

Inauguration of Mural Painting in the College Campus

OBJECTIVE: To use art as a means of generating social awareness on gender issues.

CONTEXT: Barasat Govt. College caters to a wide cross section of students coming from diverse cultural, social and religious backgrounds. More than 60% of these 3000 strong student body are women. The ICC and Gender Sensitization Committee of the college try to create an inclusive, safe and encouraging environment for the students irrespective of their gender identity. With this end in mind, the college collaborated with a feminist NGO Swayam, to organize art workshops on gender issues and mural paintings and photo exhibition on the college walls to involve students in the dialogues involving issues of gender identity, safety of women in the workplace, gender stereotypes, gender based harassment etc.

PRACTICE:

1. The college ICC and Gender Sensitization Committee signed a MOU with Swayam, a feminist organisation committed to advancing women's rights on 20th September, 2023.
2. It was followed by an art workshop held in the college premises in collaboration with Swayam on 27th September, 2023, involving 91 students and 9 resource persons on the topic "Everyone deserves a safe and respectful learning environment."
3. The artworks, stories, anecdotes, slogans, captions, which arose from the workshop were used as material for the mural paintings on the outside as well as inner walls of the campus.
4. The paintings were done by a professional artist appointed by Swayam and inaugurated on 5th December, 2023 through a short function attended by the Principal, Barasat Govt. College, Director, Swayam, Rwitobroto Mukherjee, a popular actor and youth icon and the OCs of the local police stations.
5. The program comprised of a short cultural program by the students and faculties of the college and talks by the visiting dignitaries.
6. A digital photo exhibition on the topic '**Breaking Gender Stereotypes through My Eyes**', with photographs and captions by the students of the college was inaugurated on the same day.
7. The paintings and artworks conceived by the students were also displayed on the college walls.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- The mural painting project was a grand success as evidenced by the response of the students, faculty, the people of the locality and the huge media coverage.
- The project brought important social issues of gender discrimination and safety to the forefront both within the college boundaries and also in the immediate locality of the college.
- It added to the aesthetic and artistic quality of the college grounds.
- It involved the students and tapped their creative potentials.

Photographic Evidence:

