

School of Pedagogical Sciences at Mahatma Gandhi University Report of the Symposium on ‘Transgender Awareness and Gender Sensitization’ dated 10th March 2023

The School of Pedagogical Sciences at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, organized a symposium on Friday 10th March 2023, as part of the series of Symposia on Sustainability Education. The theme of the symposium was 'Transgender Awareness and Gender Sensitization.' The program was held in the Seminar Hall of the School of Pedagogical Sciences and commenced at 10:30 AM.

The symposium, hosted by Ms. Brijit Paul, first-year M.Ed. student began with a prayer by the SPS Choir, followed by a welcome address by Ms. Amalu Kattunilam, second-year M.Ed. student. Professor Asha J.V., the Head of the Department, delivered the presidential address, highlighting the importance of gender sensitization in today's world. She also expressed her gratitude to the guest of honour for being part of the symposium.

Ms. Adrija Panicker, a renowned dancer, tutor, and writer, was the guest of honour for the symposium. Ms. Panicker is the First Transgender Jury Member of a National Award. She is also a *Doordarshan* ‘A’ grade artist in Bharathanatyam. She was introduced by Mr. Ramdas K, first-year M.Ed. student. Ms. Panicker delivered a talk on transgender awareness and gender sensitization. This was followed by an interactive discussion. She shared her personal experiences and anecdotes, which helped sensitize the listeners about gender and related issues.

The symposium ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Sajith. S, first-year M.Ed. student. The program was attended by around 80 participants, including students and faculty members. The interactive session with Ms. Adrija Panicker was highly informative and beneficial to all the attendees.

Overall, the Symposium on Transgender Awareness and Gender Sensitization organized by the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, was a resounding success. It provided an opportunity for the attendees to learn about transgender awareness and gender sensitization and understand the importance of respecting diversity and promoting inclusion.

