

## **GENDER SENSITIZATION CELL**

This Cell is established with a motto to undertake research and organize training and extension work in the areas of gender equity, economic self-reliance of women, girls' education, issues of human rights etc. These activities are expected to contribute not only to social awareness and change but also to academic development of our college.

### **COMPOSITION:-**

Dr. Rimjhim Bhattacharjee (Assistant Professor) (Convener)

Dr. Snehasree Saha (Assistant Professor) (Jt. Convener)

Dr. Sreemoyee Banerjee (Assistant Professor)

Saswati Banerjee (Assistant Professor)

Dr. M. Nargis Nasir (SACT-1)

Nupur Adhikary (SACT-2)

Mridula Hudati (SACT-2)

Sukhendu Chandra (Accountant)

Lakshmikanta Chakraborty (Member of NGO 'ITARAIASHADEEP', Udaynarayanpur, Howrah)

Piu Patra (Students' representative)

### **Objective:-**

To promote awareness, understanding, and sensitivity towards gender issues among students and staff, fostering an inclusive and respectful campus environment.

## Activities of The Cell

### One-Day Workshop- Gender Equity

**Date:** 28.06.2019

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Resource Person:** Dr. Afroja Khatun, Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, Surendranath College for Women

**Number of Participants:** 79

**Motive:** To enlighten educators and students about the facets, theories, and lapses of Gender Equity in different spheres of life

**Outcome:** Dr. Khatun explained the various theories both in the west and in South Asia in the form of stories and practical experiences which the students could easily relate to. The focus on lived experience was an integral aspect of the workshop. Since Dr. Khatun herself belongs to a minority community, she could engage our female students, particularly students from the Muslim minority community in conversation and participation. Participants were apprised about the different layers of gender inequities present in society and were engaged in critical thinking and problem solving exercises. The workshop was a huge success among the students and educators alike.

### Theatre Performance





**Date:** 20.09.2019

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Venue:** Vivekananda College for Women

**Number of Participants:** 12

**Motive:** To raise awareness on gender issues over the years

**Outcome:** A team of 12 students of the institution performed a play on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the premises of the Vivekananda College for Women. The name of the play was 'Phire Dekha'. The theme of the drama was women's liberation and empowerment in the history of Bengal. The audience greatly appreciated the performance with ovation as well as praise.

## Webinar: Pandemic and Patriarchy: Finding Adjectives to Change Language of Society

The poster features a central scroll with the title and main speaker information. To the left, there are several icons: a 'CURFEW' sign, a 'BREAK THE HOSTEL LOCKS!' sign, a person in a white protective suit, a person in a blue face mask, and a person in a blue hijab. To the right, there is a table with the agenda. At the bottom, there is a registration link and deadline.

**State Level Webniar**  
On  
**"Pandemic and Patriarchy : Finding Adjectives to Change language of Society"**

**Date –**  
19<sup>th</sup>  
August, 2020

**Organized by**  
Gender Sensitization Cell,  
UDAYNARAYANPUR MADHABILATA MAHAVIDYALAYA  
Howrah

**Time- 11am**  
Via  
GoogleMeet

Welcome Address by Dr. Arabindo Ghosh, Principal, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**MAIN SPEAKER –**  
**DR. AFROJA KHATUN,**  
**ASSOCIATE**  
**PROFESSOR**  
**SURENDRANATH**  
**COLLEGE FOR**  
**WOMEN, KOLKATA**

Brief Introduction	Snehasree Saha, Assistant Professor, Dept of food & Nutrition
Vote of Thanks	Sreemoyee Banerjee, Assistant Professor, HoD, dept of Bengali. Convener - Gender Sensitization cell

For registration Link – Mail us on – [IQACUMM@gmail.com](mailto:IQACUMM@gmail.com) ( Before 8 pm 18-08-2020)

**Date:** 19.08.2020

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Resource Person:** Dr. Afroja Khatun, Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, Surendranath College for Women

**Number of Participants:** 62

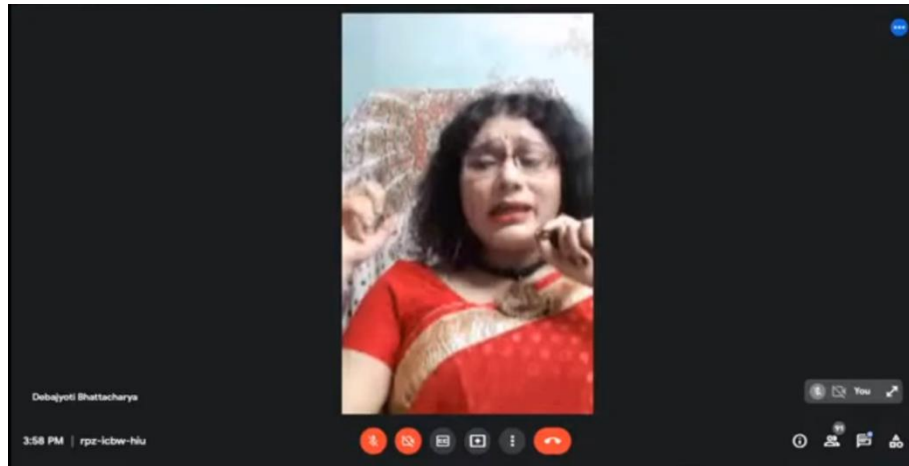
**Motive:** To redress the widespread sexism and patriarchal stronghold in language and social roles propelled by the pandemic situation

**Outcome:** Dr. Khatun's phenomenal success in reaching out to our students and explaining difficult concepts to them in a language they could understand inspired us to approach her for another programme, this time a webinar, which had become part of the new normal in educational institutions.

This webinar addressed the whirlwind of sexist jokes and stereotypes on Whatsapp and other social media platforms during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. While the pandemic had created a space for gender parity within the home, increasingly studies began to show how

women's workload, instead of decreasing, had in fact, increased manifold. Cases of domestic abuse and violence against women within households were also on the rise. This violence was not always physical. The webinar discussed how language and gender stereotypes were tools of epistemic violence against women during the pandemic and the immediate need to redress them.

## **Webinar : Rupantar:Daihik, Samajik naki Manasik?**



**Date:** 24.06.2021

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Resource Person:** Debojyoti Bhattacharjee

**Number of Participants:** 215

**Youtube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4xLKep8Efw>

**Motive:** To generate awareness about transgender lives, issues, and realities

**Outcome:** Gender sensitization programmes in educational institutions often remain oblivious to or skirt around sensitive issues like transgender identity. Debojyoti Bhattacharjee (now Dr. Debanjali Bhattacharjee), an erstwhile educator in Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya, had recently transitioned through a gender-affirming surgical procedure. This webinar was like a second homecoming for her. She spoke eloquently to the students and educators, explaining the basics of transgender identity, the LGBTQIA+ community, and gender-affirming surgery. She spoke from personal experience of the travails and segregation that gender-nonconforming persons often have to face in society. Participants in the webinar engaged in an active question-answer session and left convinced about the need to be more sensitive to and raise awareness about this significant social issue.

## **Intra College Student Debate Competition**

**Organized by:** The Gender Sensitization Cell in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya, Howrah.

**Date:** February 9, 2022

The Gender Sensitization Cell, in conjunction with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya, successfully organized an Intra College Student Debate Competition on February 9, 2022. The event aimed to foster intellectual discourse, promote critical thinking, and raise awareness about gender-related issues among the students.

The debate competition was a well-attended event, drawing participation from students across various disciplines and academic years. The competition was structured to provide a platform for students to express their opinions, engage in healthy debate, and enhance their oratory and argumentative skills.

The event commenced with an inaugural session featuring distinguished guests and faculty members. Dr. Arabinda Ghosh, Principal, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya delivered the opening address, emphasizing the importance of promoting gender sensitivity and inclusive thinking on campus. Representatives from both the Gender Sensitization Cell and the IQAC shared insights into the collaborative efforts behind organizing the event.

The debate topic was meticulously chosen to align with the theme of gender sensitization. Participants debated on the topic: **"Vocational Education for Women must be Included in the Curricula of Higher Learning Institutions."**

The topic encouraged participants to delve into the complexities of gender dynamics, equality, and societal norms. Participants were required to present their arguments from multiple perspectives, showcasing their research and analytical abilities.

The competition consisted of three rounds: Preliminary, Semi-Final, and Final. In each round, participants engaged in spirited debates, presenting their viewpoints and counterarguments with finesse. The judges, comprising faculty members and an external member from Ashadeep, a local NGO, evaluated the participants based on their content, clarity of expression, logical reasoning, and overall presentation.

The Intra College Student Debate Competition proved to be a resounding success, achieving its objectives of promoting intellectual engagement and fostering gender sensitization. Participants showcased their depth of understanding on gender-related issues and highlighted their commitment to advocating for equality and inclusivity.

After intense deliberation, the judges announced the winners of the competition. The first prize was awarded to Sritama Mukherjee for their insightful arguments and eloquent delivery. The second and third prizes were secured by Debopriya Chatterjee and Riya Panja, respectively.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the event coordinators, expressing gratitude to the participants, judges, faculty members, and for their valuable contributions. The collaborative effort of the Gender Sensitization Cell and the IQAC in organizing this event underscored the institution's commitment to nurturing a gender-sensitive and intellectually vibrant campus environment.

The Intra College Student Debate Competition marked a significant step in the journey toward fostering awareness, understanding, and advocacy for gender-related issues among the student community. It is hoped that such initiatives will continue to thrive, creating a more inclusive and equitable campus for all.

### **Intra-College Student Poster Competition**

**Organized by:** The Gender Sensitization Cell in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

**Date:** March 24, 2022

**Venue:** Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya, Howrah

The Gender Sensitization Cell, in partnership with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized an intra-college student poster competition on March 24, 2022, at Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya. The topic of the poster competition was “**My Understanding of Gender Equality.**” The event aimed to probe the idea of gender equality and promote gender sensitization among students. The competition provided a platform for students to creatively express their understanding of gender justice and equality through visual representation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines. The poster competition was designed to encourage students to reflect on and visualize complex issues related to gender sensitivity, equality, and social justice. Participants were tasked with creating visually compelling posters that conveyed messages of empowerment, inclusivity, and the importance of breaking down societal stereotypes.

The competition was held in two stages: preliminary round and final round. In the preliminary round, participants submitted their poster designs along with a brief written explanation of the concept behind their artwork. A panel of judges comprising faculty members from different departments evaluated the submissions based on creativity, relevance to the theme, and the clarity of the message. From the preliminary submissions, a shortlist of finalists was selected to move on to the final round. During the final round, the shortlisted participants displayed their posters in a designated area. The posters were exhibited for all attendees, including students, faculty, and invited guests, to view and appreciate. Participants had the opportunity to explain their posters and engage in discussions with the attendees.

After careful evaluation, the judges announced the winners of the competition. The first, second, and third-place winners were awarded certificates of achievement and prizes as a token of recognition for their outstanding contributions. Additionally, all participants received participation certificates to acknowledge their efforts.

The intra-college student poster competition organized by The Gender Sensitization Cell in collaboration with the IQAC was a resounding success. The event provided a valuable platform for students to express their thoughts and ideas on gender-related issues through creative visual representations. The competition succeeded in fostering awareness, encouraging meaningful discussions, and inspiring students to actively engage in gender-sensitive dialogues. The enthusiastic participation and innovative ideas showcased by the students affirmed the significance of such initiatives in promoting a more inclusive and sensitized campus environment.



# Student Seminar

## Ami Nari



**Date:** 30.08.2022

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Number of Participants:** 186

**Motive:** To generate discussions on gender issues through focus on lived experience of students

**Outcome:** Nearly seventy-five per cent of the students of Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya are young women. They live in or around Udaynarayanpur and often tell us that they would never have been allowed to pursue higher education had this college not existed.

In this seminar, students worked individually and in groups to express their gendered experiences at home and in the world. They flooded us with questions, narratives, songs and poetry. They challenged gendered notions and interrogated beliefs they had been interpellated with since childhood and refused to be mollified by tokenisms in the name of gender equality. They spoke passionately and fluently on women's rights to education; to free choice in matters of attire, employment, marital partners; as well as on the necessity of creating public and domestic spaces more sensitive to issues of gender.

While these concerns may seem elementary in terms of global discourses on gender at present, the contextual realities that emerged out of the students' seminar as well as the responses of our students to its deliberations underscore the absence of even the most basic orientation to



gender issues in villages like Udaynarayanpur. Active student participation ensured the stretching of the event from a stipulated 2 hours to 4 hours! The students' stories and questions days after the event as well as the nuanced shifts we noticed in their negotiations with the space of the college and their readings of texts within the classroom underlined for us anew the profound necessity of Gender Sensitisation Cells and programmes in institutions, particularly so in rural institutions like ours.

**The student narratives from the seminar shall be published in the form of an e-book with ISBN.**

## 12-Day Karate Workshop



**Dates:** 15.06.2023 and 16.06.2023

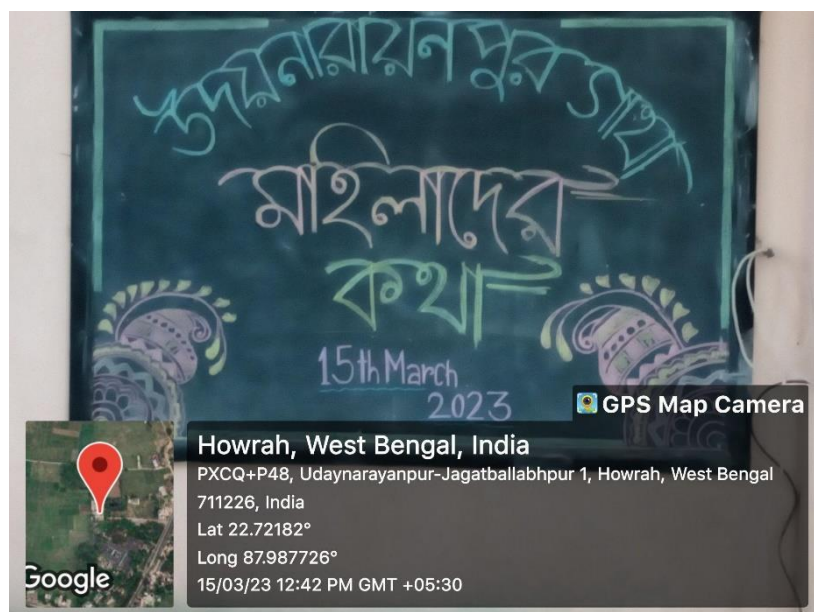
**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Participants:** 34

In continuation with the karate workshop held as part of women's week celebrations, another karate workshop was arranged by the Gender Sensitization Cell in collaboration with the IQAC, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya.

Through the organisation of recurring self-defence workshops for students, the institution foregrounds its dedication to promote both physical fitness and self-confidence of its students, majority of whom are young women. This workshop was conducted by Sensei Dhananjoy Paul of the Karate Association of India and saw enthusiastic participation by 34 students.

## Womens' Week 2023



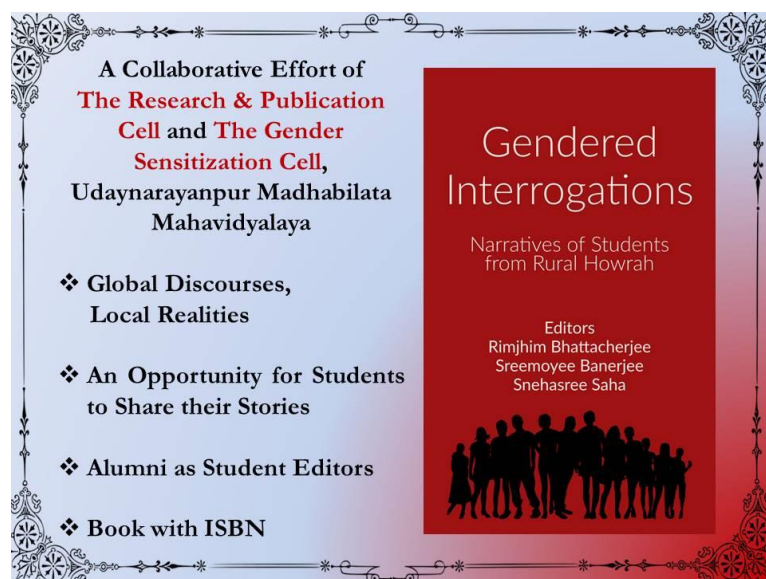
**Date:** 14.03.2023-17.03.2023

**Organizer:** The IQAC in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Cell, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

**Number of Participants:** 362

**Motive:** To celebrate the contribution of women to the development of Udaynarayanpur; to stress on the importance of self-defence training; and to understand the lived experience of female students of the institution

### **Event 1: Book Launch**



The student narratives from the 'Ami Nari' seminar held in the previous year were edited and compiled by faculty members of the Gender Sensitization Cell, namely, Dr. Sreemoyee Banerjee, Dr. Snehasree Saha, and Rimjhim Bhattacharjee in the form of an e-book titled

***Gendered Interrogations: Narratives of Students from Rural Howrah*, ISBN: 978-81-954644-3-2.** The book was formally launched by the Principal, Dr. Arabinda Ghosh, in the presence of faculty members, staff, and students.

The book has a bilingual structure with student narratives both in English and Bengali. Each narrative has a short introduction penned by Arijit Ghosh and Sourav Denre, ex-students of Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya, who enthusiastically agreed to work as student editors to the volume. While students have written on their own experiences of gender based discrimination within and outside the home, Arijit (for the Bengali section) and Sourav (for the English section) have briefly contextualised the larger issues raised by each of these narratives. The hope is that these gendered interrogations shall contribute to the burgeoning body of local incursions into global gender discourses, aiding in the contextualising of gender issues in the light of rural realities.

The link for the book is -

<http://udaynarayanpurmahavidyalaya.org/doc/Gendered%20Interrogations%20book.pdf>

## **Event 2: Cultural Programme: Udaynarayanpur Gatha, Mahilader Katha (The story of Udaynarayanpur in the words of its women)**

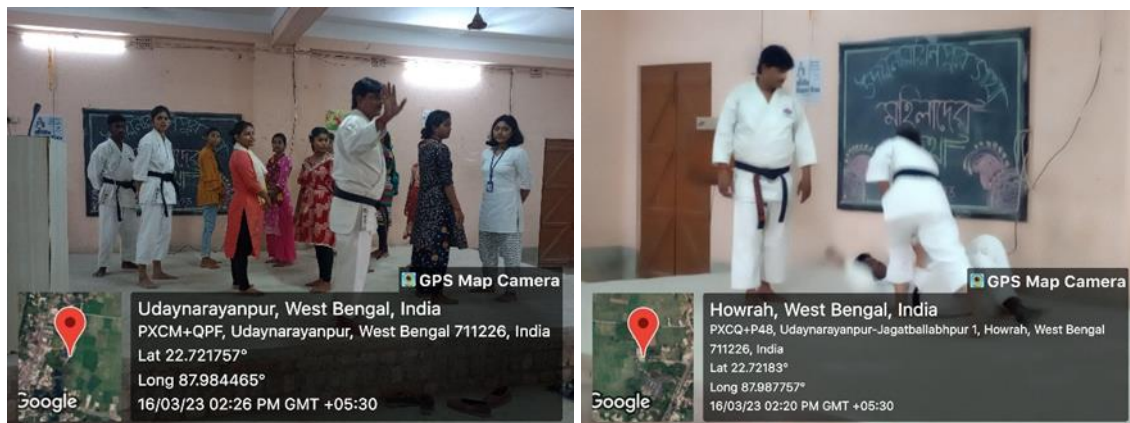


The local community formed a large part of our cultural programme this year. We got in touch with a local NGO named Ashadeep Foundation to help us organize the event. Through Ashadeep Foundation, the local women of Udaynarayanpur, including some octogenarians, regaled us with stories of Udaynarayanpur's glorious past, its gradual development, and the role of women like Madhabilata Devi (a patron of the institution) in promoting womens' education in the village. They also inspired our students to act as youth leaders and work collaboratively to help their country town grow and develop. The peon of our library, Smt. Mithu Mondal Pramanick, a resident of Udaynarayanpur, also contributed to the event by sharing her stories of the growth and development of her beloved village.

A cultural programme was organised by the students celebrating the rich heritage of womens' education and labour in Udaynarayanpur as well as the rich history of our institution. For this, an original song was composed by Dr. Nargis Nasir, faculty member of the Department of

Music, Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya. The event was a huge success and was attended with great enthusiasm by students, faculty, and staff.

### Event 3: Karate Workshop



A one-day karate workshop was organized for the female students of the college as part of this week-long event. The workshop was conducted by Sensei Dhananjay Paul of the Karate Association of India. The event was principally an awareness-raising programme on basic self-defence techniques for women. The workshop saw such enthusiastic participation that the institution proposed further collaborative workshops with Sensei in our institution in the upcoming years.

### Event 4: Student Survey

A questionnaire was distributed to female students of the institution to gain an understanding of the barriers they face towards their pursuit of education. Questions also pertained to college infrastructure and their accessibility to female students.

Analysis of responses of around 100 students revealed that nearly 90% of female students face varied difficulties in attending college regularly including domestic responsibilities, difficulty in travelling, and irregular bus service to college. Within college premises, students had no problems with class teaching or classroom infrastructure. Some concerns were raised regarding the cleanliness of the premises and washrooms as well as the playground. Students were particularly happy with the canteen and the regularity with which classes are conducted in the institution. The general demand was for a speedier wi-fi connectivity for students.

It was also understood from the survey that around 75% of our female students wish to study further after graduation, while preparation for government employment, private-sector jobs, and lives as home-makers comprise the ambitions of the remaining 25%.

The survey gave us a window into the educational experiences of our female students, also providing us with ideas on potential areas of improvement.

