge resistance from her family, she had long battle against ignorance and became Transgender Women.

One of the students asked that the recent bill that was passed regarding transgender rights, do you think it is right that the person who accuses will only be jailed for 2 years or so but in case of women it is 6 years of imprisonment?. Dr Manabi answered that coming to the reality, how many girls who are sexually abused are getting justice because many cases are pending. There are many transgender who have hidden identity. We don't even have the exact number of transgender present in the country. Most of the time, the problems do not get recognized or by the time we get justice it is too late. So, there is a difference between what's there in the bill and what is in the reality.

In another question, student asked that do you think that the ones who are abandoned by the family and society will be going for rehabilitation as mentioned in the revised bill of 2019?. Dr. Manabi answered that there are lot of things mentioned in the bill but the point is when one transgender requires a support from family and friends, the so-called society doesn't permit it. We are ill-treated and we need to fight all odds in life all alone.

Another student asked that today in the society we are talking about transgender and their rights but there is a social stigma regarding such topics. There may be some student

studying in this institute too who feel different about themselves and have hidden identity. They do not feel safe revealing themselves as a different identity because of this social stigma. What would be your say regarding this matter? What would you suggest such people so that they can be brave enough to speak up like you.? Dr. Manabi replied that yes, transgender are not accepted in this society. However such person should listen to his heart. The person should be brave enough to accept himself to be what he is rather than leading a life forced upon them. One should himself understand about his real identity.

The another question was asked, since you mentioned that men are dominated in the society and gets the first position followed by women in the second and transgender as third and now labelled as 'third gender'. I was wondering what drive you to be a woman (through surgery) than a man as they enjoy the first class status?. Dr Manabi responded that since, childhood I have lived with woman as she had two elder sisters. She has seen them around and most importantly she always felt that she is a woman. So, there was no confusion ever. One student asked about requirement of education about transgender as policy of education, Dr. Manabi replied that yes, it is required and may be in future it will come.

The seminar concluded with the Dr. Remya N., Chairperson-Women's Welfare Cell, felicitating Dr. Manabi with a memento of appreciation.

Biography of the Speaker:

Dr. Manabi Bandyopadhyay media said that she is first Transgender (TG) Transwoman Principal in our India and also first PhD achiever as a TG. The famous publisher PENGUIN published her biography named "A Gift of Goddess Laxmi". This biography translated in various Indian languages. Since near about 26 years she is publishing a Trans magazine in our Bengal named ABAMANAB (sub human). She wrote two books about Transgender. One of them is a novel wrote by fully transgender's own hidden language, it first published on 2002 and it second published at 2018. Her second book is a research work about TG world. From 2015 to2018, she was vice chairperson at West Bengal Transgender development board. Now she is in service as a Principal of a college affiliated by Calcutta university. She is also a honorable member of Sahitya academy and various prestigious society. Very recently she played two movies. One of them NAGAR KIRTAN a famous Transgender film directed by famous film director Koushik Gangopadhy awarded four National Awards.



