



Institute of Home Science University of Kashmir

Hazratbal Srinagar-190006-(Kashmir) J&K

[NAAC Accredited Grade A+].



Measures initiated by the Institute for the promotion of gender equity During 2019-2023.

Gender sensitization is a vital process aimed at fostering awareness and understanding of gender issues, stereotypes, and inequalities. It challenges societal norms, promotes equality, and addresses systemic barriers that perpetuate discrimination. By promoting empathy and inclusivity, gender sensitization contributes to more equitable societies where all genders can thrive. Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir through its proactive approach, has become a beacon of change, spearheading initiatives that challenge gender biases and cultivate inclusivity.

Dr. Hummera Azim, Director Institute of Home Science, a staunch advocate for gender equality. Her commitment to this cause was evident when she actively participated as a member of the C20 Working Group Meeting held at Kashmir University to promote gender equality. Dr. Azim's involvement underscored her dedication to advancing initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality and empowering women. As a respected leader in her field, her contributions to such discussions serve as a testament to her unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity and equality.

C20 Working Group Meeting at KU makes slew of recommendations to promote gender equality

SRINAGAR: Top-notch experts on Tuesday proposed a slew of recommendations to promote gender equality as they wrapped up the two-day deliberations at the C20 Working Group Meeting hosted by the University of Kashmir.

The KU is hosting the mega event under the ambit of India's G20 Presidency to evolve policy white papers on varied aspects of gender equality and disability for consideration at the G20 platform. The University is also hosting a Youth20 event in May.

In her closing message, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan said the two-day deliberations will certainly prove greatly beneficial for robust policymaking on gender equality, especially in addressing key concerns related to specially-abled women coming from underprivileged sections of the society.

"Access and inclusivity are two keys to achieve the goal," she said.

At three exhaustive sessions on School Curricula, Professional Sector Gender Sensitisation and Youth Mentorship, the experts from C20 Working Group on GED, local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations called for greater awareness on gender equality, unhindered access of specially-abled women to educational institutions and civic amenities, inclusion of specially-abled persons in policies concerning their welfare and creating a participatory approach to address challenges in the way of gender equality.

Mr Vijay Nambiar, C20 Sherpa and



former UN USG, India, said unless the commitments on gender equality are translated into action "at each level at grassroots, expecting the desired results will be difficult."

Dr Christopher Coley from Amrita University, who joined the deliberations in online mode, called for convergence and collaboration of CSOs to achieve good results vis-à-vis gender equality.

Mr Ankit from "The Gender Lab" called for doing away with physical punishment of children, including corporal punishment in schools. Quoting WHO figures, he said 60 percent of children aged 2 to 14 years are reported to face physical punishment.

Academics from University of Kashmir who joined the panel discussions and offered their insights included Prof Aneesa Shafi, Dr Humaira Azim, Dr Rabia Hamid, Dr

Shazia Manzoor and Dr Roshan Ara, besides Mr Shaheel Mohammad from KU's Equal Opportunities Cell.

Dr Nandita Bhatt from Martha Farrell Foundation moderated a panel discussion, while Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator for India, delivered the special video message.

Members from local CSOs included Mr Javaid Tak from Human Welfare Organisation Helpline, Mr Shaiq Nazir from Help Foundation, Bashir A Lone from VMS, Nazir A Khan from CSK and Rahi Riyaz Ahmad from Ahsan Foundation.

At the closing ceremony, KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir said that the two-day deliberations will prove immensely fruitful to the Working Group to evolve robust policies and frameworks on gender equality. He thanked the participants for offering their valuable insights.

In its endeavour to combat gender discrimination, the Institute on 5th July 2021 invited Dr. Pam Rajput to deliver a keynote address on the topic of 'Gender Equality and Women's Rights'. Dr. Rajput, a distinguished advocate in this field, provided illuminating insights into the multifaceted nature of gender discrimination and the urgent need for proactive measures to address systemic barriers faced by women. Her deliberations emphasized the importance of challenging societal norms and fostering inclusive environments where individuals of all genders can thrive. Dr. Rajput's impactful discourse served as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and inspired attendees to actively contribute to the ongoing pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Furthermore, the department's dedication to promoting inclusivity is exemplified in one its gender sensitization program, led by renowned speaker Aejaz Ahmad Wani. This initiative addressed the rights and challenges of LGBT individuals through interactive sessions, fostering empathy and awareness. By challenging stereotypes and promoting acceptance, the program aimed to create inclusive environments and combat discrimination. This reflects the department's ongoing efforts to cultivate a supportive environment for all community members, regardless of gender identity.



In its dedication to advancing gender equality, the Institute has meticulously developed a curriculum that integrates gender-sensitive perspectives and inclusive content. This carefully crafted educational framework equips students with the knowledge and understanding necessary to critically examine societal norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequality. Through the inclusion of diverse perspectives and experiences, students are empowered to challenge existing norms and advocate for equity in various spheres of society. By engaging with topics such as *gender roles*, *stereotypes*, and *discrimination*, students develop a deeper awareness of the complexities surrounding gender dynamics. Moreover, the curriculum provides opportunities for students to explore strategies for promoting inclusivity and fostering gender equality in their personal and professional lives. Overall, the department's curriculum serves as a catalyst for empowering students to become agents of change in creating a more just and equitable society.