

Department of Political Science

Impact Report on activities conducted in 2019 – 2020.

- 1. Sambal:** ‘Sambal’ which means support, is an initiative taken up by the Department of Political Science with a view to help Hindi medium students from the department. Every semester 4 – 5 sessions are held. Though the mode of the teaching in the department is bilingual, yet over the years we have found that there many Hindi medium students do face some problems and hesitate to speak during their classes. Also, there is a genuine problem of availability of material in Hindi language for the students to refer. ‘Sambal’ as a society was started in the year 2018 – 19 with objective to help hindi medium students providing them an exclusive platform where they can freely convey their problems and get them resolved. Students have benefitted from this initiative, gained confidence to speak out in classes and other forums.
- 2. Knowledge Club:** As a measure to enhance the quality of academics, the Department of Political Science started with its series of Knowledge Club in the year 2017 – 18. These sessions are broadly aimed at promoting critical enquiry in students through paper presentations on relevant themes, followed by debates and discussions around them. The students are encouraged to take up research on issue related to their discipline, and to present their views on the same. The paper presentations are followed by an open-house discussion. Knowledge club is a platform to encourage students to present their views on various subjects, to gain confidence to make presentation across various forums, to engage in meaningful dialogue both inside and outside the classroom.
- 3. Cinemates:** Cinemates was started with the aim to analyze the role of cinema in shaping our perspectives, opinions, and the dominant discourse on various social issues of our times. In every session movie screening is followed by a critical review involving both the students and faculty. It helps the students to develop a better understanding the perspectives associated with the subject of the movie but also the importance of creative art and how it can be used to convey and portray the realities confronting the society.

4. **E-Journal:** Launched in the year 2016 – 17, 'VOICE' is an avenue to connect flowing thoughts by way of putting together the aspirations and artistic expressions of the students. It is an attempt aimed at providing not only an intellectual but a comprehensive and holistic platform for the students to voice their views pertaining to larger issues of society, environment, policies and the world at large. The enthusiasm shown by students in putting every edition together has been without a parallel. The journal is a platform for the students to voice their creativity and freedom of expression– about various facets of society, as well as to question set patterns and, in the bargain, contribute towards building a new society through essays, poems, articles, political cartoons, satire, and interviews.

5. **Manushi: Chronicles From Her Story:** A talk on "Understanding Women's Rights in India: Laws and Institutions by Ms. Swati Maliwal had organized an workshop – (Chairperson Delhi Commission for Women) and Mr. Sandeep Banga (Advocate, Delhi High Court). The Department interactive session with above esteemed speakers on the issue of women's rights and safety. Ms. Swati Maliwal during her session highlighted the various initiatives the DWC has undertaken with regard to the myriads of challenges faced by women every day. Mr. Sandeep Banga shared valuable information regarding various legal recourse available to women. He focused on the practical aspect of the laws enacted to help and empower women. Focusing on legal awareness about women laws, rights and institutions and its implementation in modern India. Narrating women issues mainly atrocities, offences and crimes covering areas as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, prostitution, acid attack, dowry deaths etc. The students were highly benefitted through this workshop since it helped them to gain an deeper insight in to the various issues related to women.

6. **Polifiesta – The Department Annual Fest:** The Department of Political Science had organized a one-day inter-college fest. It consisted of 3 events namely, debate competition, quiz competition and poster making competition. The fest was organized on the theme of 'Celebrating 71 years of Indian Republic'. The response from various colleges was overwhelming and students exhibited great interest in the event during the entire duration

7. **Online Safety Workshop for Women:** On 26th April 2020 the Department of Political Science organized a one day workshop on 'Cyber Security'. It was conducted by Mr. Rakshit

Tandon is a Cyber Security Expert and Consultant at IAMAI. In the past two months, the world as we knew of it has changed dramatically. In this changed scenario " work from home" is the new norm and likely hood will continue to be this way for some time to come. This brings into focus the new tools for working from home - the internet. The medium that we used as an option is now the only way out. Robust internet connectivity is all set to drive day to day activities. However, along with the massive advantages - there are new predators online, and as always, these have to be dealt with care. In this webinar, the issues and threats faced in this scenario was addressed.

- 8. Research Mentoring:** As a part of the IQAC-directed Research Mentoring scheme, the Department of Political Science successfully submitted a research titled 'A Case Study on the Impacts of Online Mode of Learning on Education'. The endeavor was aimed at training the students in the exercise of research designing and writing. The significance of the basics of research is immense in the academic lives of the students as it prepares them for the rigors of higher studies. With this purpose in mind, a group of six students from within the Department of Political Science and the Programme course, was formed. The group met in regular sessions with the faculty coordinator to discuss and understand the basic nuances of research-writing. Step-by-step the group was introduced to the different stages of a research, and were also familiarized with the kind of resources a researcher works with. The students were made aware of the importance of the technique involved in designing a research which must be adhered to in order to produce an empirically sound work.
- 9. Peer Mentoring:** The Dept. of Political Science as part of its academic initiative has introduced peer mentoring amongst its students. The objective is to provide knowledge, support along with leadership and development opportunities to the students. As part of the peer mentoring program few selected 3rd year students will participate as mentors providing guidance, motivation, and support to the 2nd year students.
- 10. Short-Term Course:** A 30 hour online short term course was organized by the Department of Political Science and IQAC, Mata Sundri College for Women, Delhi University in collaboration with Forum for Democracy from 1st November,2020 to 13th November,2020. The course was conducted through online mode and it has been designed keeping in mind multiple aspects of comparative study, new perspectives, scholarly engagements, strategic

evaluation methods, assessment techniques and case study method among many other innovative approaches. The course was enrolled by 98 students and 77 students successfully completed the course. The course has been designed with to focus on broadening the understanding on Gender Equality and its various dimensions with an interdisciplinary approach. It will provide the students to learn and examine the various socio-economic, political, psychological along with cultural conundrum pertaining to gender. The course curriculum enunciates on a multilayered and multidisciplinary framework encompassing disciplines of law, history, economics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, political science and literature among many others. The goal was also to enhance awareness of current as well as lived experiences around gender, and of the numerous intersectional attributes of gender with other social identities and political standpoints. This course applies a method of integrative learning that would be facilitated through trainings and lectures imparted by academicians, practitioners, common voices, representatives of different sectors as well as advanced level of student participation.

11. Webinar – Impact of COVID 19 in India: A Perspective – 2020 has been an unprecedented year for mankind. COVID – 19 impacted each society and country, irrespective of colour, caste, gender, race. It tested the viability of public institutions across the world. India being no exception. COVID – 19, put enormous pressure on the society, especially on the marginalized section. It emerged as an huge a challenge for the government which was trying to reach out to the millions effected by Covid -19. The Dept. of Political Science in collaboration with the IQAC organized a webinar on the impact of covid and public policy response towards it. Prof. Amita Singh, Centre for Law and Governance, JNU along with Prof. Badrul Alam (Retd.), Dept. of Political Science spoke on how the COVID – 19 impacted the lives of people and what has been the role of public policy in this context.

12. Webinar - Parliament in Democracy and Role of an Individual Parliamentarian: The Dept. of Political Science in association with Praja Foundation and PRS- Legislative Research organized a webinar on Parliament in Democracy & Role of an individual Parliamentarian on **19th Nov. 2020**. The objective of this webinar was to highlight the role of Parliament in a democracy. As an institution Parliament's role in sustaining the values and the ethos of democracy is vital. As the representative of people, Parliamentarians are critical in the functioning and upholding the ideals, tenets of the institution of democracy. The lecture was

delivered by Mr. Saket Surya, Analyst, PRS. He focused on the various nuisances associated with the working of Parliament. This webinar was an attempt to stress upon importance and the significance of Parliament for Indian democracy. This was also an opportunity for the students to hear and discuss about different perspectives on the subject, to be able to better understand the complexities associated with the functioning of an institution like Parliament. More than 70 students had participated, the lecture was followed by question - answers and discussion.