

## **Gandhi Study Circle Events 2022-23**

**Convenor - Dr. Natasha Nongbri**

**Co-Convenors - Ms. Tarini Pandey and Dr. Khurshid Alam**

The Gandhi Study Circle (JDMC), a decade old co-curricular society, is 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 stresses upon Gandhian tenets through pedagogy, social outreach, promotion of Gandhian values especially emphasising on material simplicity and service as a core societal responsibility. This year, after two years of holding events online due to Covid-19, the GSC is gradually resuming most of its activities offline.

### **I. 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 Janki Devi Memorial College. Online interviews for shortlisted students for the My Daughter Is Precious (MDIP) scholarships were held on September 20, 2022. A total of 17 students including 8 new students were given financial support from the ShikshaDaan-My Daughter is Precious Foundation in 2022-23. In person interviews for MCKS Vidya Scholarships were held on November 16, 2022. A total of 27 students were awarded full scholarship by MCKS for the session 2022-23.

#### **(ii) Mentorship**

##### **(a) MDIP Mentoring Project**

The Mentoring Project is organised in collaboration with GLOW Foundation. GLOW Mentors from corporate backgrounds held monthly meetings with GSC student-mentees and organised life skill sessions to instill confidence and help them make strategic life choices.

An Orientation Programme for MDIP Mentees was held on October 21, 2022 to introduce them to the mentoring programme and their respective mentors and to brief them about their role and responsibilities.

The Life skill sessions held so far:

Life skill Session I (online): November 11, 2022 – 'Goal Setting Session at Janki Devi' by Ms. Aparna Mathur (Co-founder - GLOW Coach and Facilitator).

Life skill Session II (offline): January 5, 2023 – ‘Communication Skills Session’ by Ms. Manju Rai (Coach, Trainer, NLP Practitioner).

Life skill Session III (online): February 8, 2023 – ‘Emotional Resilience – 50 Shades of Grey’ by Ms. Garima Goyal (Energy, Emotions and Communication Coach).

Life skill Session IV (online): March 17, 2023 – ‘From Problem to Possibilities’ by Ms. Aparna Mathur (Co-founder - GLOW Coach and Facilitator).

## **II. Panel Discussion on the Occasion of Gandhi Jayanti**

On September 30, Gandhi Study Circle and the Library of Janki Devi Memorial College in collaboration with The Gandhi Bhawan, DU, hosted a Panel Discussion on the topic ‘Representing Gandhi’ to jointly celebrate Gandhi Jayanti and the annual College Library Festival.

Prof KP Singh, the current director of the Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University chaired the session. Other Panelists included Prof Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Director, National School of Drama, Prof Raj Kumar, Professor in Department of English, Delhi University, Dr Ravikant a bilingual Historian, writer and translator at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi and Mr Iqbal Rizvi, a journalist and author in The Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts, New Delhi.

The event commenced with the college prayer along with lighting of the lamp. Both the Principal Prof Swati Pal and Dr Natasha Nongbri, the Gandhi Study Circle, Convenor spoke on the relevance of the theme of the Panel Discussion. Prof KP Singh in his opening remarks, spoke of the express need to inculcate and integrate Gandhi's ideas into our lives. He remarked that Gandhi is extremely influential in all spheres of life. Dr Ravikant spoke of Gandhi’s complicated relationship with Cinema in spite of which, the cinema wholeheartedly embraced Gandhi and his ideals. Prof Ramesh Gaur spoke about the importance of authenticity in the age of information. He spoke of the proliferation of false news and propaganda. He stressed on the idea that reading is important to understand a person and their character. Prof Rajkumar explored the various interpretations of Gandhi through three seminal novels, *The Untouchable*, *Kanthapura*, and *Waiting for the Mahatma*. He spoke of the various versions of Gandhi available through culture and literature. Mr Iqbal Rizvi further commented on Gandhi’s strong stance vis-a-vis Cinema in terms of his conviction of the potential and perhaps ‘dangerous’ reach of Cinema. Prof Singh concluded the discussion by remarking on the immense need particularly for students to keep engaging with Gandhi.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by the College Librarian, Dr Nivedita Sharma, and the performance of the national anthem. It was enthusiastically attended and appreciated with the promise of further engagement with the speakers in individual sessions in the coming days.

### **III. Movie Screening cum Discussion on Martyr's Day, January 30, 2023**

To commemorate this year's Martyr's Day, the GSC organized a movie screening cum discussion session with Dr Ravikant from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS, New Delhi) conducting the discussion. The screened documentary film titled 'Mahatma Gandhi: Pilgrim of Peace' traces events in the Mahatma's life, his rise to power and evolution of his philosophy. Dr Ravikant discussed the strategies used by Gandhi to connect with the masses. In the vibrant interaction that followed, the audience came up with their own perspectives on weapons used by the Mahatma to end colonial rule. Students were keen to know about the relationship between Gandhi and other leaders like Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. The engaging session provided new insights into understanding Gandhi.

### **IV. Students' Participation**

- 1) Participation in Sadbhavana Diwas Sammelan: Dr Khurshid Alam, Dr Shiv Panche and some GSC students attended and participated in the Sadbhavana Diwas Sammelan to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harijan Sevak Sangh on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Gandhi Ashram, Kingsway Camp, Delhi.
- 2) Dr Khurshid Alam, Dr Shiv Panche and some GSC students attended and participated in the Power Corridor's Indian Achievers Award Second Edition on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 3) GSC students attended and participated in a Special Lecture on 'Meditation and Mental Health: Har Ghar Dhyani', organized by Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at the Multipurpose Hall, University Sports Complex, University of Delhi.



The Panel : Mr. Iqbal Rizvi, Dr. Ravikant, Prof. K.P. Singh Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Prof. Rajkumar with the Principal Prof Swati Dal



The Panel



The Lighting of the Lamp and College Prayer





Dr Ravikant felicitated by Prof Pal on Martyrs Day, January 30, 2023