

Sexual harassment, rigid social norms biggest challenges to female education

Speakers say at view-exchange programme



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Rights activists said that challenges like sexual harassment, lack of better educational facilities, domestic violence, unfavourable social norms and values, and patriarchal social attitudes, are some obstacles to women's empowerment in the country.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), while talking at the views exchange programme today said that they thought the challenges in the advancement of women's education, would be removed with time.

"But that's not happening," she said at the programme organised by CAMPE, in cooperation with Malala Fund and Advocacy for Social Accountability titled, "Education for Empowering Women: Our Role".

She gave an example that a head teacher of primary schools of Khansama in Dinajpur harassing a female student. "While all these keep happening in society, how can we expect there would be an increasing participation in female education."

She said that the access of female students has increased significantly and that is good news but there is huge discrimination in education in terms of poor and rich, as well as rural-urban.

Brac University Professor Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed said that Covid-19 pandemic has created learning loss among students and has also widened discrimination and female students are the worst victims.

He said that many people in the country still poses a Taliban-like mindset regarding women's education.

Among others, veteran teacher leader Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Country Representative of Malala Fund Mossarraf Tansen, CAMPE Deputy Director KM Enamul Hoque spoke at the programme.