

Annual report of Jagriti

Jagriti, Women Development Cell of Bharati College, is an organization which works for the benefit of the women studying and working in Bharati College. Its aim is to make sure that the women in the College should be aware of their rights and duties. They should know what wrong is happening around them, so that they could initiate in standing against it. Jagriti was set up in January, 2014, with 10 members, and in the present day members have increased to 28. In the academic session of 2014- 2015, we have organized various events like seminars, talks, and sessions, so as to make women talk about various issues, which do not talk about generally.

As the Colleges got open in the last week of July, so we started with a campaign in which we collected, through the medium of ballot boxes, the experiences of the students of the College related to sexual harassment. Then, in the first week of August, we had a session on sexual harassment with the students in which we discussed about what all comes under sexual harassment, what should be done under different circumstances like when can a girl take a stand for herself even if she is alone and when needs to act wisely. Also, a small skit was performed by the Jagriti members taking one of the experiences of the students which came up to us during that campaign. Later, in the third week of August, a reading session was held, on the topic of female infanticide, where an article, a poem in Hindi and a poem in Punjabi was read by some members of our society. The session was an interactive session as the audience took active role in expressing their views on the topic. Afterwards, in the first week of September, we started with a petition named, Sanitary Napkin Dispensing Machine. This petition was started so as to request the higher authorities to permit us with the Sanitary Napkin Dispensing Machine which would provide the students of the college with the sanitary napkins in emergency. The petition

was signed by the 500 students of the college. By the starting of the new academic session, Sanitary Napkin Dispensing machines would be set up in our college. Then, in the last week of September, 15 members our society started with a new project namely, Safety Audit. We started this project with an aim to know which areas in and around the college are safe and not? Also, the students coming to the college, either from the nearby places or the faraway places faces any transportation difficulties. We are still working on this project. It will be completed by the first or the second week of August. In the first week of October, we collaborated with the NGO named, CREA. They started with a pilot project, namely, “Kahi Un-kahi Baatein,” under which they had launched an information line, in which the knowledge regarding various topics was given. Topics like Mensuration, Domestic Violence, Sexual Health, and many more such likes issues. 20 of our members are the volunteer for this project.

Our society works for the issues related not only to the women but also to the men. So in the first week of January, we did a Gender Sensitization Workshop for the non- teaching staff, where we discussed about how discrimination is faced not only by women but by men as well. If women face harassment then, men also face harassment. In the third week of January, a movie was screened, “Walking in the City,” which was followed by a discussion on how safe is it for young women to loiter in certain areas. Audiences shared their respective experiences. Then, in the last week of January, we had a reading session on the topic that women stand out for themselves in this patriarchal society, where we discussed that though women have started to take stand for their rights and decisions but in order to achieve equality, it happens that at times, women take wrong decisions. Afterwards, in the first week of February, we did a campaign called Human Installation. The aim of our campaign was to aware people about the rights of the full time maids that they should be given an amount of Rs. 41.9 per hour. This was a four week

campaign where members of our society were standing as statues holding a board with the above information written on it. Students got mixed reaction. Many people were positively reacting to our initiative. In the second week of February, a programme on Gender Sensitization was hosted by our society. An advocate from the Delhi Legal Services Authority came and delivered a talk on the same where he made us aware of many rights which we hold as women. In the first week of March, Gender Sensitization workshop was organized for our members, so that they could arrange for such workshops for the students and the teaching staff of our college, where members came up with very interesting ideas for arranging workshops for the above mentioned people, so as to make the workshop an interactive session. Lastly, in the second week of April, first inter-college, two days annual fest took place, under which many events like debate competition titled, *“Should women enjoy listening to those songs which demean and objectify their bodies,”* poetry competition titled, *“A successful **Woman** is one who can build a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at **her**,”* documentary screening, namely, *“Nirnay,”* reading session on sexual harassment, seminar on portrayal of women in visual media, talk by Anshul Tewari on *“Media and Internet as a Gender Sensitive Space,”* and a play, named, *“Sangharsh,”* by the society members, were organized.