

## Best Practice 2 of ARSD College

- **Title of the Practice: Institutional Social Outreach Activities**
- **Objective and Context:** The principles of Equity and Inclusivity are built into the foundations of the institutions. Built on Sanatani principles of Seva—the spirit of service—the College has, over the last few years, expanded the scope of its extension and ISR activities in a major way. We strongly believe in nurturing our stakeholders with a sense of duty towards the less fortunate and the marginalized through activities addressing issues like education, health, women empowerment, environment etc. The underlying principle of this practice is to enable the students to empathize with and act upon the ground level socio-economic issues towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations as crucial to social transformation.
- **Successful Implementation of the Practice:** Several College Societies are very actively involved in bringing about social change and raising awareness regarding various pressing issues. College ISR activities and extension activities are among its best practices, running in the hundreds in the number of events organized. In 2020-21 alone, 224 events were organized involving over 1200 students.

### SOCIETIES INVOLVED IN ISR



**National Service Scheme:** The ARSD unit of NSS has been actively involved in accomplishing positive social change through its many activities. During the year 2021-1, NSS has organized over 190 events

- A. They regularly organize sensitization activities, Blood Donation Camps, Cleanliness Drives, disaster relief during national emergencies, apart from participating in the governmental initiatives such as SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program), Swacchta Pakhwara and the Swachh Bharat programme.
- B. Notable among the NSS's achievements is the adoption of a government school in collaboration with the Connecting Dreams Foundation since 2017.
- C. The Unit has also adopted Sriram JJ Cluster near College and volunteers run several programmes in the slum under the initiative "SEVADEEP." Over 100 volunteers spend time daily with the slum children educating them. They have run several awareness drives along with organizing a self-defence workshop. They celebrate festivals with the people there and work very hard to shine light through the spirit of service.
- D. NSS Unit has also initiated the NSS week where events illustrating its core values are organized and celebrated.
- E. The NSS unit regularly organizes free health check-up camps for the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college and also in their adopted slum.
- F. NSS unit collaborates with different NGOs and provides add-on learning on the issues like women rights, menstrual hygiene and cyber safety, as well as hands-on training on CPR, first aid, road safety, etc.
- G. The Unit also conducts various competitions like slogan writing, poster making, debate, etc. to create awareness on the issues like environment, cancer, and tobacco.
- H. During the pandemic also NSS worked incessantly. It distributed food to the needy and provided medical assistance in the form of arranging online doctor's appointments, medical consultancy, information regarding availability of beds, oxygen cylinders, etc. The volunteers also disseminated relevant information through social media. Videos on different measures taken to prevent coronavirus spread and the making of a homemade mask tutorial were also made by NSS volunteers and circulated on social media to spread awareness.
- I. During this tough COVID time, NSS wing of the College has organized more than 200 webinars and workshops out of which 80 directly addressed the issues related to the COVID pandemic.

**Enactus ARSD:** Begun in 2017, Enactus is driven by the idea to bring about social change through entrepreneurship. Part of an international student initiative, Enactus believes that Entrepreneurial Action for others creates a better world for Us all. The ARSD Chapter has been concentrating on making underprivileged communities become self-sufficient. The members of the society not only provide viable business ideas to the needy, but also help them gain the necessary skills to carry out the activities involved. Social Entrepreneurship, which is the foundation of Enactus, has become an integral part in the business world, as it accompanies the welfare of the society, along with economic factors of running a business.

The Team has effectively achieved this goal by allowing the partner NGOs to entirely take over and manage the business they were initially a part owner of. The creative projects or entrepreneurial ideas, collaborations with various NGOs as well as the events organized by the society ensure the fulfilment of the SDGs envisioned by the UN. The team currently runs;

- A. Project "PROJECT KALAKAARI" enables economically and socially underprivileged ladies, in the slums of South Delhi to produce a wide range of handbags, cushion covers, backpacks and mobile charging stations using old t-shirts and jeans. The endeavour envisages optimization of unused clothes which are accumulated through social donation drives carried out by Enactus ARSD volunteers. These are then up-cycled by the workforce of ladies whose honing of entrepreneurship skills is taken forth by the Enactus members.
- B. "PROJECT SRIJAN" envisages moulding the power of nature, as the binding force in the empowerment of two communities- The gardeners' community and the potters' community. The venture works in two stages. Stage 1 encompasses the Enactus ARSD team approaching unemployed or seasonally unemployed gardeners and providing them job opportunities by growing and nurturing miniature plants: Air purifying plants, mosquito repellent plants and the likes. Stage 2 involves partnering these miniature plants with mini-pots which could be created by the potters' community. The collaborative product is then sold, the proceeds from which are shared amongst the labour force."
- C. "PROJECT SUGANDH" envisaged the creation of body soaps with biodegradable packaging, focusing on making hygiene products easily available to the underprivileged.
- D. "PROJECT SAMVEDNA" partnered with the NGO, Earth Saviours Foundation to help volunteers spend time at the Gurukul, a shelter for victims of trauma. By spending time and making donations, the Enactus team hopes to spread empathy and awareness.
- E. The team also organizes an annual exhibition-cum-sale: "Kaushal-Hunar se Atmanirbharta." In addition, Enactus ARSD has organized 30 events since its inception, spreading its message of inclusive change through entrepreneurial action.
- F. This year Enactus has started a new PROJECT "NIRAMAYA" which is working towards health and immunity.

<https://www.enactus.arsdcollege.ac.in/>

**The Women Development Cell** was instituted at ARSD College in 2013 with the objective to empower female students through higher education and skill development. The Cell believes in strengthening students by creating awareness about socio-political, cultural and legal perspectives through talks, workshops and symposiums. The Cell energizes students in their fight against cultures of oppression, silence, discrimination and alienation by becoming a forum

for exchange of ideas. Through its myriad activities—street plays, creative writing, poster making, debates, movie screenings, group discussions—the Cell sensitizes and educates female students in a holistic manner. From 2016-20, the Cell organized 18 events, including its annual 10-day Self-Defence Workshop organized in collaboration with Delhi Police, gender sensitization workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions with resource persons from a wide cross-section of society.

**The Equal Opportunity Cell** of ARSD College works to promote inclusivity on Campus, ensuring barrier-free access to all. The Cell organizes sensitization programmes to raise awareness about discrimination and to inspire all stakeholders to fight for equal and fair representation. During 2020-21, in collaboration with Help the Blind Foundation, Hong Kong, College has provided financial assistance of Rs 10000/- each to 6 visually-challenged students.

The College has signed an MoU with the Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies to provide a better environment and facilities to the differently-abled students of not only ARSD college but all the colleges of South Campus, Delhi University. In one of their initiatives, motorized wheelchairs, motorized scooters and Apple MacBook Air laptops were distributed to our needy students by the Society.

**Rangayan:** The College Dramatics Society stages social issues through its plays. By performing in social spaces, through its nukkad natak, Rangayan performances draw attention to governmental initiatives, pressing current concerns, systemic inequities. Rangayan performs during all College functions and events, and collaborates with other Societies such as NSS and WDC, highlighting the social relevance and importance of theatre as well as its transformative potential. The Theatre Training Workshop was organized by the students of the society for the children of the slums.

**The Eco Club**, ARSD College is sponsored by the Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT Delhi. It organized a film screening, a lecture on Climate Change and Delhi Pollution, along with several competitions. The Eco Club works to raise awareness about environmental concerns, undertakes tree planting initiatives and runs other public-interest campaigns related to clean, green methods. The club celebrates Earth Day every year and also creates awareness against hazards of pollution. It has an MoU with Jagruti Waste Paper Recycling Services to recycle waste paper. The Eco Club also undertakes recycling of waste paper.

**The Garden Committee** is also very active. It has conducted a tree census of the campus. Annual Green Audit of the campus is also conducted. ARSD strives to reduce, reuse, and recycle at every opportunity.

**The North East Welfare Committee** does an exemplary job in integrating the campus and also sensitizing the College body to the political situation in the North East. The Committee organizes an annual Orientation for Freshers along with the immensely popular Rainbow Festival that sees widespread participation from students across the University. They also organize movie screenings, panel discussions, and talks to spread awareness about pertinent issues.

**Star College Scheme:** Under the Star College Scheme, outreach programmes are conducted among nearby government schools in order to familiarize them with experimental methods in Chemistry and Physics. The schoolchildren are given a new perspective on the practical applicability of science.

## **Village Adoption- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

The College has participated in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship programme of the MHRD on rural development through use of affordable technologies. Recently, ARSD College has adopted 5 villages of South-West Delhi under this UBA programme. The issues addressed in the first phase are: Awareness generation, education, health, sanitation, drinking water, solid waste management, affordable housing technology, use of renewable energy, etc. During the pandemic, free distribution of masks, awareness campaigns about COVID testing, government guidelines, and awareness about vaccination were carried out in the selected villages. In the coming days, students and faculty together will make sure that villagers in these villages drink pure water, which is a severe issue at present. Participation of the villagers is encouraged in the UBA programme. A good number of faculty and students across the disciplines are members of the UBA Cell and are involved in this venture.

Along with these schemes, dedicated Societies, and other College Societies such as the NCC, the College are dedicatedly performing their social responsibilities. The departmental associations also do excellent work in spreading awareness about social issues.

During the Lockdown, the College crowdfunded one of the ex-students of the College, Chandan Kumar, whose family had been threatened with loss of livelihood and were on the verge of moving back to their village. With the help of funds sourced from the College body, Chandan was able to continue with his postgraduate studies and stay in Delhi. The College has offered full fee waiver to 12 students who lost their parents to COVID-19 in the collaboration with Gargi and Vidya Prakash foundation.

**College activities during pandemic:** [Annual Report](#)

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

#### **Problems encountered:**

- Funding
- Initial distrust shown by the target communities
- Permissions required from Government authorities
- Disruptions due to pandemic

#### **Resources required:**

- Student volunteers and faculty mentors
- Monetary resources
- Administrative support