

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Department of Visual Communication (Shift II)

Guest lecture on Transgender - Their life and Struggles

The Department of Visual Communication (Shift II) organized a webinar on 'Development Communication' on 21st October 2021. The session began with a silent prayer. Aakash, a Viscom post-graduate student, welcomed the gathering and introduced the speaker of the day. Ms. Naleena Prasheetha, an alumna of the department and who served as the joint secretary of the student union during 2019-2020, was the speaker. The speaker started with a question 'Who is a transgender?' for which there were varied and enthusiastic responses from the students. Then, the speaker pointed out that there are different categories of trans-persons. The perspective of common people towards a transgender person is due to the biased atmosphere we are all brought up in. Then, she demonstrated the plights of transgender people through an activity. She explained that violence against trans-persons is the biggest threat to transgender safety today. If we show them some respect and love, they will certainly reciprocate the same in manifold. The simple solution is to treat everyone equally. We have to look at transgender persons as they want to be looked at. If someone chooses to be seen as a girl, we have to look at her as a girl and vice versa. That will be the respect that we can show to the transgender people we come across every day.



She further spoke that there are many good qualities that can be observed in transgender persons. There are no disparities among them in terms of religion, caste and language. She further said that in 2008, the new term 'Thirunagai' Tamil for addressing transpersons was given by the then Chief Minister Kalaingar Karunanidhi. The transgender welfare committee functions under the social welfare ministry. However, the welfare schemes are not properly reaching all transgender people. Though a few empowered transgender persons are able to get jobs in both government and private sectors, most of them still remain poor and unemployed. Parents' acceptance of the gender identity of their children and treating them normally would help in building an inclusive society. The speaker finally pointed out that empowering transgender community is to first give them proper education they need.

It was indeed a very interactive and informative session that served as an eye-opener too. The session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Aakash.