

**Gangtok, May 12: (IPR)** The Valedictory function of three-day Training Programme of Health Care response for the Doctors and Counselors on dealing with survivors of violence against women was held today at Accounts and Administrative Training Institute (AATI), Gangtok.

The programme was organized by Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with CEHAT (Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes), Mumbai.

Thirty Doctors and thirty Counselors participated in the Training Programme that was conducted from 10th May, 2018 by five Resource Persons namely Sangeeta Rege, coordinator of CEHAT, Jaya Velenkar, Adv. Ujwala Kadrekar, Dr. Jagadeesh N. Teddy and Roshmi Goswami.

Various subjects of importance for doctors were covered during the training for understanding violence against women (VAW) and its health and other socio economic consequences, unpacking the dynamics of gender and other intersecting socio economic inequalities, understanding root causes of violence, understanding legal obligations of health sector in VAW, operational using comprehensive response to sexual violence, first line care for survivors of VAW, WHO clinical guidelines for responding to IPV and SV.

Likewise for the Counselors building perspective and skill development various topics were discussed under One Stop Centres and its concepts, recognizing context of VAW, defining its forms and consequences, sex, sexuality and its violence.

Also the role of counselors in VAW, PWDVA, POCSO, CLA and responding to Sexual Violence, counselling techniques, feminist counselling were discussed during the training.

Shri Phuchung Bhutia, Director SJE&WD spoke about the importance of such Training Programmes and congratulated all participants. He also reminded the participants of their humongous responsibilities in the society and need for discharging the same with utmost care and diligence.

While delivering the address for the Valedictory function Smt Rohini Pradhan, Deputy Secretary SJEWD thanked the Resource Persons for their initiatives and hard work towards making the Training Program a success. She also stated that the programme proves to be highly beneficial for both the group of trainees (Doctors and Counsellors) as such training will provide huge help and motivate to work forward. She also appreciated the high degree of enthusiasm and zeal displayed by the participants as well as the Resource Persons during training programme.

In their feedback on the Training Programme, participants expressed their delight and thanked Resource Persons and the Department for providing the platform for valuable learning and exchanges.

The function also had the presence of senior officials and staff of Social Justice Department.

