

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS 76pc female students face sexual harassment: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 76 percent of female students of higher education institutions face sexual harassment within or outside campus by campus-related people, a study has revealed.

The tendency is highest in public universities followed by university colleges, private universities, and medical colleges, said a University Grants Commission (UGC) release.

Findings of the study, "Situational Analysis of Sexual Harassment at Tertiary Level Education Institutes in and around Dhaka", were revealed at Brac Centre in the capital yesterday.

Experts addressing the programme suggested that the issue of sexual harassment should get more attention than now for empowerment of women.

UGC Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad

Chowdhury said sexual harassment at educational institutions was a concern for social movement. Instead of looking into the incidents of violence against women separately, it should be treated with priority through a social movement to ensure women's empowerment in society at every level, he said.

The study was conducted by Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) under MDG Achievement Fund with support from UN Women. Dr Abul Barkat, study team leader and chief adviser of HDRC, disclosed the findings.

Dr Abul Hossain, project director, multi-sectoral project on violence against women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Aroma Dutta, executive director of PRIP Trust; and Mahtabul Hakim of UN Women Bangladesh, also spoke on the occasion.