



Creating Gender Awareness in Campus: An analysis

Smt. P. R. Shantha, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Government
First Grade College, Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka

Abstract

Now -a -days college campuses are becoming vulnerable to high rate of atrocities & gender discriminations. Women are being targeted with prejudiced approach inside the campus; Institutional lapses to provide support to women have become farce. There have been several lacunas in policy making level. The issues of campus safety from institutional context needs to be revised as well as legal considerations of ensuring campus safety programs have to be overviewed. This paper strives to examine the student behavior in the campus & addresses the issues connected with the gender bias & how strategies can overcome the problems.

Key Words: Campus awareness, Gender Discrimination, women issues, strategies to overcome

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance”- Kofi Annan

Introduction

College campuses have a rich variety of academic, cultural, and recreational resources to expand student's capabilities. This helps them to receive academic facilities, supports them in learning diverse skills, improves their social skills, assists them to discern new opportunities & motivates them to set their goals for their secured future. But at present college campuses have become vulnerable to several unanticipated atrocities. (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality & Quantity). There have been unanticipated acts of prejudicial behavior against women. The gravity of the issue is so high that in several states of India women students are afraid of pursuing higher education. Their ambitions & aspirations to move up in their career are also restricted because

of this. They are suffering from sexual assault on campus, ragging, gender bias, which is affecting their self confidence negatively. (Carney Strange -Creating and Maintaining Safe College Campuses 2009). Other problems such as inferiority complex, academic uncertainties, mental stress & depression, worries about financial future also trouble our women students.

Objectives of the study: This study focuses on

1. What are the campus gender issues
2. What are the strategies to overcome them
3. Reflections on reducing campus atrocities through empowerment & outreach programs



Cultural pluralism in campus

Our colleges are prone with student who comes from diversified backgrounds. They differ in their income level, caste hierarchy, social system, gender deprivation crisis. (Carney Strange - Creating and Maintaining Safe College Campuses 2009). There have been several campus atrocities which call for a review of policy making. (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality & Quantity). Campuses should be made a safe ground for learning. Women student should be given security this calls for revision of campus vigilance.

Problems in Campus: There are several issues in camps which are terrorizing the campus life.

1. Gender discrimination
2. Mental & physical harassment of women
3. disrespect towards women teachers
4. Gender deprivation
5. Ragging & its reflections on campus behavior
6. Erroneous mobile usages
7. Misuse of internet
8. Exam malpractices
9. Vengeance & retaliation
10. Drug abuses & its reflections on campus behavior
11. Carelessness & its reflections on campus behavior
12. Health issues & its reflections on campus behavior
13. mental health problems & its reflections on campus behavior
14. Irritation behavior

15. Frustration
16. Impact of Community violence on campus behavior
17. Caste based harassment & its reflections on campus behavior
18. Blackmailing & messaging
19. Domestic violence & its reflection on campus behavior
20. Blank calling inside & outside campus
21. Acid attacks inside & outside campus
22. Eve teasing inside & outside campus
23. Persuasion & its reflections on campus behavior

Role of the Institution

In Some campuses emphasis is placed on preventive measures rather than emphasis on increasing awareness programs & boosting self confidence among women students. Institutions should prioritize identifying campus assets and vulnerabilities, and engage community constituents and agencies as partners in minimizing potential threats. Institutions should engage community at large. Institutions should focus on preparing students are campus safety & well being. If students are aware of their campus behavior they can involve in activities which can boost confidence. (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality & Quantity). Institutions are urged to exercise their leadership prerogative in acknowledging institutional inequities, expressing public commitments, welcoming activist energies, rewarding campus innovations, and remaining authentic in the face of these social justice issues. (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In



Search Of Equality, Quality & Quantity) .Administrators play in supporting campus initiatives and implementing women-centered forms of assistance, such as

1. Campus women's centers,
2. Educational outreach programs for women students,
3. National awareness campaigns inside campus

Phases of identification of the Issues

1. Identification of the problems
2. Conducting inquiry
3. Encouraging
4. Taking outside support
5. Outlining a new strategic policy.

Possible mentoring

1. Establishing a reasonable representation of women
2. Strive towards bringing parity & equity
3. Creating a campus culture
4. Fostering a campus responsibility

Prospective Strategies towards Gender Equity

1. Educating women students.
2. Increasing the awareness of mental health issues among women students.
3. Bringing awareness about psychosocial impact on academic performance, class attendance, health, and behavior through Education programs.
4. Reaching out to the students who are engrossed with a feeling of being isolated, marginalized, and are less likely to seek help for their distress.

5. Offering and promoting appropriate extension services that best meet students' needs such as Yoga classes for women , regular health checkups counseling centers, mental health camps , career guidance orientations, special scholarships etc
6. Enhancing faculty, staff, and student awareness of behaviors indicating a student may benefit from intervention.
7. Increasing the number of faculty, staff, and students prepared to reach out to these students. Partnering with student support services throughout the university and community to provide consultation, referral, and case management for identified students.

Strategic Approaches

1. Organizing seminars /orientation programs on gender equity
2. Opening consultation centers
3. Infusing healthy practices such as Yoga / prayer / meditation / gymnasium / indoor sports /
4. Organizing student awareness programs on gender equity
5. Arranging leadership programs designed for women
6. Arranging nutrition awareness programs
7. Arranging holistic health programs to arm women students to have priority on health issues.

Benefits towards community empowerment

These programs will not only benefit students but it also forms a part of community development programme



.Because gender discrimination is a part of the community problem as well.

1. Awareness programs supports to form stronger ties with their communities
2. Builds better citizens through responsibility and service
3. Helps in lessening the ration of potential college dropout students
4. Supports cross-cultural learning & all community members can comprehend issues connected with women.
5. These programs assist in retaining students in college campus by providing meaningful involvement
6. These programs assist in enhancing participatory involvement of student sin campus activities
7. These programs assist in improving student-teacher relations
8. These programs assist in positive progress academic performance and in and social skills
9. These programs assist in forging stronger ties with colleges, community groups, and parents
10. These programs assist in receiving additional student support services

Benefits Of Towards Self Building

These awareness programs can help students to

1. Women students will gain personal awareness which is very imperative for their sustenance
2. Women students will develop patience, insight, and understanding about gender issues.

3. Women students will learn lessons in gender equity through work with the community
4. Women students will experience a cultural, social, or economic background different from their own
5. Women students will improve leadership and communication skills
6. Women students will gain experience for future careers in public service, social work, teaching, and more

Strategic Precautions to Women Students

1. Informing about being alert and reporting any suspicious activity to women cell.
2. Informing about never giving personal information to men classmates / strangers.
3. Informing about not letting strangers to use phone.
4. Informing about never to walk or jog alone, especially at night.
5. Informing about avoiding secluded or dark areas.
6. Informing about keeping an eye on each other while at the college campus / reading room , college hostel college garden . laboratory library computer lab etc
7. Informing about staying together with friends when leaving the campus.
8. Informing about not delaying their stay backs in side campus due to dance /drama practices, extra coaching classes, tutorials , sports rehearsals etc
9. Informing to provided campus helpline



10. Informing through reports to women cell peer conveners.

Conclusion

Campus issues, concerns, policies, and practices related to the creation and maintenance of safe campus environments should be prioritized. By forging stronger ties with colleges, community groups, and parents & all stake holders campus can be made more safer to women students. By taking additional student support system through outreach programs awareness can be scheduled in a campus. Forming stronger ties with the communities will also address the problem. As Ban ki moon reiterates "Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone's responsibility" .

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