



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

DD 26, Sector – I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700064

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

REPORT ON THE UGC-DEB SPONSORED NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON 'GENDER SENSITIZATION AT WORKPLACE'

Title of the Workshop: **Gender Sensitization at Workplace**

Date: **29.05.2015**

Venue: **Seminar Hall (1st Floor), DD 26, Sector – I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700064**

The 'Women Harassment Prevention Cell' (WHPC) took the decision to organize one day UGC-DEB sponsored National Workshop on 'Gender Sensitization at Workplace' on 29.05.2015 in the University. After deliberation on the issues relating to organize the Workshop, the WHPC decided to divide the Workshop into two distinct but interrelated sessions. It was decided that in the first session the Acid Survivors Foundation India- a leading NGO working with the issues of victims of acid attack in multiple ways – would make a presentation. In the Second Session Smt Debasree Chatterjee, DC, Women's Cell, Kolkata Police would highlight the issues related to harassment of women at workplace. This presentation would be followed by showing of a documentary prepared by the Kolkata Police on women trafficking. The WHPC aims not only to create a general awareness among the employees of the NSOU, but also to sensitize them on the issue. The details of the programme are given below:

First Session: The Workshop began with the Welcome Address by Professor Debesh Roy, Registrar, Netaji Subhas Open University. Professor Roy welcomed all the resource persons and participants. He also makes a brief introduction on the importance of gender issues at workplace. Professor Kajal De, Chairperson, WHPC and Director, School of Sciences, NSOU introduced the theme of the Workshop. She analyzed the issues of gender sensitization, possible preventive measures from harassment of women employees in particular at workplace and the role of WHPC in this regard. Professor De further elaborated the past activities of the WHPC before the participants.

Dr H.P. Kanoria, Chairperson, Acid Survivors Foundation India (ASFI) enlightened the participants about the activities of ASFI while the details of acid attack was explained by Mr. Rahul Varma, National Director & CEO, ASFI. Mr Verma analytically presented the all-India data of acid attacks, the social and gender composition of victims and possible post-attack measures.

Second Session: in the Second Session, Smt. Debasree Chatterjee, DC, Women's Cell, Kolkata Police made a presentation on issues related to harassment of women in the workplace. She also made the participants aware of the available legal steps to redress

the grievances of women employees. This presentation was followed by showing of a documentary on the issues of women trafficking in the society. This documentary titled 'Chetna' highlighted the economic factors that caused the women trafficking and the role of police administration in rescuing the women from the nexus of anti-social. Shri Champak Bhattachary, Joint Police Commissioner (Orgn.), Kolkata Police briefed the participants about the social and economic reality of trafficking, particularly the women trafficking. All these presentations were followed by live discussion, interrogation and analysis. The involvement of the participants made the programme a true success.

Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, NSOU presided over the Workshop. In his Presidential Address, Professor Sarkar reminded all the participants about the complexities of the issues of women harassment and gender sensitization. He critically highlighted the existing laws and its scope of use in this regard.

The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Chandan Basu, Organizing Secretary, Workshop Organizing Committee at the end of the programme.

Chandan Basu 16.06.15

Dr Chandan Basu,

Organizing Secretary,

Workshop Organizing Committee