

The Growing Menace of Harassment

11 April 2018 | News | By Manbeena Chawla

Although there are no figures for sexual harassment in science, the numbers could be high.

JNU Voice @jnu_voice
 Hundreds of #JNU students have marched and gathered in front of VasantKunj Police station with a demand of immediate arrest of Prof. #AtulJohari, who is a serial sexual assaulter and an FIR has been lodged against him on the serious charges of sexual harassment by 9 complainants.
 2:14 AM - Mar 17, 2018

Arti Dalviya @arti_dalviya
 Dear JNUites,
 I have been fighting lone battle since July 2017 against Prof. Mahendra P. Lama's harassment. I stood firm on my ground and that's why he denied registration for two semesters now. Is that only because I am not politically aligned with any of student's association, no one will stand by me? If political association of an individual is the criterion of getting justice in JNU, then I will continue my fight alone and would prefer getting perished in the battle rather than getting politically aligned only get justice.
 Thank you so much everyone for being my voice and strength in my lone fight against sexual harassment.
 #WIFighAloneJNU #SuspendLamaKharat #GenderJustice #CleanJNU

Saurabh Sharma @SaurabhJNU
 In this connection, we demand:
 1. SUSPEND Mahendra Lama, Rajesh Kharat, and Ajay Patnaik immediately!
 2. Open and reinvestigate all the 31 cases of alleged sexual harassment in JNU
 3. Safeguard the interests of the complainants. #PatnaikShieldsRapist #CleanJNU
 19:57 - 22 Mar 2018

Anima Sonkar @AnimaSonkar
 #PatnaikShieldsRapist
 I am female research-scholar @JNU_IN. My campus appears to be highly unsafe for me to continue research.
 In the present case #Prof.Patnaik #Prof.Lama happened the be from my centre ie School-Of-International-Studies
 I feel vulnerable. @mamidal90
 10:15 PM - Mar 22, 2018 - New Delhi, India

The School of Life Sciences (SLS) at the Jawaharlal Nehru University was established a year after JNU got set up in 1969. On the verge of completing 50 glorious years, the University is in the limelight for an altogether different reason.

The recent trigger came in when Prof Atul Johri, School of Life Sciences was arrested on charges of sexual harassment levelled against him by eight female students of JNU.

The shocking part is that there are a total of 31 such pending cases of sexual harassment which have been assigned to a temporary Internal Complaint Committee (TICC) in the JNU.

Students' Reactions-

"My campus appears to be highly unsafe. In the present case [#Prof.Patnaik](#) [#Prof.Lama](#) happened the be Profs from my centre ie School-Of-International-Studies I feel vulnerable." - Anima Sonkar, Research Scholar, SIS, JNU; Ex-VP, ABVP, JNU (on March 22, 2018, on Twitter)

"Large-scale have taken place against Prof Johri, who is a supporter of the JNU VC M Jagadesh Kumar. But there is no mention of Prof Lama as well as Prof Karat and Prof Pathnayak who are shielding him. You can see the hypocrisy of the Left," - Vinay Kumar, ABVP's JNU wing president (Reported to *Catch*).

"The GSCASH was quashed by the JNU administration in 2017. But members have been 'voluntarily elected' to the Committee. Had the complaint against Johri been formally made to GSCASH, and had GSCASH existed in formal terms – the first step taken would have been to change the supervisor- Shruti Simha, a member of the Gender Sensitisation Against Sexual Harassment, JNU (Reported to *Quint*)

The question arising in the minds of many is that if the environment in JNU is becoming so unsafe, can students be assured safety in other institutes?