



**Department of Library & Information Science (DLIS)
Netaji Subhas Open University NSOU) organised seminar on
“The Rights of LGBTQIA+ Community through the Legal Lens”**

Date: 24th May 2023

REPORT

A workshop was held on the 24th of May 2023 entitled "The rights of LGBTQIA+ community through the legal lens'. It was part of the project entitled "Accessibility And Availability Of Resources For LGBTQIA+ Community In Higher Education: In Special Reference To University Libraries Of West Bengal ".

The program was initiated to assess the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. The program was enlightened to the presence of Professor Chandan Basu, Hon'ble vice chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, Prof Anirban Ghosh, Director, SPS and Dr Bappaditya Mukherjee, Director and founder member of Prantakatha and the distinguished participants including different faculties and students of and from different streams.

The program was started with the welcome address by Professor Anirban Ghosh, in which he delivered the most important issue of LGBTQIA+ community and mainstreamed the entire community in the higher education system. He opined on the need for research on this pertinent issue.



Then after the project coordinator and the organizing secretary of the event, Dr. Barnali Roy Chowdhury briefly expressed the status of the project as well as the findings of the project. She also stated the importance of such research in the higher

education system. She raised her voice for mainstreaming this community in the educational system. She and her team visited 20 universities in West Bengal and pointed out that no University has the proper infrastructure to facilitate the said community. General awareness and capacity-building programs for such communities are very much needed by the university faculty as well as the administrative staff. After her deliberations HOD of Dept. Of Library and Information Science, Prof Arun Kumar Chakraborty shared his views about this project and he thanked and encouraged the team for their efforts. He handed over the session to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of NSOU, Professor Chandan Basu. The Vice-Chancellor said that he was proud and happy that NSOU has sponsored such a noble project and thanked the project coordinator and her team and shared that education is a movement that can only bring change in society. Education empowers a person which in turn gives the strength to establish the fundamental rights of the LGBTQIA+ community and others as well.

After VC's speech, Shri Bappaditya Mukherjee delivered his lecture as an invited speaker. He is the director and founder of Prantakatha, an organization that works for marginalized youth of West Bengal. He shared his versatile experiences of working with marginalized youth. He shared a few miserable /heart breaking incidents about women trafficking, domestic violence, and family problems of Gender minor youth. How miserably they are abused by their families and society! He pointed out that no one can utter a single word about a person's sexual orientation, it's unethical however, society is always ready to trigger them. He also added that as per NEP 2020, it's really important that more inclusion of LGBTQIA+ community in academia can be a great step toward a better future. They need to educate themselves to fight for their rights. Only Education can change the mindset of an entire society. He was delighted by the initiative taken by NSOU, entitled "The Rights of LGBTQIA+ community through the Legal Lens". He praised the entire team for their initiative and hard work.

Then the event was concluded with a formal discussion among faculty, guests and students regarding this issue.

---Report prepared by Dr. Barnali Roy Chowdhury
