

## **Department of Women Education**

**in collaboration with My Choices Foundation  
conducted 16-Days Awareness Program on**

**“Empowering Communities to eliminate Gender-Based Violence”**

**(From 24<sup>th</sup> November, to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024)**

### **Report**

Department of Women Education and My Choices Foundation jointly conducted several programs in communities across Hyderabad, successfully reaching a large number of people through college programs, community meetings, outreach efforts, and public awareness stalls. These initiatives have been crucial in spreading knowledge, educating people, and bringing communities together to eliminate gender-based violence.

The event featured **Prof. Ameena Tahseen, Head, Department of Women Education, Dr. Farzana Khan, Head, Program, My Choices Foundation & Dr. Shabana Kesar, Associate Professor from the Department of Women Education at MANUU, Hyderabad** participated as a special guests. They delivered lectures, conducted group discussion and specially addressed on the theme “**Education and Women Empowerment**” emphasizing the transformative power of education. They explained that education is a crucial tool for women to stand up for their rights and protect themselves from violence. They also highlighted that education helps create a safe and peaceful environment, fosters gender equality, and opens up new opportunities for women.

#### **Key points of Discussions & Lectures:**

Prof. Ameena Tahseen, Dr. Shabana Kesar & Dr. Farzana Khan delivered a powerful lectures focusing on education, empowerment, and ending violence against women. Some key points from their address include:

- ❖ **Self-Awareness:** They began by asking participants to reflect on what they know about themselves this encouraged self-reflection, awareness and emphasized the importance of living a meaningful life.
- ❖ **Role of Education in Empowerment:** They stressed that "if a woman is educated, an entire generation is transformed." They questioned why violence is still being used against women despite the transformative power of education. She encouraged women to seek education as a means of self-discovery and empowerment.

- ❖ **Education Beyond Marriage and Jobs:** They pointed out that many people wrongly associate education solely with marriage or jobs. She explained that education is not about securing a position or getting married; it is about gaining knowledge, improving one's understanding of rights, and becoming aware of rules and regulations.
- ❖ **Responsibility and Community Engagement:** Women were encouraged to take responsibility for their communities and neighbourhoods, to make them better, and to actively contribute to their well-being.
- ❖ **Addressing Men and Boys:** Society often portrays men as harsh and tough, but in reality, they are vulnerable and soft. She highlighted the importance of engaging with boys and men in meaningful discussions, as they need to be heard. Prof. Ameena urged women to communicate with the men in their lives to foster understanding, support, and create a more empathetic and supportive environment.
- ❖ **Rights and Accountability:** They concluded by urging participants to understand their rights as provided by their religion and the Indian legal system, and to practice what they learn, passing that knowledge to others.

#### **Screening of Meeraas and Group Activity:**

After the lectures, the short film Meeras was screened for the participants. The film explores the intergenerational transmission of violence and deeply impacted the audience. It raised important reflections about how gender-based violence affects individuals and communities, making participants reflect on their own experiences.

To further engage participants, an activity was organized where women were divided into five groups to draw their vision of a **Safe Home** on chart paper. Many women and girls eagerly participated, showcasing their ideas of what a safe and peaceful home should look like.

At the conclusion of the event, all participants took an oath, **pledging their commitment to actively work towards eliminating gender-based violence in their homes and communities.** This oath represented a collective promise to stand together and fight against violence, ensuring a future of safety and equality for all.

The sessions was both *interactive* and *thought-provoking*, successfully achieving its objective of *empowering women* and *raising awareness* about the importance of *education and women's rights*. This event marked a significant step in our ongoing efforts to end *violence against women* and *promote education as a path to empowerment*.

# GLIMPS



**Prof.Ameena Tahseen**  
**Head, Department of women Education**