

# INDRAPRASHTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT 2020 -2021

Following activities were conducted under the Community Outreach Program of the college during the academic year 2020-2021.

### **International Award for Young People - IAYP**

The International Award for Young People (IAYP), conducted an online orientation for the session 2020-21 on 31.01.2021 for around 290 students who had registered for the same. The session was organized to provide the interested students an extensive introduction to the functioning and activities of the Award Program. The Google Meet witnessed enthusiastic participation with over 90 students marking their presence and over 70 students registering as interested candidates in the program. A Power Point presentation containing the details of the program was also shared via email with all students who had registered for the orientation session. Thereafter another interactive session was conducted on 12.03.2021 in which 9 students had registered for the program.

Conversion of the program into an online mode is in process.

### **Collaboration with Department of Psychology**

The Department of Psychology organized a talk on "*Community Development – An Insight into the Experiences of Community Empowerment*" under its Community Outreach Programme on 12-11-2020, on Google Meet.

The resource person for the session was **Mr. Sohaib Beg**, founder of Community First Foundation, which aims to develop community leadership. The talk was attended by around 50 students from across different departments who wished to explore the area of community development. Students expressed their interest to conduct more such sessions where they could gain an insight into ground realities of community development programmes.

### **Collaboration with Department of B A (Program) – Project PARWAAZ**

The Department of B A(Program) organized a Webinar with Ms. Mimansa Singh, the lead psychologist at Fortis Healthcare on 26.09.2020 on Google meet on the topic "**Normalize the talk, Unmute yourselves**". The aim was to spread awareness about mental health and wellbeing and encourage people to talk about their problems pertaining to mental health. The event witnessed praiseworthy participation of students and teachers from different departments sharing their problems with the psychologist and getting the idea of solving their problems

An Open Mic Session was organized on 10.10.2020 to mark the occasion of **WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**, on Google meet. The theme for the session was **“EXPRESS YOURSELF”**. The idea was to create a comfortable environment for the audience so that they can express their real selves and feelings without any hesitation.

A webinar was organized on 18.02.202 on Google meet on the theme **“OVERTHINKING AND ITS IMPACT ON WELLBEING”** with Ms. Dipti Pande (Psychologist and Psychotherapist) to understand the concept of over thinking and its impact on our mental health. This was followed by an interactive session.

### **Collaboration with Department of Geography - Project DHYAN**

**Project Dhyan**, Community Outreach Program for Disaster Preparedness of the Department of Geography was launched on 08.09.2020, with the inauguration of a five day long National Workshop on ‘Interrogating **“Anthropocene”**: **Climate Change and the Unequal World**’. The workshop hosted a range of eminent speakers and experts from the field of Climate Change including Prof. J Srinivasan, Indian institute of science, Bangalore, Prof. Govind Kelkar, Gen. Dev. Centre for Research and Innovation, Gurugram, Dr. Nita Mishra, University College Cork, Ireland, Dr. Rohit Azad, JNU, New Delhi and Mr. D. Raghunandan, Delhi Science Forum. Providing an intellectual background to the opening of the Project, the presentations covered topics such as Science, Gender, Tribe, Caste, Class and Policy dimensions of Climate Change.

On 03.11.2020, the Project hosted the screening of a documentary **‘Jungwa – The Broken Balance’**, a well acclaimed film, screened at the Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP 21). The screening was followed by conversation with the Director, Mr. Stanzin Dorjai on the theme **‘Doing Visual Ethnography’**.

To train Project volunteers in collecting social memories of women who had experienced climate-related disasters and document it under **‘Her Climate Stories’**, two day workshop on **‘Oral History’** by Dr. Surajit Sarkar and Dr. Komita Dhanda of Ambedkar University, Delhi was conducted on February 23-24, 2021.

The Project received international recognition through the effort of its volunteers. Three of the volunteers were recipient of the Millennium Fellowship 2020 presented by United Nations Academic Impact and MCN for their commitment in pursuing SDGs through the Project.

In March 2020, University of Delhi nominated Project Dhyan as one of its official entry to the prestigious RISE U21 (Real Impact on Society and Environment) Showcase and Awards 2020 constituted by Universitas 21, U.K.. Project Dhyan was one of the 55 projects across the world to find a place in the list of finalists.

## **PROJECT NOOR**

**Project NOOR**, the college Community Outreach Program continued to work towards empowering the economically and socially weaker sections of the Society and securing a rightful place for them. Orientation was held online on 23.01.2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, which put a rather abrupt pause to our daily lives, the team adapted itself to the possible ways and methods through which its work could continue. The field work was discontinued for some time. To boost the morale of the volunteers, social media campaigns were organized to create awareness about various social and environmental issues along with testimonials of the team members. In order to factor in the schedules of all volunteers and connectivity issues, 20 new field volunteers and 10 new creative team volunteers were recruited to equally share the load of community service in the two slum areas – Khyber Pass and Vidhan Sabha area near Civil Lines and SKA community at Sonia Vihar

### **Objective 1: EDUCATION**

In the span of the past two semesters in the pandemic, the team planned to take classes through phone calls and video calls. Children who had access to the internet were connected through video calls, otherwise the volunteers connected with them over normal voice calls. The volunteers were able to teach 15 children online on a regular basis and remain connected with almost 30 other children. Each volunteer called a particular child at least thrice a week. Additionally, to engage the children in their studies and carry forward the Project's holistic approach, a particular theme was decided for every week and volunteers tried to teach them accordingly. These themes included hygiene, environment, sustainability, good habits, etc.

The children were also involved in various fun activities like dancing, painting etc. during and after the calls and were regularly motivated by the volunteers to express themselves.

Students in higher classes were taught about internet surfing, application writing, usage of Google applications and other essential mobile applications.

The volunteers also gauged the basic knowledge of the children through various tests in order to give apt attention to them according to their abilities. As the second wave of the pandemic arrived, the volunteers were in contact with children and provided them moral support. They taught them about the necessary precautionary methods and made them aware about the vaccination process.

### **Objective 2: Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers**

Adversely affected by the pandemic were the people from the Valmiki Community living in Sonia Vihar in Delhi. Due to lack of proper access to the internet or devices, the volunteers were not able to reach them regularly and efficiently. However, in collaboration with Hindu College's online Diwali Mela - Suruchi 2020, the Project

sold the hand-made products as well as the apparels previously made by the members of the Valmiki Community priced in the range of Rs.250/- to Rs.550/- and gained a profit of Rs.690/-

### **Objective 3: COVID-19 Assistance**

With a rise in COVID-19 cases since April 2021, the volunteers took proactive steps to create awareness about the precautionary measures, symptoms to monitor and also helped a few of the families by arranging medical assistance. They also lobbied for the benefits of getting vaccinated and motivated parents of the community to avail the government's facilities. In addition to this, a number of volunteers worked with SANG, a COVID-19 relief work initiative working in the Delhi NCR region. In collaboration with SANG, the volunteers connected with the community and reached out to them with help in the form of ration items, medicines, and sanitary napkins.

The project received International recognition. Twelve volunteers received the Millennium fellowship for the year 2020 presented by United Nations Academic Impact and Millennium College Network for their dedicated efforts to pursue various SDG goals through the project.

Dr. Supriya Saha

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