METRIC 5.6 WOMEN'S PROGRESS MEASURES

Indicator 5.6.6 Women's mentoring schemes

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) recognizes the importance of equipping students with adequate knowledge and awareness of gender equality, women's rights, respect for diversity, and the prevention of gender-based discrimination, violence, and harassment. Although the University does not currently implement a mentoring scheme exclusively intended for female students, it conducts gender sensitivity training as part of its efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and gender-responsive academic environment.

The training is provided to students, particularly newly admitted students and those preparing to undergo On-the-Job Training (OJT), to ensure that they are aware of their rights, responsibilities, and appropriate conduct in academic, professional, and workplace settings. Through these sessions, students are oriented on relevant national laws and policies that protect women, promote gender equality, and address different forms of violence, abuse, and harassment. These include Republic Act No. 9710 or the *Magna Carta of Women*; Republic Act No. 9262 or the *Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004*; Republic Act No. 11313 or the *Safe Spaces Act (Bawal Bastos Law)*; Republic Act No. 7877 or the *Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995*; Republic Act No. 8353 or the *Anti-Rape Law of 1997*; and other applicable laws protecting individuals against exploitation, abuse, and discrimination.

The discussions emphasize the importance of recognizing and preventing violence against women, sexual harassment, gender-based violence, discriminatory practices, and inappropriate behavior toward women and individuals of diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE). Students are also made aware of the importance of respecting personal boundaries, promoting gender-fair interactions, understanding consent, recognizing abusive and harassing behavior, and identifying appropriate channels for reporting incidents and seeking assistance.

For students preparing for their OJT, gender sensitivity training serves as an important preparatory activity before entering professional workplaces and interacting with supervisors, colleagues, clients, and other stakeholders. It helps them understand the importance of maintaining professional boundaries, respecting individual differences, recognizing workplace harassment, and contributing to an environment free from discrimination, intimidation, and abuse. Similarly, newly admitted students are introduced to gender-responsive values and appropriate conduct as they begin their academic journey at the University.

Through these initiatives, DOrSU seeks to develop students who are informed, respectful, and sensitive to gender-related concerns. While these activities are not structured as women-specific mentoring schemes, they contribute to women's empowerment by increasing awareness of women's rights, promoting gender equality, strengthening the prevention of violence and harassment, and encouraging students to become active participants in creating safe and respectful academic and workplace environments. These efforts complement the University's broader commitment to providing an inclusive educational environment where women and all members of the academic community can participate, learn, and develop without fear of discrimination or harassment.

References:

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