

**Gandhi Study Circle
Academic Year 2020-21**

Convenor - Dr. Saumya Gupta

Members: Dr. Khurshid Alam, Mr. Pavan Kumar

The Gandhi Study Circle (JDMC), a decade old co-curricular society, became a constituent unit of the Centre for Universal Values and Ethics, Janki Devi Memorial College. Believing that our collective future depends upon our present actions, the Gandhi Study Circle JDMC attempts to stress upon Gandhian tenets through pedagogy, social outreach, promotion of Gandhian values esp. emphasis on material simplicity and stress on service as a core societal responsibility. In 2020-21 the Covid-19 pandemic taught us both simplicity and resilience in 2020-21 and once again brought home the relevance of Gandhian credo of living a sustainable, ethical life.

GSC-JDMC was felicitated for Outstanding Performance in Propagating Gandhian Values among Students, at the closing ceremony of Gandhi150 (the year-long celebration of the 150th year of the Mahatma) by Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi, on October 2, 2020.

In keeping with its core thrust areas GSC-JDMC organized the following programmes, events, and activities in the academic year 2020-21, all of which were conducted online due to Covid protocols:

I. Pedagogy:

(i) Webinars and Talks

'Exploring the Meaning of Freedom: Gandhi and Tagore,' by Prof. Gangeya Mukherji, on December 1, 2020

(ii) Gandhi and the Peasant Movement: Remembering the Mahatma's Champaran Journey,' by Shri Pushyamitra, journalist and author, on January 30, 2021.

(ii) Book Club Activities

GSC Book Club met every 15 days on GoogleMeet to have book discussions and debate key issues. Members read at least 15 pages a day and every month 5 students are required to make a presentation on 250 pages from the books they have chosen. Movies on Mahatma Gandhi are also shown and discussed through the Gandhi Cinema initiative. In the current year, there are 65 students in the GSC Book Club.

The GSC Book Club, held discussions on these topical issues:

13th April 2021 : 'Reducing the legal age of liquor consumption to 21 will result in drinking culture in youngsters'.

II. Social Outreach, Scholarship, and Mentorship Programme:

(i) Scholarship

One of GSC-JDMC's flagship programmes has been to provide financial aid for those who need it most. GSC-JDMC serves as a bridge between charitable organisations desirous of contributing to the educational uplift of students from low-income families, especially underprivileged meritorious girl students at JDM College. A total of 17 students were given financial support from the ShikshaDaan-My Daughter is Precious Foundation in 2020-21.

(ii) Mentorship

The Mentoring Project is organized in collaboration with GLOW Foundation. GLOW Mentors from corporate backgrounds held monthly meetings with the GSC mentees and organized life skill sessions to instill confidence and help them make strategic life choices. The Life skill sessions held online this year were:

Life skill Session I: November 25, 2020. - "How to Set and Achieve our Goals" by Ms. Maneesha Kapur

Life skill Session II: January 13, 2021 - was on "Effective Communication" - How to speak up with Confidence and Clarity by Ms. Manju Rai.

Life skill Session III: February 15, 2021. – “Emotional Intelligence and Resilience” by Facilitator Ms. Garima Goyal.

Life skill Session IV: March 8 2020 : All mentees had to mark the International Women's Day theme #choosetochallenge in which mentees shared a 40-50 second selfie-video applying the insights from Virtual Communication skill sessions.

A new welcome initiative this year were the Spoken English Classes to improve fluency and confidence in English, conducted virtually and exclusively for GSC-GLOW mentees every Saturday by Berlitz certified instructor and IELTS trainer from British Council, Ms. Vyjayanthi Sridhar. The classes were held on January 30, 2021, February 6, 2021, February 13 2021 and February 27, 2021.

III. Student competitions and events

Essay Competition commemorating the launch of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav: 75th year of India's Independence' on the topic "75 years of India's

Independence: Promises and accomplishments" April 1-5, 2021. Aditi Sharma (Pol.

Sc. Hons II year, JDMC) won the first prize and Dipti Kumari (Pol. Sc. Hons II year Vivekananda College) won the second prize.

(i) Tark-Vitark: an Inter-college Debating Competition, organized by GSC-JDMC during the JDMC Annual Cultural Fest SYMPHONY 2021 on February 4, 2021.

The motion for the debate was ‘Growth of Social Media Is Undermining Freedom Globally’. The event was a great success with a 110 registrations and enthusiastic participation from all over the country. Parimita Jasuja was one of winners for the best Interjection prize.

(ii) Online Photography Competition on the theme “Less is more: The Gandhian Way in Times of Crisis” held on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, 2020.

Pooja Dua (Eng Hons II year), Bushra Saifi (Pol. Sc. Hons II year), Shrishti Thakur (History Hons III year), and Divya Wadhwa (Eco Hons II year) submitted the winning entries.

(iii) Film Screenings: Gandhi Study Circle organized screening of the movies ‘Gandhi: My Father’ on October 10, 2020 **and ‘The Great Debaters’ on 23 January 2021.**

(iv) Online Orientation for the new GSC members for the academic year 2020-21 on 4th December 2020.

(v) A Logo-making competition was organized by GSC-JDMC on November 21, 2020