



**Internal Complaints Committee Activity:  
An International Webinar on  
"HEALTH ISSUES OF UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN"  
Date: 18.09.2020 & 19.09.2020**

**Report:**

**Type of activity and Title:**

**An awareness programme has been organized on "Health Issues of Underprivileged Women"**

**Objective:**

The Internal Complaints Committee of Haldia Government College came up with the inventive idea of holding an awareness programme on women's health particularly who are underprivileged to aware the students how women's health is influenced by social determinants such as poverty, low education, poor nutritional status, and by ethnic and racial factors. The webinar had the following name: "**Health Issues of Underprivileged Women**". This webinar was organized in collaboration with an NGO named Rubi Society and Research Centre, Howrah (Society Regd. No. S0023786) in association with IQAC of this college.

The main goal of setting up and holding such a programme was to provide information about living in disadvantaged context may further increase the gender inequity, as groups of population with socioeconomic disadvantages are more likely to have poor health conditions and suffer more from chronic health issues; in addition, they have less chances to receive proper health assistance and develop more frequently acute and chronic health problems.

**Time , Date and Venue:**

The programme was fixed on **18.09.2020 and 19.09.2020 from 06:00 pm to 8:30pm** in online mode as COVID-19 outbreak was prevailed and college remained close.

**Resource Person:**

The programme had been conducted by 4 eminent speakers, they are

Dr. Anindita Sengupta, Dept. of Women Gender Sexuality Studies, University of Connecticut, USA

Dr. Arpita Mandal Nandi, Principal of Panchla Mahavidyalaya, Howrah and Vice President of Rubi Society and Research Centre.

Dr. Anindita Chaudhuri, dept. of Psychology, University of Calcutta

Ms. Suchandrima Bhattacharjee, RRTC Calcutta Samaritan and Treasurer of Rubi Society and Research Centre

**Number of participants/beneficiaries:**

**932 individuals participated in the webinar of two days.**

**Description about the workshop**

Dr. Anindita Sengupta on dated 18.09.2020 has discussed on Surrogacy Arrangement in India. She has described the voices of the surrogates and donors (egg) who belong to poor socioeconomic condition.



How frequent surrogacy affects health of these women. She demonstrated surrogates and donors are active decision makers who participate in the reproductive arrangements to improve their lives and the conditions of their families by taking jobs like surrogacy or gamete donation. Why the donors and surrogates use secrecy as a strategy to hide their jobs has been discussed and she deliberated also surrogacy and egg or sperm donation are highly stigmatized in India.

Dr. Arpita Mandal Nandi on dated 18.09.2020 has discussed on maternal bio-social factors. She demonstrated occupation and low education of the mother had a significant effect on the birth weight of the newborns, even age of mother, caste and religion are the significant determinants of low birth weight.


Dr. Anindia Chaudhuri on dated 19.09.2020 has discussed on women who are engaged on commercial sexwork. How they experience was depicted in this webinar. Their identity (multi layered or plural, which is formed and reformed, created and shaped by the individuals those around them), stigma, wellbeing status and resilience were discussed.

Ms. Suchandrima Bhattacharjee on dated 19.09.2020 discussed on drug abuse and women. Women from lower socioeconomic group have more exposure to addiction. While a woman using drug she used to suffer from societal stigma and discrimination as addiction is a men's phenomenon looked upon by the society. They hide themselves and not come to the treatment centre. Their drug dependency remains untreated for the stigma. Gender based violence is more common among them.

### **Outcome:**

The success of this programme was evident. The online webinar received overwhelmingly positive participants response. Additionally, they had the opportunity to express their doubts and ask our expert questions. The webinar succeeded in achieving its intended purpose. That was demonstrated by the replies given by students after the programme.

  
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