

# The Siasat

## Webinar on gender-based violence inaugurated at MANUU

By **Sakina Fatima** | Published: 12th January 2021 8:10 pm IST



**Hyderabad:** The centre for women studies of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in collaboration with Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) organized a webinar session “Awareness Campaign for Eliminating Gender-Based Violence” on Tuesday.

The programme will include other activities to leverage 16 days period to eradicate gender-based violence on January 15, 19, 27 and 29 as per the advisory from the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD).

“Gender equality can be achieved only when women are made aware of their rights. There are many laws for safeguarding and protection of women, however, they are not going to change the society unless we bring change in our own family,” said Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

Prof. S M Rahmatullah, Vice-Chancellor I/c, MANUU said, “Incidents of gender-based violence that are still happening and even today we are compelled to conduct such awareness programs, this is a shame for us. He advised women to assert their rights and also emphasized on inclusion of values in the curriculum.”

The acid attack victims Rupa and Pramodini Roul also shared agony of their lives.

Dolphy D’Souza, Project Lead Mumbai, Commonwealth Human rights Initiative was the Chief Guest whereas Ashish Shukla, Managing Director, CHHANV Foundation was the Guest of Honour.

## Women need to be in decision making bodies: NCW chief Rekha Sharma

Stressing the need for presence of women in decision making bodies, National Commission for Women NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma on Tuesday said political parties offered them tickets for elections only if they have connections with a male politician. Women need to get into decision making bodies and Parliament and legislatures, she said in her keynote address virtually in a webinar on Awareness Campaign for Eliminating Gender based Violence organised by the Centre for Women Studies of Maulana Azad National Urdu University MANUU here. Otherwise, we will just be playing lip service...

PTI | Hyderabad | Updated: 12-01-2021 21:17 IST | Created: 12-01-2021 21:17 IST

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Stressing the need for presence of women in decision making bodies, National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma on Tuesday said political parties offered them tickets for elections only if they have 'connections' with a male politician.

Women need to get into decision making bodies and Parliament and legislatures, she said in her keynote address virtually in a webinar on 'Awareness Campaign for Eliminating Gender based Violence' organised by the Centre for Women Studies of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) here.

"Otherwise, we will just be playing lip service... Yes, there are women who are in the good Ministries, but they are very few," she added.

The NCW chief said parties would not want to give tickets to women as they fear women will lose in elections.

"But they can give (ticket to) a person who doesn't have a good standing in society... a man who has got charges against him and they can give tickets to them but not a woman," she said.

Even if a woman managed to get a party ticket, she had to be connected to a man in politics so that her face would be there but somebody else would be doing the work on her behalf, Sharma lamented.

Referring to the long pending women's reservation bill, which seeks to reserve 33 per cent of seats in Parliament and state legislature for women, she said political parties speak about the quota but it was yet to materialise.

"No party has given us 33 per cent (reservation). We are 50 per cent mind you and still for 33 per cent we are begging," she said.

Sharma said gender equality can be achieved only when women were made aware of their rights.

"There are many laws for safeguarding women, however, they are not going to change society unless we bring change in our own family," she said.

MANUU's Incharge Vice-Chancellor Prof S M Rahmatullah said incidents of gender based violence were still happening.

"We are compelled to conduct awareness programmes, this is a shame for us."

He advised women to assert their rights and also emphasised on inclusion of values in the curriculum, a release from MANUU said.