

# UNIVERSITIES MUST CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGIES

- ABHAY YADAV

## **Introduction**

In the present world, where we are living and enjoying our lives, we have a total population of 7.8 billion. This population is divided into more than 20 majority religions that exist today and the exact numbers of how many minority religions are in existence and the number of people following them is undetermined. The human mind, which is one of the best blessings for mankind, is different and works differently among different people. Today, everyone has their own thoughts, own values and beliefs regarding a particular topic and every thought is necessary for the development of society as a whole. Every human has a right to speak in the way they want, dress in the way they feel comfortable, and think in the way they want to think. Respecting everyone's thoughts and beliefs and encouraging all the sections of the society, irrespective of the majority or minority, is what the civilized society means.

But today, we are facing a major problem in the world which is hampering the people's right to speak and express them as they desire because most of the majority groups today have their own set of rules, ideas and beliefs. But we need to accept the fact that everyone is not the same. If one person is having a positive thought about a particular thing, it does not necessarily mean that the other person is also having the same thought. Acknowledging the view point of others and accepting or even listening to them is a problem that the world population of 7.8 billion is facing right now.

And here comes the idea and the concept of a safe space where people who are conservative and in minority are given full right to express what and how they feel, what changes they want, and what issues they want to bring up. And giving those people a platform where they can express themselves fully, without the fear of getting judged, is what the safe space means.

Safe space is the need of the hour in this modern world because those people who are in majority and those who are liberals are somehow forcing the conservative people to believe in them no matter what. Just because liberals are in majority does not mean that they can force conservative people to think what they are thinking and do what they are doing. Every human

is unique and is born with a little bit of difference in terms of color, race, caste, sexual orientation, etc. We must believe in the fact that everyone is not the same and just because a community is in majority, does not mean that they can force the minorities to believe in their ideas, thoughts, and beliefs. Conservative people have the full right to express themselves in the way they want.

The term "safe space" refers to places created for individuals who feel marginalized to come together to communicate regarding their experiences with marginalization. These spaces are most commonly located on university campuses in the western world.

### **WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM “SAFE-SPACE”?**

According to various philosophers and people, the term “safe-space” does not only mean the absence of danger, but it also means virtue as in safe sex, safe drinking water, safe eating, etc., and a space where people are not judged on any basis and are accepted as unequal and just the way they are. The term "safe-space" was first used in the movement of women's right where the women were asking for a separate space where they can discuss their problems and issues. Later, this term was used by the LGBT groups which were seeking a place where sexual minorities could go and speak and can discuss their issues and problems without the fear of any judgment.

These spaces should allow students, particularly those who are conservative, to feel comfortable and to be expressive about things that impact them on a personal level, rather than feeling ignored. Here, we see safe spaces as a designated area where students are not only free to discuss ideas without fear of retribution but also where people do not have to interact with anyone who does not look like them or relate with them, because *interacting with the cultural majority causes stress for minorities*.

### **BENEFITS OF SAFE SPACE IN COLLEGE CAMPUS**

Safe space is very important in college campuses and also in every professional workspace because the whole society consists of people who have a thousand different types of mind-sets and having a space where an individual can feel accepted and comfortable and is able to express themselves can be very helpful. And this is what the safe space is all about.

Some of the interesting benefits of having safe spaces on college campuses are as follows: -

- In a safe space, students can openly share their problems and issues that they face from the majority groups because of their different social identity. They can also discuss with each other about the solution to their problems. Moreover, it gives them a designated area where they can sit with those who look like them, thus, ultimately giving the hope that they are not the only one who is facing the same problem.
- Safe space will give the students robust support and a sense of empowerment when they sit with their groups and when they have connections with the people who are similar to them and who face the same problem like them. It will also help them to feel less isolated from others.
- Safe-Space will provide a platform to the students where the marginalized voices can be heard and will heal them because they, who belong to the minority groups, can share their experiences and pain openly without the fear of being judged.
- Safe-space will encourage the minority group students to come to the college and universities without the fear of being isolated and getting judged.

## **CONCLUSION**

The creation of safe space is the need of the hour in this modern world because even after having the right to speech and the freedom of expression, most people do not come out of the closet and do not interact with the majority groups because of the constant fear of getting ignored, isolated and judged by others. The creation of safe space in college campuses will give students a sense of freedom and liberty. And it will give students a designated place where the minorities can come and interact with those who are like them and think in the same way.

Today, we must have safe space on the campuses so that nobody feels left out or different from others. We need a safe space to give those, who do not connect with the majority, a platform where they can express themselves in the way they want.