

List of Activities

GSCASH (2010-12) (Period When JNUSU Elections had been stalled)

Sensitizing and awareness building on gender equity and the role of the GSCASH is one of the prime activities of the GSCASH which is the only long time measure for prevention of sexual harassment on campus.

i. Volunteers' meet

At the beginning of the tenure an appeal was issued inviting volunteers for the GSCASH, as they are backbone of our sensitization programmes. Twenty people registered formally with us and helped us carry out the various activities.

A discussion among the volunteers and the GSCASH was organized in the GSCASH office on 14th September 2010, Friday at 4.00 p.m on "Campus situation and sensitization measures". A number of good suggestions came up during the discussion, some of which were implemented.

ii. Poster Workshop

There was a long felt need for increasing the visibility of the GSCASH on the campus. In this regard, a poster workshop was organized on 7th October 2010 at K.C OAT from 3.00 p.m to 6.30 p.m. A lot of background work was done before the workshop. It was decided to spread the message of gender equity through poetry. So a large number of poems highlighting gender equality in various languages including English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Spanish and Persian etc. were collected to be put into the posters.

The poster workshop attracted a large number of people who sat together and painted about a hundred posters.

iii. Poster Exhibitions

The posters made were exhibited at the following three places covering a wide area of the campus and engaging a good number of visitors.

- a) The Ganga Dhaba (11th October 2010, 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.)
- b) The corridor between SLL&CS and SIS (12th October 2010, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- c) Near the 24X7 Dhaba (12th October 2010, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.)

After these events, the posters were pasted all over the campus.

iv. Redesigning of the cover page of GSCASH Rules and Regulations

It was felt that the cover page of the GSCASH Rules & Regulation Booklet could be made more representative of the work of the GSCASH. In January 2011, the cover page was redesigned by Raman Sinha and Meenakshi Sundriyal.

v. Issuing Appeals and notices

The GSCASH brought out several appeals and notices from time to time to further sensitization and awareness building in times of crisis or occasions like Holi etc.

vi. Public Meeting

A public meeting was organized on 14th February 2011 at Tapti mess at 9:30 p.m. on “Gender Sensitivity on campus”. The main speakers were Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Prof. Anuradha Chenoy and Dr. Meenakshi Sundriyal. The speakers, among other things, gave their analyses of the recent MMS/CD case and came up with suggestions regarding sensitization. This was followed by an animated discussion on a wide range of gendered issues like sexuality, technology, campus space and freedom.

vii. International Seminar

To mark the Women’s Day, an International seminar was organized on 8th of March 2011 at SIS, Committee Room No. 001 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme was “Gender Perspectives on Media, Communication Technologies and Urban Spaces”. The main speakers were – Prof. Laura Corradi from Universita della Calabria, Italy; Prof. Kiran Asher from the Department of International Development Community and Environment, Clark University, U.S.A.; Prof. B.S. Botola, CSRD, JNU; Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, SPS, JNU and Prof. A.K. Ramakrishnan, SIS, JNU. Dr. Meenakshi Sundriyal was the Chair.

Prof. Corradi gave a very informing presentation on the improper use of the female body in western media. Prof. Kiran Asher had an interactive session on perceptions of gender in different spaces, how people read bodies and how are those notions created. Prof. Butola talked about the need to subvert the prevalent models of democracy, education and the current development models in the cities as necessary condition to end patriarchy. Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh spoke extensively on the working of gender on campus. She also talked about gender in the field of science and about the disconnect between theorizing and practice of gender equity among educated sections. Prof. A.K. Ramakrishnan spoke about bodies like the GSCASH in University spaces dealing with the construction of masculinity and the potential of violence attached with it.

The seminar was attended by a sizeable number of people including students, faculty and staff. There were spirited discussions after each presentation. In the end Ms. Akanksha proposed a vote of thanks.

viii. International Women’s Day March

The GSCASH gave a call for a March on the campus on the occasion of the International Women’s Day in the evening of 8th of March, 2011. Colorful placards with slogans and

messages were made in advance by volunteers. The call met with an enthusiastic response. A good number of people, mostly students, gathered at Ganga dhaba at about 6 p.m. from where the March started and covered most of the campus.

Activities & Programmes (2011-2012)

i. Volunteers Meet

A meeting with the volunteers was organized in the GSCASH office on 2nd December 2011, Friday at 5:00 p.m. Lists of programmes were proposed by volunteers.

ii. A Street Play

On 17th of February, 2012 GSCASH invited Asmita, a street theatre group run by Arvind Gaur to perform its play 'Dastak' in Jhelum Lawns in JNU. It was a post dinner programme.

'Dastak' addressed the question of sexual harassment in public spaces –roads, public transport, markets and parks– faced by all women irrespective of class, age and profession. School and college students are shown as particularly vulnerable. It was aimed at putting the onus on men to behave in a sensitive way rather than at women to behave and live in a restricted way that 'protects' them.

The play was as such, fifteen minutes long but a discussion followed and it was fruitful as some students could pose their own opinions and questions which were answered by Arvind Gaur, Akanksha Kumar– the GSCASH Student Representative and other members of the audience.

Some students felt that it is hardly fair to 'blame' sexual harassers alone as women dress or behave 'provocatively'. Other students responded to these comments, saying that the logical conclusion of such an argument is that all so-called 'badly behaved' women should be raped which is condemnable –and thereby, countered this argument successfully. Still others criticized the play as some lines in its dialogue included the sentiment that one should not harass a woman as she may be someone's wife, mother or sister. Most students felt that it is precisely this attitude towards women as commodities that might 'belong' to someone that is at the very root of sexual harassment and an understanding based on such an attitude cannot be invoked to tackle the problem. Students feeling were conveyed to the Director of the play. It was an exciting and an involved discussion and in that, the play was a successful event and furthered the role of the GSCASH in sensitizing the student community to questions of sexual harassment and violence.

iii. Holi and Women's Day

In 2012 Holi was celebrated on 8th March which was Women's day also. Thus nothing public could be organized. However, considering that GSCASH organized Poster Workshops in different hostels during 5-6th March. In total 60 posters of chart paper size were made by the

students and they were then displayed in the academic and residential complexes during Holi. This was aimed to make Holi enjoyable to all through gender sensitivity.

Posters were made highlighting overall gender sensitivity. They carried messages, meaningful paintings, collages etc. The posters generated overall discussions among the community in JNU.

iv. NAAC Evaluation and GSCASH

NAAC evaluation team visited University and GSCASH Chairperson met the team and briefed about the activities carried out in GSCASH.

v. Brochure Distribution

This year a two page brochure was prepared highlighting some of the main points of GSCASH along with the web address. The brochure was printed by the coordinator's office and was attached with the registration folio of the first semester students for their easy perusal. This was the first time when hand outs were distributed in a systematic manner to the specified audience.

vi. Poster Workshop

A poster workshop was organised during 19-20 August 2012 as Gender sensitization programme. The objective was to bring GSCASH out from a complaint redressal body. Timing was selected such so that JNU campus environment unfolds in a reasonable manner to the new entrants.

vii. Orientation Programme

In August 2012, GSCASH organized Orientation and sensitization programme for the first semester students. However, old students were also welcome to the programme. It was a week long programme between 21st to 24 October 2012. Committee rooms of SSS I and SLL&CS was booked for the same. Centres were grouped according to the strength of the first semester students. There was overwhelming response from the students especially from the School of Languages, Science Schools and Special Centres. Orientation lectures were delivered by the ex-chairpersons from GSCASH as well as all those who are attached to Gender Studies. Vibrant response and queries were generated among the students.