

## Repression on Women Students at BHU

The repression unleashed on the women students of Benarus Hindu University brought to the fore two points: one: the young women are not ready to take thing lying down. They are questioning discrimination and are struggling for equal rights. The administrators on the universities in this country are increasing singing the chorus that pleases those in the seats of power.

The women students, vexed with the molestations they are being subjected to in the campus have complained to the university authorities. Instead of taking necessary steps to give protection to them, the authorities blamed them for not staying inside hostel. This naturally enraged the young women and thousands of them joined to protest against callousness demanding safety measures on the campus. The authorities called in the police and they resorted to violent lathi charge.

The Vice Chancellor called agitation of women students as a “creation of outsiders”, and “innocent and immature minds are being diverted by the vested interests. He said the incident that sparked the agitation is not molestation but just eve-teasing. The Chief Minister called it as the handiwork of anti-social elements. After the District Magistrate reported that the university authorities are responsible for the violence at BHU, the state government asked the VC to go on leave. The police until now did not record the statement of the women student shows that the entire matter is being considered as closed by the state.

When such an issue which could be solved easily, has grown to this proportion means that the problem is much deeper and does not limit to the molestation only. The asmission of women students into BHU has increased by 131 per cent in recent years. It is estimated that there are 10,000 women students in BHU. They are facing various form of discrimination in the campus. They are being denied the facilities that are being used by the male students. In the name of “for their good only”, they are not allowed to go out of the hostels which denies them access to library and internet. The problem of shortage of teaching staff and funds haunts them. The pent up anger among the young women burst out in this form.

The campuses of many universities are seething with unrest. Since 2015 women students of universities of Kolkata, Aligarh, Mumbai, Kasargode. Raipur and Jammu has agitated against discrimination and for equal rights. We have also witnesses how the communal forces had vitiated the atmosphere in the campuses of many universities. The unrest in the campuses is the reflection of the implementation of so-called reforms in the Higher education.

The young women of BHU has shown their courage against the sexual harassment and discrimination and for equal rights.

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