### **GENDER SENSITIZATION**

DR. KUSUM ARUNACHALAM CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE FOR REDRESSAL OF GENDER ISSUES DOON UNIVERSITY

## SEXUAL HARRASEMENT

- Sexual harassment is an act of gender discrimination. It violates the right of the women students to a comfortable, secure and hostile free environment in the campus
- x sexual harassment is illegal and a punishable offense
- The guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court based on the Vishakha vs State of Rajasthan judgment, prohibit sexual harassment at Educational Institutions/ workplaces

# WHY SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A SERIOUS ISSUE?

- it is a form of violence, quite often perpetrated against and faced by women in our sociocultural setting.
- In most cases the victim feels guilty and fearful to report in the first instance and therefore ignore the harassment they faced.
- Sexual harassment is a taboo subject.
  Therefore even educated women avoid discussing this issue out of fear of ill reputation

## **EFFECTS OF SEXUAL HARRASEMENTS**

- A person who is subjected to sexual harassment experience a wide range of psychological trauma and even physical problems.
- It has adverse impact on the victim's mental well being, work efficiency, mobility, productivity, work ethics etc.
- Hence it is also an issue of equality and dignity, and occupational safety and health.

#### ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL HARRASEMENT

Therefore, there is a need to work towards understanding that in any civilized society, especially in a place like University Campus which is supposed to be a place of knowledge creation, research and teaching aimed at developing students/scholars as responsible citizens, it is the fundamental right of citizens to be able to lead their lives with dignity, free from fear, mental or physical torture and distress

## **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

- Government of India has taken steps to combat sexual harassment in educational insitutions/workplaces, as a step towards ensuring women's independence, equality of opportunity and the right to work with dignity.
- \* Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment on sexual harassment made it mandatory for every institution to implement policy against sexual harassment at work place.

# AT DOON UNIVERSITY

- As required by the Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Doon University is also formulating a very strong and comprehensive policy against sexual harassment with components of gender sensitization and orientation.
- At Doon University we strive for zero tolerance towards sexual harassment

### WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

- Any unwelcome sexual advances both verbal and nonverbal.
- Physical conduct such as loaded comments, slander, remarks or jokes, letters, phone calls, sms or e-mail, gestures, showing of pornography.
- × Lurid stares, physical contact or molestation, stalking.
- × Sounds or display of a derogatory nature
- × teasing

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BEING HARASSED?

- Know your rights Sexual harassment is illegal; both the law of the land and Doon University prohibit sexual harassment.
- Speak -up If you can, tell the person to stop. State clearly and firmly that you want particular behavior to cease.
- Set information and support If you feel you cannot speak up, ask your friends to help you and bring it to the notice of the committee/ University authority.
- Keep records- that might be useful for pursuing the case.

- **> Do not blame yourself**. Sexual harassment is not something one brings on oneself. It is not a consequence of certain ways of dressing or acting. It is a violation of an individual's right to live with dignity.
- Do not ignore it. Ignoring sexual harassment does not make it go away. The harasser may misinterpret a lack of response as approval of the behavior.
- **Do not delay**. Delay in action increases the probability that unwanted behavior will continue or escalate.
- **× Do not hesitate to ask for help.** Speaking up may prevent others from being harmed as well.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- × Warning ,Written apology
- Debarring entry into hostel/campus
- × Suspension for a particular period of time
- Withholding scholarship/fellowship
- With holding result
- Black dot in the Mark sheet indicating bad conduct
- Fine and Imprisonment

## **ROLE OF STUDENT COMMUNITY**

- Students are the most active people within a university campus. They are also the ones who are most vulnerable to sexual harassment. This exploitation could take many forms: students vs. students, staff (teaching or non-teaching) vs. students, Road Romeos vs. students and the like.
- Students are also the ones who are most vigilant against sexual harassment. Only if the student community is awake and keeps guard, a solid mechanism for prevention and prohibition of sexual harassment can be devised and implemented.

#### COMMITTEE FOR REDRESSAL OF GENDER ISSUES (CRGI)

- Committee for Redressal of Gender Issues (CRGI) is an institution of the University which works for gender sensitization, crisis management and complaint redressal.
- CGRI solicits the cooperation of campus community in its various efforts for making the campus environment free from gender discrimination, harassment, hostility and violence
- \* The Committee urges the students and the university community to feel free to approach us at any time:-

## **COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

- Dr. Kusum Arunachalam, Room No 105, Faculty Office Mobile No. 9411113894 (Chairperson)
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar Room No 201 , Faculty Office, Mobile No.8126301529
- Ms. Rashi Mishra, Room No 203 , Faculty Office, Mobile No.----9455716372
- × Ms. Udita Negi, Library Room No. 102, Mobile No.-----9837150045

#### **External Members**

- × Dr. Indu Singh, Principal MKP Girls College, Dehradun
- × Mr. Om Prakash Sati, Advocate, Dehradun Court