

Dear Friends,

5/2/2008

In this Era of Globalization, while the voices against the exploitation of the deprived sections of society namely Dalits, Minorities, and women are gaining strength. The forms of this exploitation are also changing into newer and more complex ones. Where On the one hand we see laws such as the Act against Domestic Violence being passed due to the pressure by the women's movement, on the other hand we see a recent ruling by the Supreme Court saying that customary gifts given during marriage will not come within the ambit of dowry. Such judgments hamper the women's movement by legitimizing social evils like dowry. Similarly the beauty market is becoming the **second** largest market after the arms trade, which makes women believe that looks are the primary concern in their lives!. The crime of female foeticide has also become a very lucrative market, with the most retrograde of thoughts combining with the latest technology, and therefore continuing to disturb the women's movement and struggle against such practices.

In a campus like JNU which links the student movement with the broader national and international issues, these issues related to the women's movement should also occupy a significant place.

On campus there has always been a need and a demand from various students to take up Gender issues and work towards gender sensitization. GSCASH came into existence on 8 March 1999 after a prolonged struggle by the JNU student movement for implementation of the guideline issued by the Supreme Court in Vishakha vs. state of Rajasthan case to deal with Sexual harassment. This committee against sexual harassment is unique, which not only addresses cases and complaints related to sexual harassment but also includes the essential task of working towards gender sensitization through workshops seminars and interactive programs related to Gender issues. It is unfortunate that this aspect of GSCASH has taken a back seat in the past couple of years. On the 8th of January I had submitted a letter to GSCASH requesting the committee to form a volunteers group and conduct a workshop related to rules and procedures of GSCASH, which is still in the process , being a part of strengthening GSCASH.

Friends

In taking up the task for gender sensitization further, I as a student representative to GSCASH intend to conduct a campus wide Survey on issues related to gender. The purpose of this survey is not only to assess the general understanding of Gender issues but also to generate a debate regarding the broad spectrum of gender issues.

Questionnaires would be distributed in the coming days on a campus level, I request all of you to please take out some of your valuable time to fill up this questionnaire. I seek your cooperation in this step which is being taken up as a part of fulfilling the mandate given to me by the students of this campus.

Sd/-

Akanksha Kumar

Student representative to GSCASH

LONG LIVE OUR STRUGGLE FOR A GENDER SENSITIVE CAMPUS!!!!!!