

Int'l Women's Day celebrated throughout State

[Staff REPORTER]

ITANAGAR, Mar 8: The International Women's Day with the theme: "Planet 50-50 By 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality" was observed today across the State with encouraging participation of women folk from all walks of life.

Addressing the gathering here at Vivekananda Hall of RK Mission Hospital, retired Director of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development Dishi Mihu Mallo exhorted the women to play an important role for the development of the State and nation as a whole.

"Without women there is no life in this world. So, you should play a constructive role as a mother, as a sister, as a wife for a better development of the society," she said. She also called for observing IWD continuously so that it could ensure respect and equal status to the women in the society. She further requested the parents to play a vital role in nurturing their girl child.



In her speech, Dr Taba Nirmali, MD, Niba Hospital expressed serious concern over rise in polygamy, which is posing as a major hindrance for women in the society.

"We need to overcome polygamy and other women related issues through policy-making and legislation. The women should be given equal rights in decision-making also," she emphasized.

Informing that various marriage laws have been contradicting in tribal society, Dr Nirmali appealed the

State govt to ensure that each and every person compulsorily register their marriage so that it could become a legal document for all.

Sharing her experience, she appealed all to encourage the girl child even for their small-small achievements to boost up their morale and treat men and women equally in the society.

In her keynote address, the Chairperson of Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women Mitali Tingkhattria exhorted all not to support po-

lygamy in the society. "Polygamy is a major hindrance to the society. It is the root cause of domestic violence that affects upbringing of the children. We have to unitedly fight against it," she said.

She further appealed all to fight for gender equality so as to achieve the target by 2030 and make the State a better place to live in for the womenfolk. "We should set example by making our state gender equality state by fighting for our rights and against all atrocities," the AP-SCW chairperson said.

Speaking about gender issues in Arunachal Pradesh, resource person from RGU, Prof Vandana Upadhyay emphatically said equitable distribution should be there in the State as women are lagging behind in employment, literacy, work participation, land holding and even in legislative assembly.

Informing that female literacy rate is very low in rural area as compared to urban areas; she said more stress should be given on education of rural girl child. She revealed that female

literacy rate is highest in Papum Pare and lowest in Kurung Kumey district.

"Women participation in decision making continues to be very low in the state but Panchayati Raj system is expected to pave the way for greater gender equality in political participation," the professor said.

While disclosing that Tawang has the highest work participation and Kurung Kumey has the lowest, she told that work participation of women in comparison to

other states is very high.

On crime against women, she also said that there has been increase in numbers of crime and atrocities against women from 2000 to 2016 wherein Papum Pare has topped the list.

Director, Women and Child Development R T Riba highlighted various govt schemes for women and girl child such as SABLA, scheme for pregnant mother, pre-school education, integrated child protection scheme, juvenile observation home, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, etc.

Speaking on crime against women, Police Inspector Neerajan Kalita appealed all to overlook those customs and traditions prevailing in the society that are leading to crime against women. He also disclosed various rights provided by Constitution of India for the women and girl child and appealed them to avail it wherever in need.

Arunachal Pradesh Women's Welfare Society (APW-

WS) representative S Ngemu Lego stated that political empowerment is required to develop women equality in the state. She highlighted the journey and background of the society where it has been working for emancipation of women in the State since 1979.

District & Sessions Judge, Yupia, Budi Habung gave a presentation on legal right and remedies in context of Arunachal Pradesh and called for maintaining uniformity in having customary law. He also emphasized on education and economic empowerment for the women.

Earlier in the morning, a mass procession was carried out from Mopin-Solung Ground to the RK Mission Hospital complex to mark the Day.

At Yupia: A seminar on prevention of sexual harassment of working women was organized by the National Social Service Cell of NIT, Arunachal Pradesh today to mark the International Women's Day.

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NIT-AP Director Prof C T Bhunia addressed the gathering emphasizing on the empowerment of women in all aspects of their life. He remarked that women should secure their place by their right and should be least dependent on reservation. Equality can be achieved only if women are educationally and economically empowered.

Binary combination of man & woman is natural for sustainability of human beings. Therefore, co-existence and co-habitation with equal rights and equality is law of nature. Anything done against law of nature will be suicidal, he added.

The resource persons Dr Bombei Tayeng and Nabam Yeni spoke on various issues pertaining to women's physical and mental health respectively. Dr Tayeng highlighted the common health problems affecting women of all ages and the ways to take precaution against them. Nabam Yeni delivered a talk on how to nourish oneself by managing stress.

The question-answer session towards the end of the programme saw an enthusiastic participation from both students and employees as the resource persons provided suggestions and solutions for their issues.

A few student participants performed songs, recited poems and delivered speech on the occasion highlighting how the women should protect their rights, promote their love and affection to the families and societies and be at par with men.

At Rono Hills: The International Women's Day was also celebrated at Rajiv Gandhi University campus under the theme "Celebrating Womanhood with Creativity".

Different activities ranging from physical exercise, games, exhibition of fun stalls, photography, dance, song, poem recitation etc were organized to mark the day. Physical exercise and games were conducted in the morning hours.

The formal programme in the afternoon was graced by Rangili Nonang Mibang, retired Deputy Director of School Education, GoAP and Tine Mena, Everester as chief guest and guest of honour respectively.

At Koloriang: International Women's Day was celebrated in a grand manner. Women from all walks of life took active participation in it. Games and sports, cultural items including a mega dance were held on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, in-charge Deputy Commissioner of Kurung Kumey district Yowa Topu called upon the fairer section of the society to work hard, upgrade their skill, and minimize their dependence on their male counterparts. He said if women are economically independent they can take independent decision and contribute more for the advancement of the society, country and the humanity.

The guest of honour Pawan Kr Prasad, BM, SBI Koloriang stressed on the need for strengthening the Self Help Groups in the district, and for that he requested one and all for imbibing financial literacy.

CO Nangram Pingkap spoke about women empowerment, different constitutional provisions and legal aspects pertaining to upliftment of women. While T W Thungon, Deputy Director, ICDS, Koloriang explained the aim and objectives of different schemes available in her department, Bengia Raja, APO (Credit), DRDA spoke on the relevance of SHGs.

The Women's Welfare Organization (WWO), East Kameng also observed the International Women's Day at Seppa with the theme 'Pledge for Parity'. The WWO members distributed