

Varsity teachers should have code of conduct'

By DU Correspondent

Some eminent citizens, teachers and professionals at an open discussion here yesterday expressed solidarity with the six-point demand of Dhaka University students protesting alleged sexual harassment of some female students by their teachers at the university.

They also stressed the need for a code of conduct for regulating the behaviour of teachers at the university. They also supported the view of DU students that a cell be set up for receiving complaints of sexual harassment at the university.

'Students- Protesting Sexual Harassment (SPSH), a group of mostly non-political female students of DU, organised the discussion on "The Movement Against Sexual Harassment in Dhaka University and Our Six-Point Demand", held at the Teachers Students Centre of the university.

The SPSH and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presented separate suggestions regarding the proposed code of conduct

and setting up of a cell so that female students can lodge their complaint fearlessly.

Presided over by Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, the discussion was participated by, among others, Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed, Maleka Begum, Dr. Masuduzzaman, Advocate Muhammad Quamrul Islam, Aysha Khanom, Rehnuma Ahmed, Mahmudur Rahman, Atub Chowdhury, Manosh Chowdhury, Moni and Bonni. Teachers, students, intellectuals and social workers attended the discussion.

Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said, the movement against alleged sexual harassment by teachers is justified and the participants should be appreciated for their role. He also supported setting up of a cell to receive complaints.

Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed said, "The Dhaka University Order, 1973 has given the teachers the power to rule themselves. But the teachers have not framed

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any law to try the teachers for offences. They were only involved in elections".

"It is necessary to have a code of conduct. It is necessary to find out why the teachers are of such a low moral standard," he said.

Besides academic qualifications, other qualities should be taken into consideration while appointing teachers, he said.

Meanwhile, at a rally on the DU campus, Bangladesh Chhitar Federation (BCF) yesterday urged the DU authorities to accept the six-point demand of the SPSH. BCF leaders said that the movement against sexual harassment should be spread all over the country. Earlier, the BCF brought out a procession on the campus.