

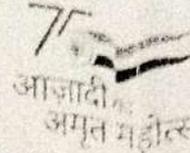


आचार्य मनिष र. जोशी
सचिव

Prof. Manish R. Joshi
Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

D.O.No.91-1/2024 (GS)

30 अप्रैल, 2024/10 वैयाख, 1946

Respected Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 was notified on December 9, 2013, to provide a safe and secure environment for women in the workplace.

Sexual harassment results in the violation of the fundamental rights of a woman to equality under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution of India and her right to life and to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution, and the right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade, or business, which includes the right to a safe environment free from sexual harassment.

The protection against sexual harassment and the right to work with dignity are universally recognized human rights by international conventions and instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was ratified on June 25, 1993, by the Government of India.

The University Grants Commission has also notified the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015, in the Gazette of India, which are available on the UGC website, i.e., www.ugc.gov.in. These regulations clearly describe the responsibilities of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), grievance redressal mechanisms, the process for making complaints and conducting inquiries, interim redressal, punishment and compensation, consequences of non-compliance, etc.

The UGC Regulations, being statutory in nature, are binding for all HEIs. Specifically, sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 4 of these regulations mandates:

"... every Executive Authority shall constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) with an inbuilt mechanism for gender sensitization against sexual harassment."

In this regard, the UGC has also repeatedly issued advisories to the HEIs to take the following actions:

- To constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and a Special/ Women's Cell in the institutions under their administrative control to deal with gender-based violence and conduct gender sensitization programs.
- To display banners and posters at conspicuous places in the buildings to create awareness among employees about sexual harassment and how to prevent it.