

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO COMBAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE: A
COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE BY THE SIKKIM STATE COMMISSION FOR
WOMEN (SSCW) AND NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW)**

Date: 20th September 2024



The Sikkim State Commission for Women (SSCW) in collaboration with National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi, organised a programme on ‘Empowering Women to Combat Substance Abuse’ at Manan Kendra, Gangtok on 20th September 2024

The programme was graced by Ms Chungkipu Lepcha, Former Chairperson, Sikkim State Commission for Women as the Chief Guest. The Resource Persons for the day were Mr Tenzing Loden Lepcha, Senior Superintendent of Police, Mr Sonam Gyaltsen, Deputy Director, State Information, Education and Communication Bureau (SIECB), Dr Upashna Namgyal Gurung, Psychiatrist, STNM, and Mr KC Nima, President- Freedom NGO. Also present were Ms Yousa Lachenpa, Member Secretary, SSCW, Ms Subarna Pradhan, Member SSCW, officials, Anganwadi Workers and students from various universities. As The ICFAI University.

The ICFAI University, Sikkim, Law Department was also represented at the event by Prof. Soni Subedi, faculty of law, who accompanied law students to the programme, adding a vital academic perspective on the legal framework surrounding substance abuse prevention

While expressing her gratitude to everyone for being a part of the event, Ms Chungkipu Lepcha encouraged the gathering to understand the dangerous impact of drugs and combat substance abuse as a part of the society.

Outlining drug abuse as one of the biggest problem across the country, Mr Tenzing Loden Lepcha, briefed about the prevention of drug abuse, illicit trafficking and its challenges. He expressed his concern in regard to the increasing use of cannabis with 7.3 percent of users.

During the programme, Ms Diki Palmu Bhutia and Mr Primus Bhutia, both recovered from drug-abuse, shared their experiences and discussed how achieving sobriety transformed their lives completely.