

REPORT ON ONE-DAY SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON “SEXUAL HARASSMENT” UNDER THE POSH ACT & “CHILD PROTECTION” UNDER THE POCSO ACT

Date: 25.04.2024

Venue: Seminar Hall I, Convention Centre,BSACIST

INTRODUCTION: The One-Day Sensitization Programme on Sexual Harassment under the POSH Act and Child Protection under the POCSO Act aimed to address critical issues and foster awareness among teaching and non-teaching staffs of the BSACIST, organized by Crescent School of Law in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department-Government of Tamil Nadu and Internal Complaints Committee – BSACIST, the programme brought together experts and practitioners to discuss strategies and interventions for combating sexual harassment and ensuring child protection.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

INAUGURATION

Qirath The event commenced with a recitation, setting a solemn and contemplative tone for the day's discussions.

Invocation by Students of CSL Students invoked blessings through a traditional invocation, symbolizing unity and reverence for justice and compassion.

Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) C. Chockalingam, Dean, CSL: Prof. (Dr.) C. Chockalingam welcomed the attendees, highlighting the importance of the programme in promoting a culture of respect and safety within educational institutions.



Felicitation Address by Prof. (Dr.) N. Raja Hussain, Registrar, BSACIST: Prof. (Dr.) N. Raja Hussain extended felicitations, acknowledging the collaborative efforts towards addressing sexual harassment and child protection and emphasizing the institution's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment.



Inaugural Address by Prof. (Dr.) Latha Tamilselvan, Chairperson, Internal Complaints Committee, BSACIST Prof. (Dr.) Latha Tamilselvan underscored the importance of addressing sexual harassment and child protection within educational settings, setting the tone for the day's discussions.



Felicitation A moment of felicitation was observed, honouring the distinguished speakers and guests for their invaluable contributions.

Vote of Thanks by Ms. Samsul Sameera I, Assistant Professor, CSL: Ms. Samsul Sameera I delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, organizers, and sponsors for their support and commitment.



Session I

Dr. Sharmila MBBS, Actress & Social Activist, delved into the influence of media representations on attitudes towards sexual harassment. She provided examples from popular media and highlighted the need for responsible portrayal of gender and sexuality to challenge harmful norms and stereotypes. Participants engaged in a lively discussion, sharing personal experiences and insights into the impact of media on societal perceptions.







Session II Dr. R. Mehala, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tamil Nadu Police Academy, provided insights into the role of law enforcement in addressing sexual harassment and POCSO complaints. Drawing from her experience, she discussed the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in investigating such cases and highlighted the importance of victim advocacy and support services. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the legal and procedural aspects of addressing sexual harassment and child abuse cases.





Session III Ms. Sabitha Seetharam, POSH Consultant, discussed best practices for creating a safe and inclusive work environment. She emphasized the importance of organizational policies, awareness campaigns, and training programmes in preventing sexual harassment and fostering a culture of respect and accountability. Participants were encouraged to share their organizational experiences and challenges, leading to a fruitful exchange of ideas and strategies.





Session IV Ms. Poongodi, from the Social Welfare Department, shed light on the importance of women helplines in providing support and assistance to survivors of sexual harassment and abuse. She discussed the role of helplines in offering confidential and accessible services, empowering survivors to seek help and access resources for recovery and justice. Participants learned about the available helpline services and were encouraged to spread awareness among their communities.



Session IV Ms. S. Vijayadharani, Former Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Advocate, offered legal perspectives on understanding and addressing power dynamics in sexual harassment cases. She highlighted the legal provisions under the POSH Act and the POCSO Act, focusing on the rights of survivors and the responsibilities of employers and authorities. Participants engaged in case studies and role-playing exercises, gaining practical

insights into the legal recourse options available to survivors and the importance of proactive intervention.





Valedictory Address by Prof. (Dr.) C. Tharini, Vice Chairperson, Internal Complaints Committee, BSACIST Prof. (Dr.) C. Tharini delivered the valedictory address, reflecting on the day's discussions and reaffirming the institution's commitment to addressing sexual harassment and child protection.



Vote of Thanks by Prof. (Dr.) Vijayalakshmi Ramalingam, Coordinator, CSL Prof. (Dr.) Vijayalakshmi Ramalingam extended gratitude to all participants, speakers, and organizers for their contributions towards making the event a success.



Organizing Committee:

Ms. I. Samsul Sameera, Assistant Professor, CSL

Ms. Tamilselvi Jagadeesan, Assistant Professor, CSL

Ms. G. Banupriya, Visiting Faculty, CSL



The organizing committee extended their heartfelt appreciation to the esteemed speakers and all participants for their active involvement and contribution to making the sensitization programme a success.

Conclusion: The One-Day Sensitization Programme on Sexual Harassment under the POSH Act & Child Protection under the POCSO Act provided a platform for meaningful discussions, insights, and collaborations. Participants gained valuable knowledge and skills to address these critical issues in their respective spheres of influence, contributing to the creation of safer and more inclusive environments for all.