

Cycle Rally on National Girl Child Day by BITS Pilani Students Group

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According to Charles McCormack President and CEO of Save the Children, to close the gender gap focus must be on female literacy, enhanced income earning opportunities for women and better provision of basic healthcare for the mother and child.

Female literacy has considerable multiplier effects in all areas of women empowerment and no one anywhere has a doubt that educational empowerment alone can transform women into powerful agents of social change.

A powerful indicator of social health of any society is Child Sex Ratio – CSR which is the number of girls per 1000 boys in the 0 – 6 Age group. According to the 2001 census, CSR for India stood at 927 as compared to 945 in 1991 and 976 in 1961. The decline in the child sex ratio both in urban and rural areas of many states and union territories speaks about the pathetic status and low desirability of girl child in Indian society

As per a recent report titled released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India, the Gender related Development Index (GDI) which is a modification of Human Development Index (HDI) based on education levels, life expectancy and standards of living taking into account gender factors has improved in 2006 as compared to 1996. Similarly, the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) which measures political participation and decision making power, economic participation and command over resources has also improved.

Considering the importance of the Girl Child in the larger interests of the nation building task, Govt of India has declared January 24 as National Girl Child Day. To spread the awareness of same, a group of students from Birla Institute of Technology and Science – BITS Pilani led by Abhijeet Mishra third year Mechanical Engineering student did a cycle rally from Pilani to nearby town Chirawa on Sunday January 24, 2010. Dr SK Verma Chief Warden and Professor of Biological Sciences Group BITS Pilani flagged off the rally.

It is to be noted that BITS Pilani has presently about 18% girls enrolled in various degree programmes in the Pilani campus of the Institute which is significant as compared to other such Institutions in India.

About BITS Pilani: The Birla Institute of Technology and Science - BITS Pilani is a Deemed to be University established vide Sec.3 of the UGC Act, 1956 under notification No. F.12-23/63.U-2 of June 18, 1964. NAAC - National Assessment and Accreditation Council reaccredited BITS with 3.71 CGPA out of 4 and awarded "A" grade "Very Good" status. It is indeed a matter of pride that for the year 2009, BITS Pilani has been ranked among the top ranking universities along with IITs in

various Magazine surveys such as India Today, Outlook, LiveMint DataQuest etc. BITS offers degrees in various disciplines presently at Pilani, Dubai, Goa and Hyderabad campuses. BITS Pilani has done pioneering work in industry university collaborations in terms of Practice School and Work Integrated Learning Programmes. Alumni of the Institute who are Proud to be BITSians and ambassadors for Brand BITS Pilani are spread across all continents from Australia to America.

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