

YOUTH AGAINST TRAFFICKING CLUB'S FIRST SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME.

VENUE: MR HALL 2

TIME: 10:00 am onwards.

DATE: 2nd April, 2022.

On the 2nd of April (Saturday) 2022, the St. Joseph's College YAT CLUB held its first social awareness program in collaboration with the Darjeeling based NGO 'MARG'. The resource persons present for the session were, Ms. Radha Khawas and Mr. Pranim Moktan from MARG along with the club's coordinator Mrs. Sushma Gurung Ghosh from the department of Sociology and Ms. Albina Subba from the department of Zoology and the members of the club.

Our coordinator started the session from 10:00 am by welcoming the resource persons after which Ms. Khawas introduced to us the main motive of the awareness program which was: child sexual abuse and human trafficking. In association with MUKTI- 'an anti-child trafficking project', Miss Radha stressed on the lack of awareness regarding trafficking and abuse around the people from the hills. She displayed a slideshow which focused on the causes of why human trafficking takes place in the suburban areas, mainly Darjeeling and a few of the important points were a) lack of employment, b) lack of awareness, c) glamour of big cities d) lack of awareness on migration etc., after which we had a small interactive session between a few students, showcasing the different institutions of a society and how they react towards a victim and an accuser. They also showcased a short role-play of how minors, especially girls get harassed in different places in different ways. Miss Radha also mentioned how Stockholm syndrome prevails among the victims of abuse and trafficking and how the internet plays a very crucial role for the rapid deterioration of mental health amongst today's youth. She ended her part of discussion/session at around 11:07 am after which Mr. Pranim Moktan came up and started his part of the program.

Mr. Moktan's main topic for discussion was on Child Sexual Abuse. He first introduced to us what and how POSCO (Protection of Children Against Sexual Offence) worked. He emphasised on the meaning of sexual abuse to the members and also underlined on the various types of sexual abuse a) touching sexual abuse b) sexual exploitation c) non-touching sexual abuse. He mentioned how strong the negative stigma against sexual abuse is and how the victims if they decide to be vocal about it are shunned down because the society says it always happens. He also stated that how people's mentality must change regarding such serious topics and gave us hypothetical scenarios in ways sexual abuse might take place. As his session was more focused on child sexual abuse, he spoke briefly about how a report against sexual abuse for minors' processes.

At around 11:30 am Mr. Moktan ended his session and the Class Representatives of each semester took the attendance and also collected the enrolment forms for the club membership.

Report by,

Panushree Pradhan.

