

Event Report: Need for Gender Sensitization with Special Reference to Gender Inclusion Strategies in NEP 2020

Date: 29th August 2025

Venue: College Auditorium, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow

Organized by: Department of Economics in collaboration with Isabella Thoburn College Economic Forum (ITCEF)

Topic: *Need for Gender Sensitization with Special Reference to Gender Inclusion Strategies in NEP 2020*

Guest Speaker: Prof. Roli Misra, Department of Economics and Convenor Gender Sensitization Cell University of Lucknow

Number of students: 300-350

Number of teachers: 35-45

Introduction & Welcome

The Friday Assembly at Isabella Thoburn College unfolded as a powerful confluence of academic insight and social relevance, centered on the theme of gender sensitization in the context of India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Economics and the Isabella Thoburn College Economic Forum (ITCEF), drawing students, faculty, and guests into a dialogue that was both timely and transformative.

The session began with a warm welcome by Ayushi, President of ITCEF, who introduced the guest speaker and acknowledged the presence of faculty members and attendees. This was followed by opening remarks from Prof. Anupma Srivastava, Head of the Department of Economics and Coordinator of ITCEF. She set the tone by highlighting the subtle yet pervasive nature of gender stereotypes—illustrating how phrases like “she’s a good teacher” or “he’s a good doctor” reflect ingrained biases. Her address emphasized the importance of education and awareness in dismantling these stereotypes and introduced the central theme of the lecture.



Prof. Misra was felicitated by Prof. Dr. Anupma Srivastava on behalf of the college and ITCEF, followed by a showcase of her contributions by Dr. Amita Marwah.



Keynote Address by Prof. Roli Misra

In her keynote, Prof. Misra described **gender sensitization** as the **most strategic and secure entry point into understanding NEP 2020**, framing it as both a policy imperative and a societal necessity. She unpacked the policy's gender-inclusive vision through six key areas:

- **Equity and Inclusion:** Recognizing gender as a critical axis within Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)
- **Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF):** A dedicated fund to support gender-sensitive infrastructure and outreach
- **Curriculum and Pedagogy:** Reforming textbooks and teaching practices to eliminate stereotypes
- **Teacher Training:** Equipping educators to challenge biases and promote equity
- **Mobility and Safety:** Addressing barriers like harassment and lack of transport
- **Higher Education Access:** Increasing female enrollment through supernumerary seats in premier institutions

She cited examples such as the *Indian Express* column “How to Raise a Boy” to illustrate how gender norms are embedded in everyday discourse. Through her presentation, she emphasized the difference between **equality and equity**, and between being **literate and truly educated**—urging the audience to reflect on the deeper implications of inclusion.



Prof. Misra also decoded NEP’s approach to transgender inclusion, translating policy jargon into accessible insights. She praised Kerala’s gender-sensitive textbooks and IIT Delhi’s gender-neutral toilets as progressive steps, while also calling for **better sanitation infrastructure in government schools**, noting that lack of clean washrooms is a major barrier to girls’ enrollment.

Interactive Dialogue & Student Engagement

The session concluded with a lively Q&A round, where students posed thoughtful questions on topics such as:

- How the **Gender Inclusion Fund** can reduce gaps in education and employment
- How **gender sensitization** aligns with **SDG 5: Gender Equality by 2030**
- The role of **mindset change vs. policy reform** in achieving real inclusion

Prof. Misra responded with clarity and conviction, stating, “We are not fighting NEP—we are fighting the mindset of society.” and called for greater safety, enrollment, education, and employment to fuel India’s economic growth.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by **Prof. Anjana Joseph**, who praised Prof. Misra’s lecture for its depth, relevance, and transformative potential.

Final Reflection

This assembly was more than an academic event—it was a clarion call for introspection, reform, and action. As NEP 2020 reimagines education, voices like Prof. Roli Misra’s remind us that **gender inclusion is not a policy footnote—it is the foundation of a just and equitable society.**

