

## A STUDY ON THE SAFETY CHALLENGES OF WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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### Abstract

*The fundamental objective behind the article is empowering women in the higher education sector. University Grants Commission of India, Ministry of higher education in India believes that a safe, secure and cohesive learning climate is an ineluctable precondition to quality education and research in Higher Education Institutes. This study focused on safety challenges of women in higher education institutions. The objectives frame the basis on common security facilities, technical security system of higher education and security cell system of higher education. Descriptive survey method to use the opinion of the women students of security challenges in higher education. This study conducted in sample of 120 women students from different UG, PG and technical colleges in the Nalgonda district of Telangana state. Stratified random sampling was used for this study. Percentages were using the statistical analysis of the data for this study. Finally the study find out the results revealed that there is a lack of safety and security facilities in the women in higher education institutions. Meagerly the engineering colleges were maintaining safety and security rules.*

**Key words:** UGC, Empowering, Higher education, Challenges and Technical



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### Introduction

In the preamble itself the University grants commission states that the UGC has its prime concerns to safe, secure and cohesive learning practices in the higher education institutes to precondition in quality education and research. It also regulated all the educational administrators across the country to ensure that the safeguard against the offences like attacks, threats, raging, sexual violence's, harassments, sexual feminism, etc. Government of India effectively moving in the way of successive path in advancing gender parity in higher

education According to the most recent All India Survey on Higher Education it is only about 3% fewer women enrol in higher education comparing to men.

This indicates the tremendous achievement of government of India. It should be the prime concern of educational administrators across the country to ensure that students are safeguarded against attacks, threats and accidents, both man-made and natural. It's just like the formula of SSS (safety, security and study). The main objective behind the regulation is to transforming higher education institute into the safety, secure and study. This regulation also empowers the universities and the colleges would form their own regulations apart from the direction of the Government of India.

**Need and significance of the study:** Article-21 of the Indian Constitution and the law on sexual harassment at the workplace, colleges and universities had introduced the Committee against Sexual Harassment (CASH). The United Nations identified 16 sustainable development goals as a 'blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Including these goals highlights a certain lack of equity, and focusing on these important areas is necessary to create a better future for all. The regulation has its foresight on the physical infrastructure at hostels, should be secured by boundary wall and also further make stronger that fencing over the walls with three or less entrance points supervision it by security guards at each points at least. They shall also sufficiently armed, CCTV cameras, bio-metric verification of identity, and movement register for entrants/visitors with their identity proofs and contact. Minimum one women safety personnel shall be deploy at entry points to guarantee corporal check of women students. this related for the faculties, should ware ID cards inside the college premises, the frequently moveable places like canteen, parking places, main notice boards, shall flash the helpline numbers against ragging, sexual harassment, etc. even UGC have its separate act (Regulations, 2009) locally the campus neighbourhood should accept useful information in emergency or dangerous conditions on campus.

### **Objectives**

1. To study the common security facilities of higher education colleges in related to UG, PG and technical students.
2. To study the technical security system of higher education colleges in related to UG, PG and technical students.

3. To study the security cell system of higher education colleges in related to UG, PG and technical students.

**Methodology:** for this study the investigator was complete in descriptive survey method to explain the opinion of the omen students in higher education.

**Population:** All the government and private Under Graduate, Post Graduate and technical college women students in Nalgonda district were the population of the study.

**Sample of the study:** Sampling may be defined as the selection of some part of totality. This present study conducted with 120 students in 20 governments, private and technical college's women students of Nalgonda district. The sample of women students are taken 40 students from Under Graduates, 40 students from Post Graduates and 40 students from technical colleges.

**Sampling technique:** Stratified random sampling or stratified sampling technique was used for this study.

**Data collection:** data collection from the women students in higher education of different government and private Under Graduate, Post Graduate and technical colleges in Nalgonda district. The percentages were using the statistical analysis of the data for this study.

**Data analysis and interpretations:** the data analysis of the women security in institutions of higher education related to 24 hours security management, security guards, entry and exit records.

**Table 1: Women students' opinion on 24 hours security management**

Course of the study	Respondents	Percentages
UG	Yes	15
	No	25
PG	Yes	13
	No	27
Technical education	Yes	30
	No	10

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (62.5%), Post Graduate students (67.5%) and only 25% of Technical education students disagree with 24 hours security management maintaining in their institutions. And only 36.5% of Under Graduate students, 32.5% of Post Graduate students and 75% of Technical education students are agreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the 24 hours security management.

**Table 2: Women students' opinion on maintaining the security guards**

Course of the Study	Respondents		Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	29	72.5%
	No	11	27.5%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	28	70%
	No	12	30%
<b>Technical Education</b>	Yes	38	95%
	No	02	05%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (72.5%), Post Graduate students (70%) and only 95% of Technical education students were agree with maintaining the security guards in their institutions. And only 27.5% of Under Graduate students, 30% of Post Graduate students and 05% of Technical education students are disagreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Technical education colleges were maintaining the security guards.

**Table 3: Women students' opinion on maintaining the entry and exit records**

Course of the study	Respondents		Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	02	05%
	No	38	95%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	05	12.5%
	No	35	87.5%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	25	62.5%
	No	15	37.5%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (95%), Post Graduate students (87.5%) and only 37.5% of Technical education students disagree with maintaining the entry and exit records. And only 05% of Under Graduate students, 12.5% of Post Graduate students and 62.5% of Technical education students are agreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the entry and exit records.

**Table 4: Women students' opinion on bio metric system**

Course of the study	Respondents		Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	27	67.5%
	No	13	32.5%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	21	52.5%
	No	19	47.5%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	34	85%
	No	06	15%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (67.5%), Post Graduate students (52.5%) and 85% of Technical education students agree with bio metric system is maintaining in their institutions. And only 32.5% of Under Graduate students, 47.5% of Post Graduate students and 15% of Technical education students are disagreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were maintaining the bio metric system.

**Table 5: Women students' opinion on CCTV system**

Course of the study	Respondents		Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	04	10%
	No	26	90%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	06	15%
	No	24	85%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	28	70%
	No	12	30%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (90%), Post Graduate students (85%) and only 30% of Technical education students disagree with CCTV system maintaining in their institutions. And only 10% of Under Graduate students, 15% of Post Graduate students and 70% of Technical education students are agreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the CCTV system and only technical colleges were maintained.

**Table 6: Women students' opinion on emergency service system**

Course of the study	Respondents	Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	01      2.5%
	No	39      97.5%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	03      7.5%
	No	37      92.5%
<b>Technical Education</b>	Yes	07      17.5%
	No	33      82.5%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (97.5%), Post Graduate students (92.5%) and 82.5% of Technical education students disagree with emergency service system maintaining in their institutions. And only 2.5% of Under Graduate students, 7.5% of Post Graduate students and 17% of Technical education students are disagreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate and Technical colleges were not maintaining the emergency service system.

**Table 7: Women students' opinion on anti-ragging cell**

Course of the study	Respondents	Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	02      05%
	No	38      95%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	04      10%
	No	36      90%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	15      37.5%
	No	25      62.5%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (95%), Post Graduate students (90%) and only 62.5% of Technical education students disagree with maintaining anti-ragging cell in their institutions. And only 05% of Under Graduate students, 10% of Post Graduate students and 37.5% of Technical education students are agreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate, Post Graduate and technical colleges were not maintaining the anti-ragging cell.

**Table 8: Women students' opinion on anti- sexual harassment cell**

Course of the study	Respondents	Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	01      2.5%
	No	39      97.5%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	03      7.5%
	No	37      92.5%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	06      15%
	No	33      85%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (97.5%), Post Graduate students (92.5%) and 85% of Technical education students disagree with anti-sexual harassment cell maintaining in their institutions. And only 2.5% of Under Graduate students, 7.5% of Post Graduate students and 15% of Technical education students are disagreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate, Post Graduate and technical colleges were not maintaining the anti- sexual harassment cell.

**Table 9: Women students' opinion on grievance redress cell**

Course of the study	Respondents	Percentages
<b>UG</b>	Yes	05      12.5%
	No	35      87.5%
<b>PG</b>	Yes	03      7.5%
	No	37      92.5%
<b>Technical education</b>	Yes	08      20%
	No	32      80%

The above table shows that the majority of the Under Graduate students (87.5%), Post Graduate students (92.5%) and 80% of Technical education students disagree with maintaining the grievance redress cell in their institutions. And only 12.5% of Under Graduate students, 7.5% of Post Graduate students and 20% of Technical education students are agreed with the given statement. It is concluded that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the grievance redress cell.

## **Findings**

1. Majority of the women students opined that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the 24 hours security management.
2. Most of the Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Technical education colleges were maintaining the security guards.
3. Majority of the Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the entry and exit records and maintaining the bio metric system.
4. Majority of the women students opined that Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges were not maintaining the CCTV system and most of the technical education colleges were maintaining the CCTV system.
5. Majority of the women students opined that Under Graduate and Post Graduate and Technical colleges were not maintaining the emergency service system
6. Under Graduate, Post Graduate and technical colleges were not maintaining the anti-sexual harassment cell, anti-ragging cell and not maintaining the grievance redress cell.

## **Suggestions**

- i) Every co education and women colleges should arrange the 24 hours security management and the security guards.
- ii) Every higher educational college should establish committees against sexual harassment should be announced as 'mandatory' for every educational institution.
- iii) Every UG and PG colleges should be maintaining the bio metric system in their institutions.
- iv) Every UG and PG colleges should be maintaining the CCTV system for the purpose of safety and security for women students.
- v) Every UG, PG and technical colleges should provide and maintaining the emergency service system and grievance redress cell.

## **Conclusion**

Safety and security of the women students in higher educational institutions is a major challenge in present days. Decreasing violence against women and girls requires a community-based, multi-pronged approach, as well as sustained engagement with multiple stakeholders. The most effective initiatives address the underlying risk factors for violence, including the social norms of gender roles and the acceptability of violence (The



World Bank 2019). India is promoting girls enrolment in higher education in order to empower them with its prime motto. Not only in encouragement, government also initiating the significantly to provide nonviolence, safe and secure educational atmosphere all over Indian Universities and Colleges. These drastic changes in law made through the land mark of the judgment of the vishaka guidelines (Sexual harassment law) and girls and women who work in the educational institute. That is why when the all higher educational institutes were overcome the safety and security challenges then will be increasing the women in higher education.

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