

**“Workshop on Dissection and Discussion on Gender Gaps in Modern India organized by the School of Social Sciences in collaboration with Durga India.**

The School of Social Sciences, Assam Kaziranga University, Jorhat organized a workshop on ‘Gender Sensitization Programme’ in collaboration with Durga India on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021 in the university campus. Durga India is a non-profit organization based in Bangalore that works on various issues related to women and their problems. Their main goal is to make the society aware of the problems and various forms of abuses that women experience on a day to day basis, and effectively address these problems. The sole purpose of creating Durga was to ensure women’s safety from everyday instances of harassment. The resource persons for the workshop were Margaret Johnson, the Youth Engagement Strategist and Antara Buzarbaruah, who works in the learning and documentation team of the organization. The objective of the workshop was to create a safe space for the students to freely express the problems they face either in family, educational institutions or public places.

The resource persons started the session by briefly introducing themselves and the organization. After that there was an icebreaking session where the students were actively involved in various fun activities to break the hesitation and freely interact with the facilitators. Each student was given a sheet of paper with questions in it so as to assess their opinions on certain questions and reasoning skill.

After a short break, the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the day started with a refreshing activity after which, there was an interactive discussion between the facilitator and the students on various topics like Gender, Safety, Respect, Trust, Gender-based violence and its causes and so on. The students gave their opinions about each topic and actively took part in the discussion. The facilitator then, initiated another activity called Columbian Hypnosis i.e. understanding the role of power play which taught the students how to break the dominant power and equally divide it.

The workshop ended with positive feedbacks from the students and words of appreciation by the resource people and the faculty. A total of 83 students attended the workshop and actively participated in it. The workshop was indeed a learning experience, and definitely a safe space for the students.