

International Women's Day Celebration
at
Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada on 8th March 2021.

The Sexual Harassment Cell of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada has taken initiative to celebrate the International Women's Day 2021 on campus. The programme consisted of a Poster Competition on the theme: "ChooseToChallenge" from 11am to 1pm for both male and female students. Students numbering around 50 were present for the competition, out of which 23 participated. Three prizes were given away, while all the participants received certificates of participation. The formal meeting commenced at 3pm with the Prof. Kishor Kumar Basa, the Vice Chancellor chairing the session and Prof. Hima Bindu Maringanti, Chairperson, SH Cell giving the welcome address. Prof. Madhumita Das, former Vice Chancellor of FM University, Balasore was present online in the capacity of the Chief Guest and Ms.Sashiprava Bindhani, former member of State Information Commission as the Guest of Honour. While Prof.M.Das focused her address on the theme and requested women to 'challenge the biases' and accept challenges so as to excel in life; giving the analogy of Coal to Diamond transformation , under pressure. She also gave an example of herself and her struggles in her passion – Geology and reiterated the various 'Rights of Women to Equal Men'. Her famous quote was, "Na kam na jyada, bas aadha aadha ". She reminded the role of women in transforming her qualities to the child in the womb during the 9 months that she carries the child. She encouraged women to take break from work when necessary, but bounce back with enhanced vigour and maintain a balance between personal and professional lives.

The guest of honour, Ms.S.Bindhani stressed upon the 3 things that women need to harp upon – Peace, Security and Dignity. She advised women to cultivate questioning attitude and to be free of confusion, indulging in 'Dwanda mukta Prakriya'. Lack of basic facilities like Toilets need to be questioned and fought for, as it is against the dignity of women and likewise Security. "Keeping record of number of cases of Sexual Harassment at Workplace in the University, nature of harassment, how they were solved and time taken to solve is very important", she said.

Lastly, Dr. Minati Mallick, member of SH Cell offered a formal vote of thanks to all the dignitaries, faculty & staff and the student participants numbering around 100.