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How Gender Sensitive is the College Youth in Baroda City?

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The research examined gender sensitivity among college going youth in Baroda city with specific reference to perceptions regarding gender equality and equity, access to health care, sexuality and violence. The study was conducted in two phases. Phase I involved administering a rating scale on assessing gender sensitivity to 624 young people in the age range of 18-21 years. Multiple classification analysis was performed on all the domains to detect their relationship with the background variables gender, caste and parents' education and occupation. Mothers' education emerged as a significant variable mediating attitude towards gender. Phase II involved a pre-post-experimental-control group design to determine the effectiveness of an intervention on creating sensitivity to gender issues. T-test was computed to compare the pre- and post-test data. The results indicated a significant difference in the domains of access to health care, access to control over resources, gender equality and equity, and violence. The intervention also brought about a change in the attitude of men towards women in terms of acknowledging that the gender stereotypes created by society need to be dismantled. Most of the men believed that women are exploited by the typical "male mentality" but that women too need to change themselves and their mentality.