

REPORT
Workshop on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Campus for new students
13th July, 2017

On 13th July 2017, a workshop was organized for prevention of sexual harassment for IIPS Students at International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, organized by the IIPS Gender Amity Committee on Sexual Harassment. This orientation workshop was organized for students who have joined the Institute in the Academic Year 2017-2018 for Masters courses. The objectives of orientation were to sensitize the students against the sexual harassment at workplace and campus and make them aware of the policy on these issues and the support system available at the Institute. The two distinguished speakers namely, Prof. Nasreen Rustomfram from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and Ms. Monica Sakrani, a lawyer TISS, were invited for this programme. Prof. Nasreen Rustomfram was Chairperson of Gender Amity Committee of TISS, and Ms Sakrani is active lawyer and had organised many workshops for different organisations on prevention of sexual harassment.

Mr. D. N. Vidhate welcomed the students, Guest speakers and Prof Ladusingh Director. He requested Prof. LaduSingh, Director, to give opening remarks Director said that the Gender Amity Committee is taking initiating to solve Sexual harassment matters in the campus. Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyay introduced eminent guest speakers of the programme and also explained 'what is sexual harassment.'

Prof. Sayeed Unisa, Chairperson of the Gender Amity Committee Chaired the programme. Prof. Nasreen Rustomfram in her speech explained when, why and how this legislature came into existence in India. She said before the law and legislature come into existence there is history of struggle behind it. In 1974 Abortion Act and dowry act came into exist. She also stated that there are already many laws for the welfare of women in India and better than many developing countries. She has given many examples of 'Myths and Facts' regarding sexual harassment towards the women in our society and then how the sexual harassment takes place.

Ms.Monica Sakrani explained about the law of Vishakha Guidelines. Since 2013 the prevention and prohibition act in order to prevent sexual harassment has come out very strongly. She explained the definition of Sexual Harassment and covered many points. She has stated that the sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexually determined behaviour as physical contact, demand or request for sexual favors, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, any other unwanted physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature the unwelcome idle chatter of sexual nature, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature. Also introduced Guidelines, complaint mechanism, what are the preventive steps, employer's responsibilities. She also explained the definition of employees and what is workplace. She also mentioned that "No witness does not mean false complaints." She also stated that RTI is not applicable.

At the end, many students asked doubts to guest speakers. Prof. Sayeed Unisa and guest speakers cleared their doubts. Mr. Ajay Gupta gave vote of thanks.









