## GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE BARAMULLA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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## GDC Baramulla Celebrates National Girl Child Day 2022

Government Degree College (GDC), Baramulla commemorated the National Girl Child Day 2022 with a great zeal and zest. This day is celebrated in India on January 24 every year since 2008. According to the government, the day is marked to provide all support and opportunities to the girls of the country. It also aims at promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and create awareness on the importance of girl's education, and their health and nutrition.

In this backdrop, the National Service Scheme (NSS) units of the college organized a webinar on the theme 'Women Empowerment: A Myth or Reality'. Dr. Aaliya Akhtar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, GDC (Women), Sopore was the invited speaker who spoke at length on different dimensions of women empowerment. Dr. Aaliya presented a detailed account of how women empowerment is conceptualized in academia and other circles besides sharing some recent statistics on girl



child sex ratio in India and UT of Jammu and Kashmir. She also talked about the possible consequences of declining girl child sex ratio in the light of some established theories of conflict in psychology and allied sciences. Literacy rate and representation of women in politics and power circles also came under discussion, which again painted a very grim picture of the facts. Dr. Aaliya also alluded to a survey conducted in 2018 by Thomas Reuters (TR) based on six core parameters, such as healthcare, discrimination and access to economic resources, cultural traditions, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, and human trafficking. As per the report shared by the TR, India ranked at top in terms of sexual violence and human trafficking. She ended with sharing some child/women centric schemes/initiatives of the state and central apparatus and aspired to see the end of all forms of prejudices, biases, and discriminations against girl child and women.

Earlier, Prof. Syed Rehmat Shah, Head, Department of Zoology of the college welcomed the guest speaker and participants of the webinar. In his inaugural address, Prof. Shah enlightened the participants about the girl child, threw light on importance of increasing awareness about the rights of girl child, and stressed on gender equality in the society.

Dr. Kaiser Ahmad Dar, Program Officer, NSS Unit–II conducted the proceedings of the session and Dr. Syed Masarat Geelani, Program Officer, NSS Unit–III proposed a vote of thanks to the guest speaker and participants of the webinar.