

REPORT ON GLOBAL PRIDE DAY CELEBRATION BY M. D. K. G. COLLEGE, DIBRUGARH

On the occasion of Global Pride Day on 28th June, 2021, MDKG College Student's Union Society in collaboration with Department of English of MDKG College has taken the initiative to celebrate this day by organising a webinar with Dr. Mukul Kumar Sarma. He is the HoD and Associate Professor, Department of English at Bapujee college, Sarukshetri, Assam. He is also an activist, columnist, writer, poet, researcher and experiential counsellor on LGBTQ+ issues. The talk of the webinar deals with "Need of Gender and Sexuality Education in Assam".

The event started at 10 am via online platform. Dr. Nibedita Phukan, Principal of MDKG College inaugurates the program coordinated by Bornali Nath Dowerah, Assistant Professor of English, MDKG College, and also PhD researcher on queer young adult literature from Dibrugarh University. Dr. Rizia Begum Laskar, Assistant Professor, Department of English, MDKG college hosted the event and monitored the technical issues. The interactive session with students enlivened the celebration as observed by the audience. The entire event was live on Facebook. Moreover, the recorded version will be available soon on YouTube channel and website of the college.

Professor Sarma, in an outspoken manner, enlightened about his coming out of the closet and shared about his contributions in the field of gender and sexuality within Assam. He has highlighted about the lack of awareness in the society and the requirement of counselling for LGBTQ+ youths to come out. He also spoke about his literary pursuits from a queer perspective in his poetry published in Assam Tribune and his articles. Besides, he has openly talked about other eminent Assamese activists like Milin Dutta, Mayuri Deka and such others who are actively engaged in spreading awareness among the student fraternity at a national as well as state basis. Both students and other participants have highly benefitted from his influential words.

The event concludes with a vote of thanks by the President of MDKG College Students Union Society, Ms. Poritporna Bora. As the first in history of Assam this celebration has set a benchmark for other institutions for heralding awareness of gender and sexuality among the students and

teaching fraternities considering LGBTQ+ community not as the other but as a beckon for inclusiveness on the Global Pride Day in a formal set-up.
