



DOST 1's second GAD Webinar: Use of Gender-fair Language

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1, through its Gender and Development (GAD) Program, facilitated the second GAD Webinar entitled "Training on the Use of Gender-fair Language" as part of the pre-National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) Celebration in Region 1 last October 15, 2021 via Zoom platform and Facebook Live through the Official Facebook Page of DOST 1.

DOST 1 Regional Director and Chair of the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS), Dr. Armando Q. Ganai welcomed all participants.

University Extension Specialist III of UP – Diliman Gender Office, Ms. Kristel May G. Magdaraog, discussed two (2) topics. The topics were, Language and Society, and Tips and Guidelines on How to Promote Gender-fair Language.

Ms. Magdaraog provided an orientation in sexism and its manifestation in language in the Philippine context. She discussed types of sexism: (1) Hostile Sexism which is defined as the beliefs and behaviors that are openly hostile towards a group of people based on their sex or gender; (2) Benevolent Sexism which is defined as less obvious and sees women as weak; and (3) Ambivalent Sexism which is the combination of the first two types.

"Sexism can be conveyed through behavior, speech, writing, images, gestures, laws and policies enacted, and practices and traditions. Sexism in language devalues members of one's sex or gender where it discriminates women and LGBT. It misleadingly focuses on the sex of the individual rather than what they are doing", Ms. Magdaraog added.

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Also included on her discussion is the term "Misogyny", which is defined as the deep hatred of women, and about controlling and punishing women who challenges male dominance.


Furthermore, Ms. Magdaraog shared that in doing this, everyone should consider the factors from own self, family, workplace and community. She also discussed relevant laws, RA 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women, RA 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, RA 11313 of the Safe Spaces Act, and the CSC Resolution No. 01-0940 or the Administrative Disciplinary Rules on Sexual Harassment Cases.

She concluded that "In non-sexist writing, always take note of the sex-role stereotyping and paraphrase the quote using non-sexist language. Let us promote and foster a gender-inclusive workplace."

"Simulan na nating gamitin ang mga natutunan natin sa webinar ngayon. Narinig natin at nalaman natin ang importansya ng gender-fair language at dapat ay bukas tayo sa mga pagbabago para sa ikabubuti ng bawat Juan at Juana."
Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and Head of the GFPS-Technical Working Group, Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu said on her Closing Remarks.

The webinar was participated by 105 DOST 1 staff, students, member agencies of the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC), and the general public.

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