

Need for implementation of comprehensive gender education curriculum in schools-Laid

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): I would like to highlight the urgent need for gender education in schools amid the alarming rise in sexual crimes against women and children. Despite stringent laws, these crimes persist and worsen in brutality. While law enforcement is vital, true prevention lies in addressing the deep-rooted gender biases that shape our society. From childhood, boys are conditioned to see women not as equals but as objects, fuelling sexism, harassment, and violence. Criminals are not born; they are shaped by their environments. To break this cycle, we must dismantle harmful gender norms through education. I strongly advocate for a comprehensive Gender Education Curriculum in schools to challenge misogynistic mindsets and foster mutual respect. A similar initiative, the Adolescence Education Programme, introduced by the UPA Government, was unfortunately met with resistance from conservative political circles. The Supreme Court's 2024 ruling emphasized that sex education must include lessons on consent, respect, and gender equality. The Government must move beyond conservatism. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, alongside Minister of Education and state departments, must implement gender education from Classes 1 to 10. The future of our society depends on what we teach our children today.