

Sensitization Workshop on Rights of Transgender People

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ICFAI
LAW SCHOOL
HYDERABAD

"Sensitisation Workshop on The Rights of Transgender People"

October 22nd, 2024 11:00 AM to 12:40 PM.



Speaker
Ms. Vyjayanti Vasantha Mogli,
Member State Welfare Board for
Transgender Persons



Speaker
Dr. G. Nagaraju
Professor University of Hyderabad

Venue:
IFHE AUDITORIUM
Convenor: Prof. Astha Srivastava

The **Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies** organised a **Sensitization Workshop on "Rights of Transgender People"** with the objective of promoting awareness, understanding, and sensitivity towards the rights, experiences, and

concerns of transgender persons. The programme sought to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of transgender identity and the social, legal, and institutional challenges faced by transgender people in contemporary society.

The workshop featured **Ms. Vyjayanthi Vasantha Mogli** and **Dr. G. Nagaraju**, **University of Hyderabad**, as distinguished speakers. Their participation brought together perspectives from lived experience, gender studies, sociology, and human rights, thereby providing participants with a multidimensional understanding of the subject.

The workshop commenced with an introduction to the concept of **gender identity and gender diversity**. The speakers encouraged participants to distinguish between sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation and emphasised the importance of respecting an individual's self-identified gender. The discussion also addressed common misconceptions and stereotypes surrounding transgender persons and highlighted the need to replace prejudice and social exclusion with dignity, empathy, and respect.

A significant component of the workshop focused on the **human rights of transgender people**. Participants were sensitised to the principles of equality, non-discrimination, dignity, privacy, autonomy, and freedom of expression. The speakers highlighted that transgender persons are entitled to the same constitutional and human rights protections as all other individuals and that formal recognition of rights must be accompanied by meaningful social and institutional inclusion.

The legal dimension of the discussion was particularly relevant to students of law. The workshop provided an opportunity to understand the constitutional framework relating to transgender rights in India, including the principles of **equality before law, non-discrimination, personal liberty, dignity, and freedom of expression**. The discussion also referred to the development of Indian jurisprudence concerning transgender persons and the significance of judicial recognition of gender identity as an aspect of individual autonomy and dignity.

The participants were also introduced to the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** and the broader legal framework concerning protection against discrimination and access to education, employment, healthcare, public services, and

other spheres of social life. The workshop helped students appreciate the distinction between the existence of legal rights and their effective realisation in everyday life.

The speakers also drew attention to the **social and institutional challenges** experienced by transgender persons. These include discrimination within families and educational institutions, barriers to employment, difficulties in accessing healthcare and public services, social stigma, exclusion, violence, and challenges relating to documentation and recognition of identity. The discussion demonstrated that legal reform alone cannot eliminate structural discrimination and that social attitudes and institutional practices play an equally significant role.

Ms. Vyjanthi Vasantha Mogli's contribution was particularly valuable in bringing greater attention to the lived realities and experiences of transgender persons. Her engagement helped participants understand the practical implications of social exclusion and the importance of creating spaces in which transgender persons can participate with dignity and equality. The interaction encouraged students to reflect upon the gap that may exist between legal recognition and lived experience.

Dr. G. Nagaraju contributed an academic and analytical perspective to the discussion, contextualising transgender rights within broader debates concerning **gender, society, identity, equality, and social justice**. His intervention helped participants understand gender as a socially significant dimension of human life and encouraged critical reflection on conventional assumptions surrounding gender roles and identities.

The workshop adopted an **interactive and sensitisation-oriented approach**, allowing participants to engage with the speakers and seek clarification on issues concerning transgender identity, rights, discrimination, and social inclusion. The discussion encouraged students to examine their own assumptions and understand the importance of using respectful and inclusive language when engaging with transgender persons. From the perspective of the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, the workshop was significant in advancing the Centre's objective of promoting **gender sensitisation, human rights awareness, inclusivity, and social justice**. It expanded the understanding of gender beyond a binary framework and encouraged students to recognise the experiences and rights of transgender persons as an integral component of the broader discourse on gender equality.

The programme also contributed to the institution's commitment to creating an **inclusive, respectful, and non-discriminatory educational environment**. Sensitisation initiatives of this nature are important in developing not only legal awareness among students but also empathy, constitutional values, and respect for human dignity.

Outcomes of the Workshop

The workshop resulted in several important learning outcomes:

1. **Enhanced awareness** regarding transgender identities, gender diversity, and the lived experiences of transgender persons.
2. **Improved understanding of constitutional and legal protections** relating to equality, dignity, autonomy, and non-discrimination.
3. Greater awareness of the **social, educational, employment, healthcare, and institutional barriers** faced by transgender persons.
4. Development of greater **gender sensitivity and empathy** among participants.
5. Encouragement of students to critically examine stereotypes, prejudice, and discriminatory practices.
6. Promotion of an **inclusive and rights-based approach** towards gender diversity.
7. Strengthening of the Centre's efforts to integrate **human rights, constitutional values, and gender justice** into academic and co-curricular activities.

The Sensitization Workshop on “**Rights of Transgender People**” served as a meaningful academic and awareness-building initiative. The perspectives shared by **Ms. Vyjanthi Vasantha Mogli and Dr. G. Nagaraju of the University of Hyderabad** enabled participants to understand transgender rights from both experiential and academic perspectives. The programme reinforced the principle that gender equality requires not only legal recognition but also social acceptance, institutional inclusion, and respect for the dignity and autonomy of every individual. The workshop therefore constituted a valuable contribution to the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies' continuing efforts to promote **gender-sensitive**

education, human rights consciousness, inclusivity, equality, and constitutional values among students and the wider academic community.