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Report of monthly meeting held at Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension

On 12 October, 2018 Department of Adult Continuing Education & Extension organised the monthly meeting, where PHD Scholars along with M.Phil Scholars, MA students participated in it. Though the theme of meeting was related to Transgender(TG) so some of the Community members were also present there during monthly meeting. The meeting began with talk by Prof. Rajesh who briefed about the objectives of this department along with the Transgender Resource Centre later floor was open for discussion on the issue related to Inclusiveness of Transgender in Higher Education. scholars and students along with professor discussed on recently Supreme Court decriminalized section 377 of IPC , TG community also shared his/her experiences and expectations in future with department ,which was welcoming. Transgender resource centre, set up very recently is not a completely new topic of intervention, as department is working since long time for the inclusion of TG community in education for empowerment. Department (Adult, Continuing Education and Extension) which offers M.A., M.Phil., and PhD. Prof Rajesh are one of the facilitator working in the field of Transgender issues added the need of technology and research for the vulnerable community and said “research primarily is done on issues concerning society and improving the lives”. Mr. Deepak from community empowerment trust raised his concern. He said transgender were facing identity crisis. Because all the political parties, usually, are concerned about their vote bank. So, that’s why transgender did not even had ID cards.

Prof. Rajesh said, first for students to have hands on experience, he also urged for internship program in M.A related to the transgender issues and also shared thought of working in deprived communities like transgender and sex workers. As Prof. Rajesh is facilitating the research on TG issues where one student of PHD and M.Phil is working on it. He urged about the extension of these researches for community by using his/her data the scholar could develop a policy that we can later forward to all level. He said most of the times what used to happen the research remained in libraries not something we aim at. To this he added that our work at end was also to be evaluated by the community on which we worked. When we raised the issue of transgender in around 2001-02, the government at that time had no idea which of department will deal with transgender. Ultimately Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment talked to Delhi University about the issue and a committee was set up. The committee was told to submit the report to Government of India. I was member of the committee. I and my fellow Mr.Aslam(PHD scholar) made our recommendations. Aakansha, a research scholar from Adult education department is working on the topic ‘perception of other two genders towards transgender’ .She has collected data from JNU, DU, Jamia Millia Islamia and Ambedkar University, Delhi also shared her experiences. Prof. Rajesh added that the problem is that transgender cannot join formal education overnight. Education has to reach their doorstep, which in the real sense will make education for all successful. On October 17, there is a meeting between organizations working on transgender, Govt. of Delhi along with transgender resource centre. Our future plan will be how to mainstream

transgender. Transgender will not join universities at once till it is not included in Right to Education. In higher education making changes is very difficult. Change has to be gradual. The one major problem is that our research is not available to general public. It has to be disseminated in society so that data is available for comparison with the world. Documentation is very important for dissemination of data. Without documentation our program has no meaning. The department is constantly working for transgender community in a systematic manner. Our department will ensure full support.

The guest faculty for the meeting Prof. Rashmi Kapoor from department of African Studies also joined the discussion and appreciated the role of Prof. Rajesh to set up the transgender resource centre. She said in Thailand there is 20 percent population of transgender called lady boys. They are in every field of the country. The problem with our university is that we don't have data available about the community. We should talk to people around us so as to remove the taboo around transgender. There are number of people working in the field of transgender. Discussion is the first thing that can remove taboo around transgender community. Prof. Rajesh has done a superb job and we must congratulate him. To this Mr. Deepak added that awareness is very important which is also an objective of his organization, recently he met with Ira Singhal and she warmly accepted the recommendations of the organization for welfare of community.

Prof. Rajesh on transgender resource centre said, there are many issues that we face. Our university's legal cell is confused over whether to give transgender admission in women colleges. We are still in an ice breaking stage. Every year over 50 thousand new students join our university. So, generating awareness for new students is a difficult task. In between the meeting was joined by Head DACEE Prof. V.K. Dixit.

Sania, One of the transgender at the meeting said, our parents support us but brother and sisters do not want to disclose our identity. My mother was a teacher. I love dance and wanted to become dance teacher. I first joined western classic but could not adjust to that. So, I joined Kathak under the guidance of Pandit Birju Maharaj. Pandit ji taught me free of cost. I want to devote my life to dance. I would love to teach students from whichever background they come. Transgender are also human beings. God has created the world for us as well. I would like to make one recommendation that a grievance redressed cell be created in this university for transgender.

Prof. Rajesh while concluding the program said that Sania has made very important recommendation. Our department is working towards the same and we hope it becomes functional soon.



