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Gender Sensitive Behaviour Among Youth in Indian Higher Education: A Longitudinal Study

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Abstract

This funded research project examines gender sensitive behavioural patterns among youth in Indian higher education using a longitudinal research design. The issue is important as universities play a critical role in shaping values and behaviour, yet most existing studies are cross sectional and do not capture how gender related attitudes and behaviours change over time.

The study is being conducted across institutions in five states including Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan, allowing coverage of varied social and institutional contexts. A pilot phase has already been completed with 125 student participants. In addition, a focus group discussion with around 50 participants, including both students and teachers, was conducted to refine the research tools and identify key behavioural indicators. Data collection uses a structured questionnaire with 50 behavioural statements along with open ended questions. The study also includes interviews and focus group discussions to capture everyday experiences, attitudes, and implicit biases. Behavioural indicators have been developed and are being refined based on pilot findings. The longitudinal design allows tracking of changes in awareness, attitudes, and behaviour over time across different institutional and regional settings. The study aims to provide evidence based insights and develop practical tools and institutional strategies to strengthen gender sensitivity in higher education in India.

Keywords: Gender sensitivity; Higher education; Longitudinal research; Indian Higher Education, Youth behaviour