



School of Professional Studies

Netaji Subhas Open University

(Established by WB Act (XIX) of 1997, Recognized by UGC)

(Accredited by NAAC with Grade "A", Accorded with UGC 12B)

Jalpaiguri Regional Centre, Patkata, Kotwali, Jalpaiguri-735102 (Inside the premises of Govt. Engineering College, Jalpaiguri)

Report on One day Awareness Building Program on Provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019

Date: 08/03/2025

Venue: Seminar Hall, Regional Centre, Jalpaiguri, NSOU

Total Participant: 123

One Day Awareness Building Programme on Provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
Organized by
Netaji Subhas Open University
Department of Social Work, School of Professional Studies
&
National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi
In collaboration with
Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change (JPISC), Kolkata
Venue: Seminar Hall, Jalpaiguri RC, NSOU Date: 8th March 2025 Time: 11:30 AM

The Department of Social Work under School of Professional Studies of Netaji Subhash Open University conducted one day awareness building programme on **Provisions for Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 and Rules 2020** in collaboration with Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change, Kolkata supported by National Institute of Social Defence on 8th March 2025 at Seminar Hall, Regional Centre, Jalpaiguri, NSOU. The objective of the program was to sensitise and aware the student about the plight of transgender in our society and also about the social legislation which in place to protect the rights of the transgender persons. Participants were students of social work (MSW) from various College



(Learner Support Centres / Study Centres) under the jurisdiction Jalpaiguri Regional Centre of Netaji Subhas Open University. The program starts with the lightening of the lamp followed by felicitation of the guest speakers. **Sri Soumitra Sengupta**, Superintendent, Jalpaiguri RC, NSOU addressed the participants about main theme of the programme and spoken about the importance of International Women's Day (8th March). The role women in our society's progress and development. Students must



take the initiatives to uphold the rights and roles of women in the family, community, society and country.



Sri Sri Santunu Dam, Dy. Director of Jalpaiguri RC, NSOU extended a warm welcome to the participants and the speakers. He expressed that this kind of sensitization programme is very much required for the students. He further said that we must understand the problems of transgender persons, and must take initiatives to improve their status in the society.

Ms. Mrityika Chatterjee, a Member of Hooghly District Transgender Protection Cell and Former Member of the **West Bengal Transgender Persons Development Board (WBTGPDB)** shared her personal journey as a transgender individual, highlighting the challenges of social rejection, discrimination, and psychological struggles faced during reintegration. Using real-life examples, she spoke about transgender persons being denied education and jobs, leading many to vulnerable situations. She emphasized the importance of psychological support, family acceptance, and inclusive policies in easing this transition. Her speech underscored the need for sensitization, peer support and government support to help transgender individuals rebuild their lives with dignity, respect and social acceptance. She also shared that she undergone Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) to be a female from a biological male.



Ms Soma Roy Karmakar, an Independent Gender Expert, talked about psycho social implication of the reintegration of transgender persons. She shared the point of views of the parents of transgender persons and the kind of societal behaviour that the transgender persons often have to face while they go for health care services. She highlighted the importance of inclusive and non- discriminatory healthcare services,

addressing challenges such as lack of access to gender-affirmative care, mental health support, and social stigma in medical settings. She stressed the role of health policies, sensitized medical professionals, and community-based interventions in improving the well-being of transgender persons.

Dr. Monojit Garai, Assistant Professor of Social Work,





NSOU in his speech talked about various provisions of the Provisions for Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 and Rules 2020 in details with some achievement in regards to the transgender in the state of West Bengal.



Mr. Samapta Maity, Coordinator, JPISC facilitated the whole programme with his personal field level experiences with some significant information about the transgender and interacted with the participants.

Feedback and Interaction: Participants were very interested to know more about the Transgender Persons. Two Transgender students were present in the programme out of the participants and shared their life experiences as transgender person. They were also alumni of MSW from NSOU. Swapan Debnath is now working as ICTC Counsellor in a Govt. Hospital another one Khuluram Singha working as

a staff of a NGO in North Dinajpur District.

Some glimpse of the event

The awareness programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Sri Debraj Sarkar, System Analyst, Jalpaiguri RC, NSOU expressing thanks to the participants for their sincere attentiveness and speakers for their wonderful and thought provoking speech in the programme. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts in advocating for transgender rights and inclusive social policies.



Following the vote of thanks, participation certificates were distributed to all participants.



Report Prepared and Submitted by

Dr. Monojit Garai, Assistant Professor of Social Work (Co-ordinator of the Programme)

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