

International Womens' Day at Cotton University

The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) , Cotton University in association with the Cotton University Women's Forum (CUWF) celebrated the **International Womens' Day this year** on 7 March 2020 with a poster campaign led by the students of the university . Echoing the theme " I am Generation Equality: Realsing Women's Rights" , which is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, **Generation Equality** that marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for women globally, adopted in the year 1995, students from all classes and across the disciplines painted, sketched and used graffitti and slogans in posters on the corridors of the campus buildings to draw attention to the urgent need for an equal world and women's empowering spaces .

In an interaction at the Sudmersen Hall of the university on Saturday, 7 March, poems were recited by students to remind the gathering of the global action to achieve gender equality and human rights of all women and girls. Dr Rakhee Kalita Moral, who heads the *Centre for Women's Studies* at Cotton University introduced the idea behind the program undertaken by the Centre, its central objectives and also familiarised the audience with the global movement of women's rights since the Beijing conference. The event also featured a talk on gender justice, rights and a safe campus by Smt Gita Rani Bhattacharya, Program Director of the *Assam Mahila Samata Society* in which she gave an animated commentary on various forms of discrimination against women in the state and interventions by women's collectives to prevent them. Dr Sangeeta Borthakur spoke on behalf of the Cotton University Women's Forum and gave an account of the attempts made by the forum to address women's needs , health and education.

Prof Diganta Kumar Das , Registrar of Cotton University welcomed the speaker and addressed the gathering of faculty , students and the speaker at the function who was felicitated by members of the Women's Forum and the Centre for Women's Studies , Cotton University. Students participated in the poster campaign and came forward with their expressions of the need to bridge the gaps in gender equality while several others , both male and female recited their own compositions giving voice to their views and roused the audience. The program anchored by Pratisha Borbora, faculty of Sociology ended with a vote of thanks by Pooja Chetry, faculty at the Centre for Women's Studies, Cotton University