

Department of Women Education
Maulana Azad National Urdu University
Gachibowli Hyderabad-32.Telangana India



Organizes

A Two–Day National Seminar

on

“Curricular Intervention to Combat Gender Violence”

7–8 March 2016

Concept Note

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread abuses of human rights worldwide, affecting one third of all women in their lifetime. It is the leading cause of death and disability of women of all ages and has many other health consequences—physical and psychological. Violence against women and girls is a fundamental barrier to eradicating poverty and building sustainable peace in the world. Even the most conservative estimates measure national costs of violence against women and girls in billions of Dollars.

To prevent VAWG, we need to address the underlying causes of the problem. Evidence shows that a number of factors produce violence. Violence emerges from the interplay of multiple interacting factors at different levels of the ‘social ecology’. These include genetic endowment, development history, personality profile, relationship dynamics, household and community structures, and the macro global level forces that shape prevailing norms, determine access to resources, and the relative standing of men versus women. Interventions that have the potential to reduce VAWG are, similarly, many and varied. They may target one or more risk factors and operate across a single or multiple settings.

Historically, VAWG has often been considered a “private” issue and been shrouded in silence. In many societies and communities, VAWG is also considered “normal” or “acceptable” phenomenon under certain circumstances. Efforts to break the silence, and challenge social norms that tolerate and promote violence are, therefore, one key component in addressing the problem. In the recent years, there has been recognition that changing individual

attitudes may not be enough to end violence, and a greater emphasis has been placed on more comprehensive, multi-component effort to change social norms.

Women's and girl's comprehensive empowerment has long formed a cornerstone of violence-prevention movement, first based on the understanding that VAWG is fundamentally about gender inequality, devaluation of women and women's subordination to ideologies and structures of patriarchy. There is strong qualitative evidence that women's disempowerment and dependence on men both make them vulnerable to experiencing violence, and less able to challenge situations of violence. Women's and girl's empowerment has been conceptualized in many ways, and is commonly recognized as being a process, rather than a 'state of being', per se.

Given the serious nature of the problem of increasing violence against half of the sky, this seminar is proposed to find solutions to the same through the medium of gender-sensitive, gender-inclusive and innovative curricular practices. It focuses on educational interventions through educational institutions that may either seek to increase girls' enrolment in school/colleges/universities, or use them as a vehicle for delivering complementary gender transformative intervention messaging to girls; and gender sensitization and transformative programming, which seek to enable women and girls to imagine their world differently and to realize that vision by changing the relations of power that have squeezed their voices, deprived them of their autonomy and pushed them into poverty.

We need to examine if the present curricular practices are inadequate to address the issue of gender violence, and if the answer is yes, why has it been so and what more is to be done to face the challenge in the toughest manner. Scholars are welcome to present research papers focusing on the various solutions we could offer to policy makers so that our nation may successfully address the pressing issue of routinised violence against women and girls.

The seminar shall focus on the following **sub-themes** and try to explore the possibilities of arriving at broad guidelines to be recommended to policy makers.

- Conceptualizing Gender Violence
- Social paradigmas an inhibitor and impediment to women's accessibility to material as well as cultural resources (papers may focus on culture, rituals, Belief Systems, Patriarchy, etc.)
- Restructuring our Curricular Practices; need for gender-sensitive, gender-inclusive and gender-empowering curricula.

- Text Book violence: Treatment of Women/Girls and their issues in English and regional language school text books.
- Sexist attitudes and practices in educational institutions.
- Restructuring Pedagogical programmes to prepare gender-sensitive teachers.
- Representation of Minority women's issues in Textbooks, Popular Literature, Media, etc.
- Role of Media. Its achievements, failures and what more it needs to do.
- Role of NGOs in combating gender violence.
- Globalization, Internet and violence against women.
- Re-examining our Legal provisions, need for Amendments, etc.
- Investigating Government policies and programmes.
- Religious ethics and the promotion of Gender sensitivity.

Prospective participants are requested to send their abstracts of about 300 words, including the key-words not exceeding five.

Novelty and originality of the research papers must be stated in the abstract. The abstract should be mailed to dwemanuu@gmail.com

You may also contact Dr. Shahida, Director of the Seminar, at +91 9885493886.

- Last date for submission of abstracts: 15 January 2016.
- Intimation of the selection of abstracts: 25 January 2016.
- Last date for submission of full paper: 25 February 2016.

Registration fees:

Faculty members: Rs. 1,000

Outstation Students & NGOs (with accommodation): Rs. 1,000

Local Students (without accommodation): Rs. 500