

Gender School and Society. Course - VI

4th Semester

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual Harassment is a serious problem for students for all at all educational level. This problem is more common than we might think because many students are scared or too embarrassed to report sexual harassment.

Cause :-

i) Patriarchal Ideology and Patriarchal social structure.

In patriarchal set up, women's economic independence and empowerment are rarely recognized. Women are not considered to be having any decision making power but only as a sexual object to be controlled and protected by the men.

ii) Gender stereotypes:

Masculinity is considered to be aggressiveness and dominance of men and femininity as passiveness, submissiveness, tenderness of the women. The women who did not stick to this gender defined stereotype roles are perceived by male co-workers

iii) Cultural Ideology :- Our cultures propagate the exercise of aggression and sexual conquest over women by men.

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- iv) **Poverty and Economic Inequalities**:- Feminization of poverty and unemployment compels women to enter into employments unsuited to their work and dignity. In many cases women are given lesser wages than men for work of equal value, and consider them soft targets for sexual gratification.
- v) **Misperception about the Friendly Nature of Women**:- Friendly nature of women with their male colleagues in an organization or in general social set up becomes of the cause of sexual harassment.
- vi) **The indecent projection of women in films and TV**:- ~~Vulgar~~ Vulgarity and violence of commercial films reinforces negative stereotypes.
- vii) **Excuses of religious customs**:- In hindu religion child marriage, Dardasi, system of sati were such customs that had a immense negative impact on women. In muslim community ~~tim talak~~, ~~Purdah~~ system were such religious customs, dominated women empowerment.
- viii) **Commodification of women and technological advancement**:- The negative portrayal of image of women by media, commodification of women, indecent representation in advertisement, misuse of science and technology like MMS often cause sexual harassment.

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Role of School, Community and Home in addressing sexual harassment.

School:-

- Establish protocol and screening for school computer use.
- Develop child safety programme.
- Introduce sex education.
- Safe safety planning and design for women.

Community

- Take effective measure to control stop Eve teasing.
- Know more about child right and child sexual abuse.
- Organise sex awareness camp in your community.

Home:-

- Encourage kids to talk about their day.
- Know where your children are and who they are with all times.
- Teach children that the danger may come from someone they trust.

Importance of Addressing Sexual Harassment

- i) Human Rights
- ii) Mental Health
- iii) Wastage of Resource
- iv) Pollution of Social Environment
- v) Erosion of Values

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