

Study of women safety in higher education: Qualitative exploration of Jammu district

Veenu Mehra*

ABSTRACT

The research is an attempt to explore status of women safety in higher education institutions of Jammu district. The present study brings forth the various dimensions and perceptions related with women safety in higher education institutions. To explore various measures to ensure women safety in higher education institutions Saksham has provided the guidelines. Thus the present study has taken Saksham guidelines as measuring tool. The objective of this study was to know the status of implementation of Saksham guidelines for safety of women in higher education institutions in colleges of Jammu district. Further focused group interviews were held to know the root cause of the issue of women safety and measures taken by higher authorities to address the issues. Data were taken from Jammu district in Jammu & Kashmir. The sample of 20 government and private colleges of Jammu district were chosen on random basis. For qualitative exploration of women safety in higher education institutions focus group interviews were conducted with 80 girls students of 20 government and private colleges of Jammu district. Results shows that half of the colleges receive complaints regarding safety of women on campus and half of the college don't receive complaints. Private colleges have better institutional arrangements as compare to government colleges. Most of the students, teachers and non-teaching staff did not know about the existence of these types of committees (grievances redressal, gender sensitization initiatives and sexual harassment). There is no full course in the curriculum of general courses which focuses on gender related issues in most of the departments and institutions. There was lack of awareness among the girls students about Saksham guidelines issues by UGC to ensure women safety in higher education institutions.

Key words: Women Safety, Higher Education.

*Dissertation Veenu Mehra M.Phil. under supervision of Dr. Renu Yadav, Assistant professor, Dept. of Education, Central University of Haryana, Jant Pali Mahendergarh.

E-mail- veenumehra@rocketmail.com