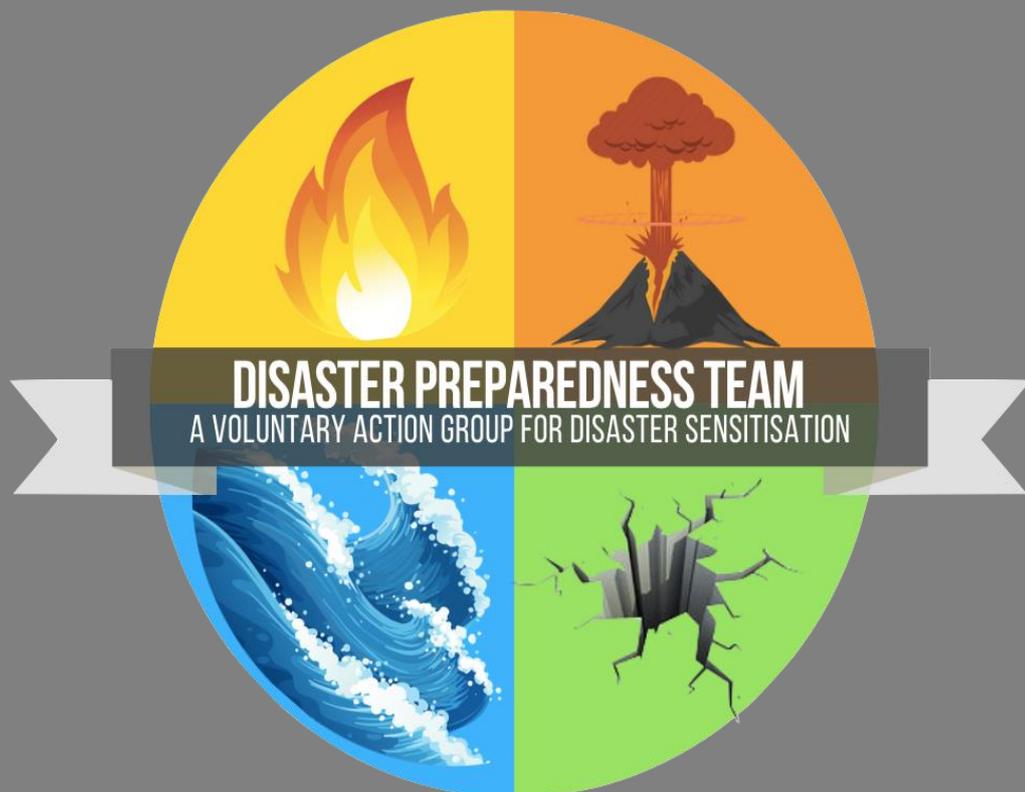


**DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS TEAM  
MIRANDA HOUSE  
INITIATIVES**



## **ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

Miranda House was established soon after independence in 1948 and has been carrying its legacy ever since. It was set up for women with high goals and ideals and trying to be at par with men in new independent society. They worked for a new society in which women would enjoy equal opportunity with men in professional and public fields. Focused on the mission of women empowerment, Miranda House has strengthened and is growing as an institution maintaining its traditions over near seven decades. It has provided a niche helping achieve academic goals as well as providing high cultural heritage. The stated mission of the college is to provide a stimulating active learning environment attracting young women with exceptional desire to make a difference to the world. The corridors of Miranda continue to resound with the footfalls of generations of young women, the alumna who ventured forth to uphold these traditions of Miranda and be achievers in their chosen field of enterprise.

Being a college established and maintained by the University, Miranda House has a special place among the women's colleges of the University of Delhi. Its location in the heart of the University Campus and its close interaction with the various Departments of the University and other campus colleges gives it a unique advantage. Although a women's college, it is not a cloister. It welcomes interaction with other colleges and educational organizations across the country.



One of the mission of the college is to provide enriching co-curricular activities linking education to the world of work and communities. The college recognizes that there are no shortcuts and what it takes to change the world. Disaster Preparedness Team is one such initiative to bring the change in world by making people aware about disaster risk.

## **ABOUT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TEAM**

***The Background:*** Disasters have been affecting our lives in many ways and the vulnerability of people and places are quite evident from the disaster impacts. It not only brings widespread misery to the inhabitants of the disaster prone areas but is a huge setback to our development process. Most of the time, it is the feeling of helplessness and apathy shown by us which is highly disturbing. We are often reminded of the casual approach in which we ignore risk that has been lurking around the corner, outside our homes, institutions, workplaces and other utility centres.

India is particularly vulnerable to disasters due to its large population and widespread poverty. Lack of awareness and preparedness has further intensified this risk. At times even simple emergencies can turn into disasters due to poor and delayed responses. Disaster preparedness is thus essential in reducing risk as it enhances the capability of the communities to withstand disasters.

***The Rationale:*** Educational institutions like ours can greatly contribute by initiating research and engagement of youth in disaster awareness, education and preparedness programmes. The need of the hour is to enhance preparedness by adopting safety measures as a habit. Creating a culture of “being prepared” needs to begin early in one’s life. It is also essential to focus on various aspects of disaster mitigation and risk aversion. All this needs careful application of theoretical and field knowledge that can come from in depth research. Also disaster information and education needs to be disseminated through the outreach programmes.

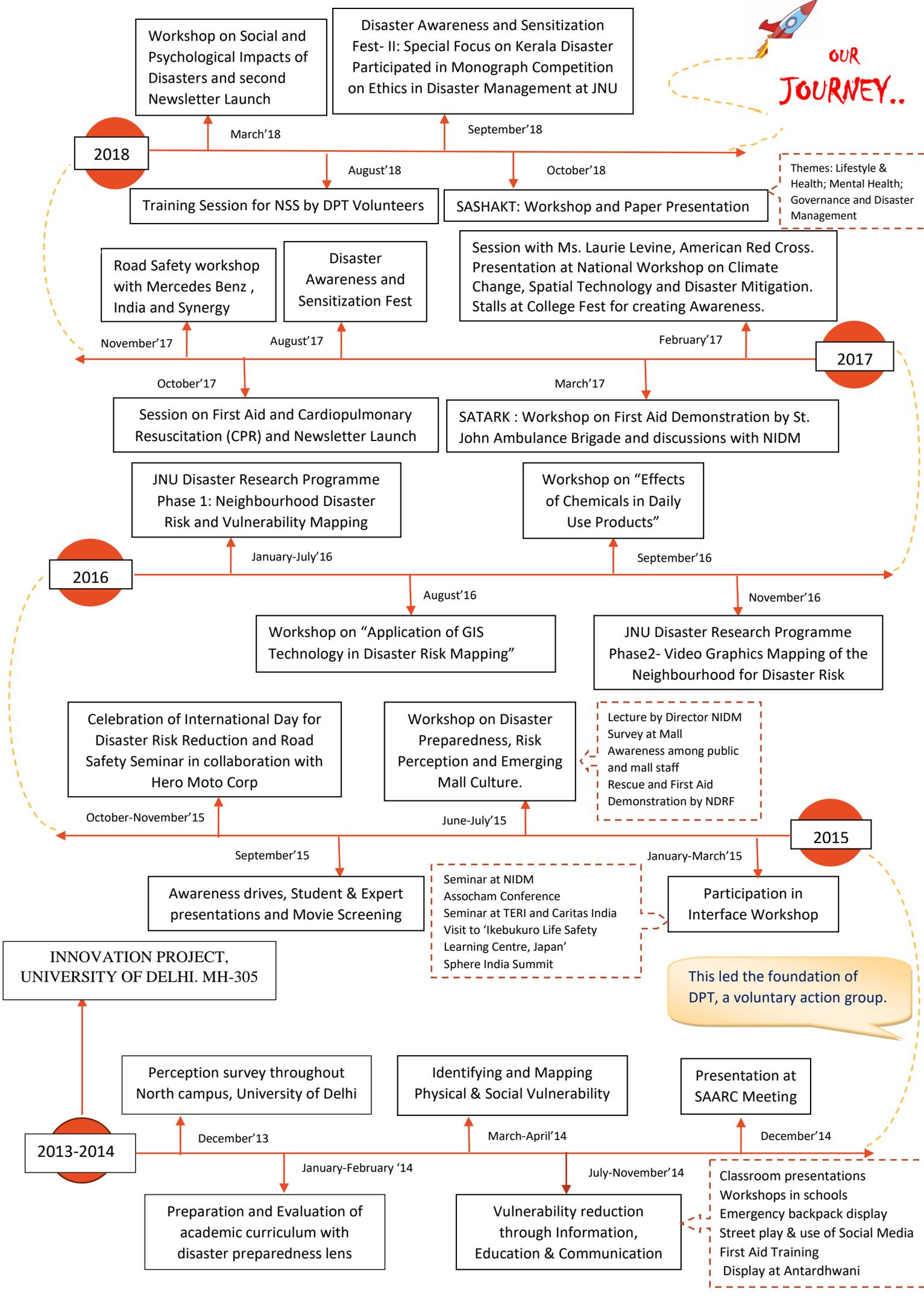
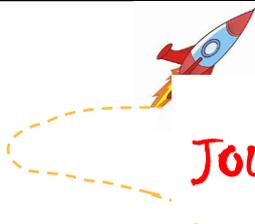
***Formative Steps:*** The efforts for disaster preparedness had been started by students and teachers of ‘Disaster Management Course’ run by Geography Department of Miranda House as part of their curriculum. The students also took initiative to expand the outreach of the programme outside their classroom. They tried to promote awareness about disasters through various campaigns.

This initial step formed the base, which is continuously being expanded and sustained to turn the initiative into a larger movement and bring more and more people under the ambit of sensitization. This laid the foundation of the Disaster Preparedness Team (DPT) of the college to sensitize individuals and institutions and create a culture of disaster resilience. The aim was to work on community participation for disaster preparedness in and around the college campus. The major thrust is on educating this community to pre-empt the disaster vulnerability in their neighbourhood and their city in general.

The effort which started as a project in 2013-14, under the Delhi University innovation scheme initially, continued at the later stage for humanitarian concern. Since then there has been a series of activities undertaken by many batches of students who have passionately passed on the baton to the next generation of preparedness contingent. With wholehearted support from the college they have been putting their best effort for this cause. It is no more a co-curricular activity for them but a means to fulfil their dreams of social commitment. Many of the outgoing students have deeply benefitted from this work and are now trying to make it a career option.

*“The obstacles had been many,  
but none big enough to break the passionate storm that we are.”*

**OUR JOURNEY..**



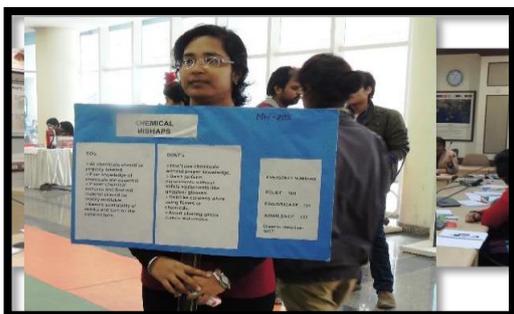
# **PROJECT AND RESEARCH UNDERTAKINGS**

## ***INNOVATION PROJECT (2013-14):***

The initiative began with the students coming together under the Delhi University funded Innovation Project in 2013-14. The project title by the name, “**Disaster Preparedness Developing Strategy for Vulnerability Reduction through Information, Education and Communication**”, provided a window to students to understand the criticality of the disaster risk problem area, and identify the magnitude and nature of the disaster related problem. The innovation project was undertaken in following steps under the **mentorship of Prof. Santosh Kumar Director, NIDM:**

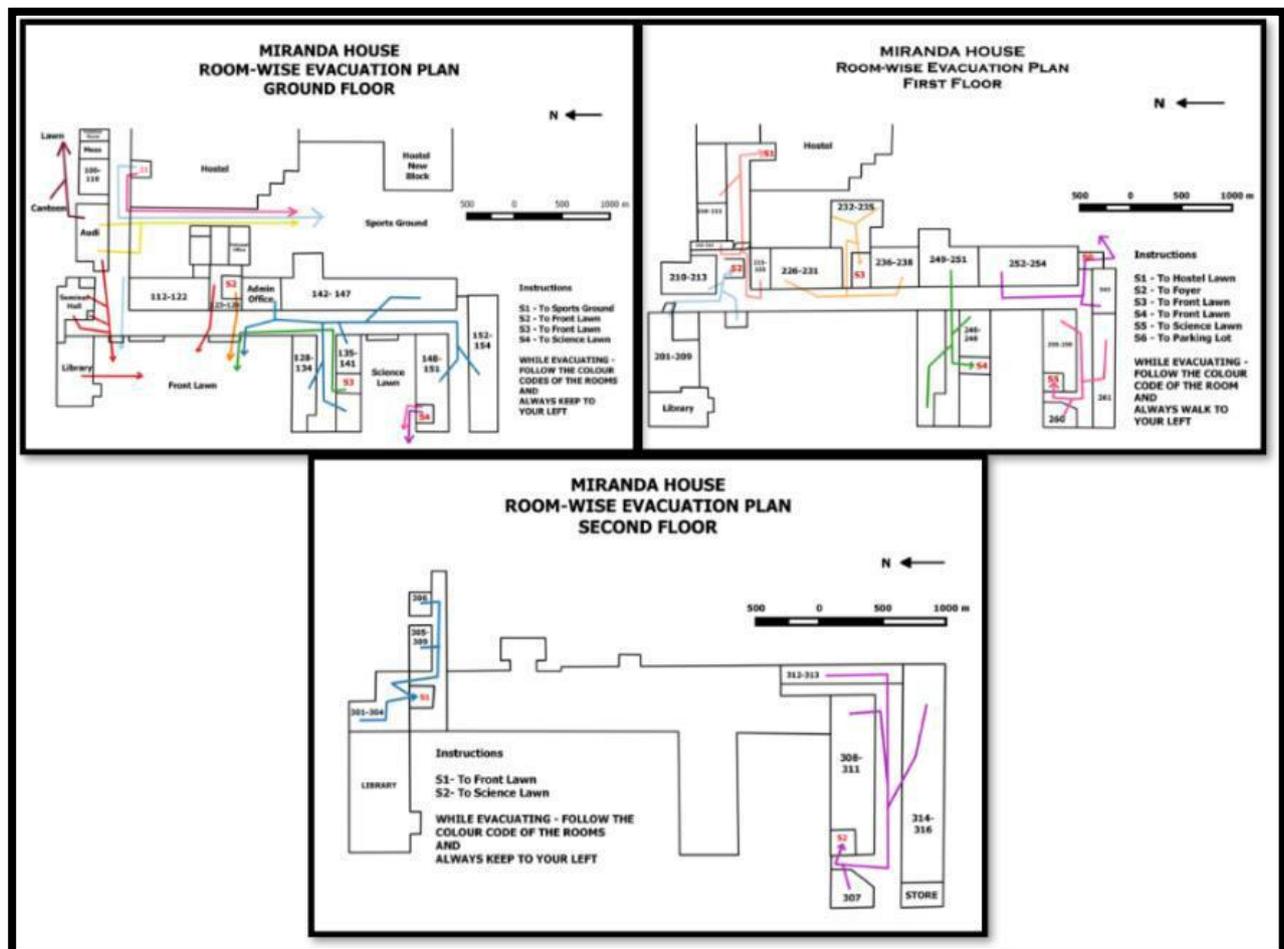
- *Perception Surveys* – In order to understand the vulnerability factors, a perception poll was conducted in various institutions. Interactive round of Group discussion was also organised to get a better understanding of the problem.
- *Preparation and Evaluation of academic curriculum from disaster preparedness lens.*
- *Identifying the Physical and Social vulnerability* – This involved the Map study, building Plan Study, identification of vulnerability hotspots and residential area survey.
- *Vulnerability Reduction through Information, Education and Communication* – From time to time, the team took the initiative of disseminating information to the community through tools like social media, radio Antardwani, personal interaction, classroom lectures, workshops in school, distribution of pamphlets, street play, display of placards and posters. The team also displayed emergency backpack, first aid demonstration and did crowd management in college fest.

This year long project, gained immense attention and had been appreciated by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). It created the wave of motivation among the students for carrying out such initiative and creating awareness and sensitization among community.



## ***PROJECT: EVACUATION PLAN OF MIRANDA HOUSE***

Following the Innovation Project, the team also made a colour coded map as evacuation plan of the college using Geographical Information System (GIS) software. The evacuation map was designed after a detailed study of the capacity of each and every room of the college, along with its dimension and number of people using the exits, width of corridors, availability and accessibility to open spaces. The evacuation plan has been approved by the Head of Institution.



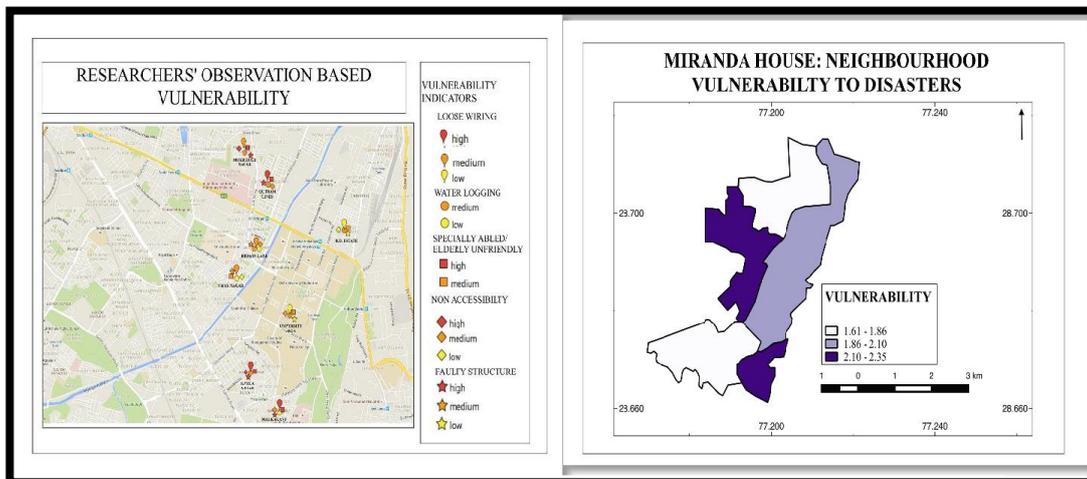
### ***MIRANDA HOUSE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS***

The team would undertake another task soon by updating this plan by including the new academic block which is coming up soon. It has been proposed that a plan for the hostel block would also be created separately.

## ***JNU DISASTER RESEARCH PROGRAMME PHASE 1:***

### ***NEIGHBOURHOOD DISASTER RISK AND VULNERABILITY MAPPING***

Another stepping stone for the team came in the form of JNU Disaster Research Programme. The team fervently undertook the Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Mapping of the neighbourhood in 2016. Students carried out detailed surveys of households, commercial and institutional establishments. Based on the collected data as well as the observed data by the student researchers, elaborate maps were created for the neighbourhood. Different localities were assessed for their vulnerability and different maps were created to represent the same. The report laid down the exhaustive analysis of the neighbourhood along with probable steps to mitigate the danger. Along with the disaster mapping, students also focused on the resource mapping of the selected localities, to act as an assistive tool in times of disaster, both to the general public as well as specialized agencies.



## ***JNU DISASTER RESEARCH PROGRAMME PHASE 2:***

### ***DOCUMENTARY: 'MAPPING THROUGH THE LENS' VIDEO GRAPHICS MAPPING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR DISASTER RISK AWARENESS***

In the Month of November 2016 students got an opportunity to continue their work on neighbourhood mapping under JNU Disaster Research Programme. This time, the team decided to work on the documentation through a documentary. The documentary incorporated the viewpoints of community members, who are the first responders in case of disasters as well as experts working in the field. The primary aim behind making a documentary was to bridge the gap between academia and the larger community. The documentary provided a platform for the team to realise its mission of making disaster preparedness a daily life ritual of each and every member of the community and society at large.



#### ***SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY: "MAPPING THROUGH THE LENS"***

Following the successful completion of the documentary making, the team had a meeting with Vice Chancellor (Prof. Yogesh Tyagi) of Delhi University. The meeting gave the team important clues to its future course, along with words of strong appreciation and encouragement from VC. The team consulted VC to organize the entire North Campus college community and head this synergetic group to map the surrounding area for disaster vulnerability, awareness and preparedness.

# **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

## **(ORGANISED AND PARTICIPATED)**



### ***PARTICIPATED***

Following the innovation project, the team members attended several workshops and conferences, where they got a chance to share their experiences through presentations. The important conferences and summits were

- SAARC Disaster Management Centre Meeting with members of SAARC countries.
- Interactive Session at 'National Disaster Response Force' office with DG, NDRF and Professor Santosh Kumar, Director of National Institute of Disaster Management.
- Sphere India Summit on youth and DRR
- World Humanitarian Day, at Press Club, organized by Caritas India.

### ***ORGANISED***

Within the innovation project, the team has organised various awareness drives, mock drills, demonstration and emergency backpack display. A seven day course on First aid and home nursing was also organised for teachers, students, and non-teaching staff. The training was provided by St. John's Ambulance.



2015

## ***SUMMER WORKSHOP 2015***

A summer workshop was organised in Miranda House to enhance the skill sets along with increasing awareness among the student community of the college. The workshop conducted in the summers of 2015 was built around the focal nuclei of Disaster Preparedness, Risk Perception and Emerging Mall Culture. Following were the major highlights of the event:

- Introductory lecture by **Professor Santosh Kumar, Director of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**.
- Reconnaissance survey of two malls in Delhi.
- Assessed disaster preparedness in malls and awareness among public and mall staff.
- Rescue demonstrations by **National Disaster Response Force personnel** in the college.
- Post-disaster first aid demonstration in the college.

## ***AWARENESS DRIVE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH***

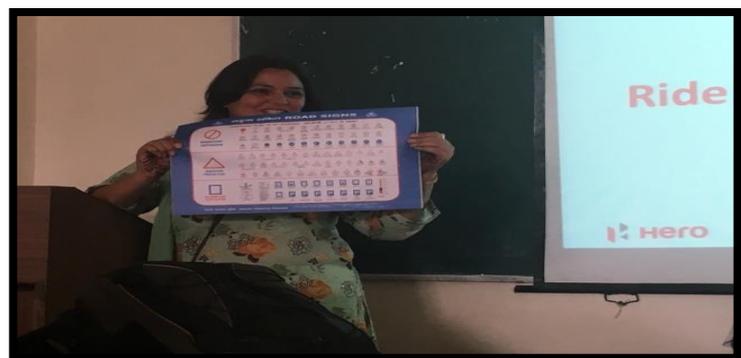
The team was ardent in its mission to spearhead the awareness generation for disasters so as to increase the preparedness levels. Keeping its immediate focus on the student community as the vehicle of change, it celebrated September 2015 as Disaster Preparedness month. During the entire month, the team organized several events and awareness drives focused on enhanced utilization of audio- visual mediums in form of movie screenings, acts, etc. An interactive Session with **Mr. Neel Kamal, Director Information and dissemination, Red Cross society**, in which the speaker stressed on the importance of being prepared and making oneself relevant for the society by incorporating first aid as part of life skills.

## ***INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION***

Following a successful Disaster Preparedness Month, the team organized a special event to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015. The event saw stupendous student participation. There were different presentations by students, bringing forth their personal experiences as well as discussion of their work in the field of disaster management. Apart from student presentations, awareness quiz, documentary screening, display of emergency backpack as well as emergency rescue demonstration was conducted.

## ***ROAD SAFETY SEMINAR***

A road safety seminar was also organised in response to increasing road accidents due to lack of awareness. The seminar was in collaboration **Hero Moto Corp.**





2016

### ***WORKSHOP ON “APPLICATION OF GIS IN DISASTER RISK MAPPING”***

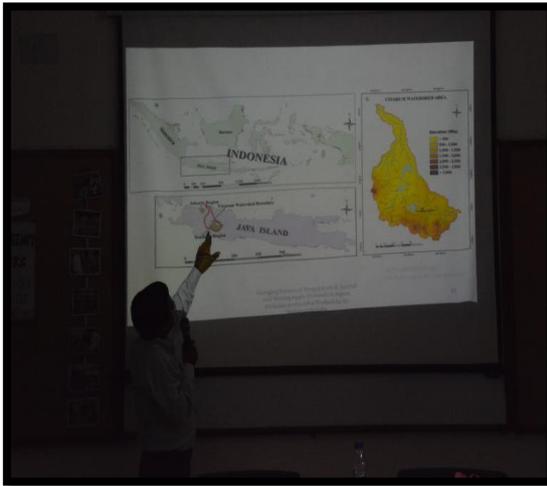
The team organized different workshops to increase awareness levels as well as to enhance skills for research in disaster risk mapping. The team decided to organise a workshop in August 2016 on Application of GIS in Disaster Risk Mapping, to enable a larger group of students to employ the technology in the field.

The workshop had the participation of distinguished personalities in the field on GIS and Disaster Risk Assessment along with a hands-on workshop for the students. It was an effort to inoculate knowledge and interest among participants for research/ innovation in the field of Disaster Management using technology.

### ***WORKSHOP ON “EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS IN DAILY USE PRODUCTS”***

Another three days’ Workshop was conducted in the month of September 2016 drawing attention to the Effects of Chemicals in Daily Use products. The workshop focused on the detailed assessment of daily use products and their potential hazard value in day to day lives.

The workshop had distinguished professionals and researchers as expert lecturers. **Dr Yamini Charaya, (Dermatologist), Ms Ananya Tewari. (Research expert, Centre for Science and Environment) and Mr N.K. Singh, Deputy Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society** gave elaborate lectures on their topics of specialization. The event culminated with presentations by participating students.



*WORKSHOP ON "APPLICATION OF GIS IN DISASTER MAPPING"*



*WORKSHOP ON "EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS IN DAILY USE PRODUCT"*



2017

***THREE DAY INTERACTIVE SESSION:*** Disaster Preparedness Team organised a three days Interactive session with **Ms Laurie Levine, Mass Care Specialist and Emergency Operations Coordinator, American Red Cross** which targeted for her review on the initiatives of DPT Miranda House.

***PAPER PRESENTATION AT NATIONAL WORKSHOP:*** The team in the quest to generate maximum awareness and increase their outreach participated in the National Workshop on “Climate Change, Spatial Technology and Disaster Mitigation” The student team presented a paper on “Disaster Preparedness Through Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Mapping”. The work of the team was considered as a benchmark and a model to be used by the larger student communities for the purpose of disaster preparedness and sensitisation

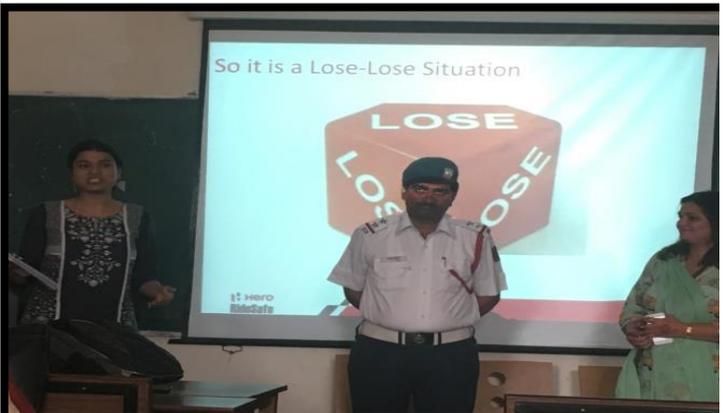
***STALL SET UP:*** To reach out to the larger student community, the team set up a stall on the annual fest of Miranda House.

***“SATARK: BE PREPARED AND NOT SCARED”:*** In order to increase the level of skill sets and preparedness among the group in itself, the DPT organizes a workshop, with the collaboration of NIDM which incorporated first aid demonstration by **Dr T.N. Pal, Assistant Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade Delhi**. There was also a closed group discussion with **Professor Santosh Kumar, Director NIDM**.

***DISASTER AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION FEST:*** A two-day event dedicated to broadening student’s perspectives on the various disasters and their implications on the society was organised which comprises intensive group discussion and competitions.

***INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:*** DPT organised a session on First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) with **Dr Angela Sharma** and a Memory Training Session with **Mr Anant Kasibatla**. The session on First Aid was open to all the students and was helpful in providing an understanding of basic First Aid and CPR. First **newsletter** was also launched on the same day to create more awareness to larger masses.

***‘SAFE ROADS’:*** To initiate the practice of road safety among college students, a workshop was conducted in collaboration with Mercedes Benz India and Synergy.



A yellow calendar icon with the year 2018 written inside a white box. Below the box is a grey bar with the text "January to June".

2018

January to June

### ***FIRST AID CERTIFICATE COURSE:***

A certificate course on First Aid with **Dr Angela Sharma from Soul Guard** as the chief instructor was held to launch a skill-based programme. Twenty-five students across various departments of Miranda House participated in the workshop. The participants learned how to administer CPR and Heimlich manoeuvre. The workshop included sessions on burns, heat and cold stroke, choking, drowning, head injuries, bleeding, insect-bite, dog-bite, snake-bite, fracture, bandaging, asthma attack and acid attack. It gave a hands-on experience to all the participants on how to efficiently administer first aid in case of emergencies

### ***WORKSHOP ON “SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF DISASTERS”:***

A three-day workshop on Social and Psychological Impacts of Disasters was organized by the team to understand and debate on long-lasting impacts of disasters on the society. There were many participants from other colleges too and two teachers from DPS, Vasant Kunj. The eminent speakers were **Mr Rakshit Tandon, Cyber Security Expert, Mr Blesson Samuel, Senior Manager, Emergency Relief at World Vision India, Dr Dinesh Kataria, a Psychiatrist at Lady Hardinge Hospital and Homolata Borah**, alumni of the geography department and a researcher at JNU.

The final day of the Workshop involved a Skype Seminar with **Ms Laurie Levine (States Relations Disaster Liaison and Mass Care Coordinator, American Red Cross)** and **Aly Finn (Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross)**. Both of them gave an insight on emergency operations in the US and also advised the participants to take up community based disaster risk reduction programmes. The session was highly interactive, where participants asked various questions related to the role of civil society in disaster management and psychological aspects of humanitarian relief. DPT also released its **second edition of the newsletter SATARK**.

With the beginning of new session the team has attended various conferences like Global Resilience Conference at Indian International Habitat Centre, Seminar at JNU on Ethics and Disaster Management.



2018

July - December

### ***TRAINING SESSION BY VOLUNTEERS:***

DPT conducted a training session for disaster sensitization which consists of an interactive lecture by team members on natural and man-made disaster and a small demonstration of First Aid, CPR and Emergency Backpack to prepare the NSS volunteers to further disseminate the knowledge to the community under their social work initiatives

### ***DISASTER AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION FEST – II:***

The event was specially focused on Kerala Flood. The event aimed to motivate the youth to support the state Kerala in their worst times through Documentary Screening and Interactive Lecture Session by **Ms Akanchha Singh, Research Fellow at CSRD, JNU**. Various competition were also organised to broaden the thinking of the participants about disaster.

### ***SASHAKT: BE ONE STEP AHEAD OF DISASTER:***

On account of International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction, DPT organised a three-day workshop along with Paper Presentation. The first day of the workshop was focused on 'Disastrous Impact of Changing Lifestyle on Health'. **Dr Priti Nanda Sibal from MediSkool Health Services** shared her valuable knowledge through games, targets and dance. The second day of the workshop had a special focus on Disaster Management. A **Panel Discussion on "Research and Disaster Management"** was undertaken where **Alumnae of DPT** from various fields gathered and shared their point of view to give an interdisciplinary understanding of the theme. In the end, a Paper Presentation competition was organised on the theme "Governance and Disaster Management". The focus of the last day of the workshop was on Mental Health. A lecture session was organised by members of the Round Glass Team along with meditation and gratitude activity. The second part of the day was accompanied by Dance Therapy by **Ms Nilanjana Parijat**. She explained the importance of dance and how its positive effects on mental health. She also did a practical session of dance therapy with all the participants.



# THE LAURELS

***Appreciation by NDRF*** – The initiative taken by the students under Innovation Project gained immense appreciation from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). They emphasised the awareness drives and mapping done by the volunteers for disaster sensitization at grass root level.

***Appreciation by Vice Chancellor of DU*** – Moved by the achievements of DPT and the recognition garnered by it at various premier academic institutes and media, Prof. Yogesh Tyagi, VC of University of Delhi invited DPT to have a focused talk with the members. He discussed the future avenues to take the movement ahead and spread it across DU and also the options to institutionalise it, and make disaster preparedness an integral practise of DU life.



*DPT at VC OFFICE*

***Appreciation by American Red Cross*** – The work undertaken by the team has also been appreciated by Ms. Laurie Levine (Mass Care Specialist and Emergency Operations Coordinator, American Red Cross). She provided the international review to the work to increase the outreach and effectiveness of the initiative. She really appreciated that the team is promoting Emergency Back Pack.



*DPT at Ms. Laurie Levine (American Red Cross)*

***Collaboration with NIDM and JNU*** – The team also got an opportunity to do workshops with collaboration of National Institute of Disaster Management. Prof. Santosh Kumar, Former Director NIDM supported the team a lot throughout the course of initiatives taken by the team. Jawaharlal Nehru University has also collaborated many projects with the Voluntary Action Group, DPT.

***Invitation from National Level Conferences*** – Looking at the works undertaken by the team, DPT has been invited at various forums to present and discuss like SAARC Summit, US AID Assocham Conference, Global Resilience Conference, and Sphere India Summit etc.



*DPT at ASSOCHAM CONFERENCE*



*DPT AT NIDM OFFICE*

***Special Mention at SCDR, JNU*** - The efforts of the team has been repeatedly mentioned and appreciated at various conferences and seminars conducted by SCDR, JNU.

**Recognition in Newspapers** - The initiatives taken by the team has been recognised in the newspapers like 'Times of India' and 'Punjab Kesari'.

## DISASTER READINESS

As part of an innovation project, a Delhi college hosts a seven-day first aid and home nursing certificate course

Sarah.Zia@timesgroup.com

About 30 students as well as faculty and non-teaching staff of Miranda House recently took part in a seven-day certificate course in first aid and home nursing.

In collaboration with St. John

Ambulance, a social service organisation, the course was conducted as part of an innovation project on disaster preparedness. A multi-department project — though led mainly by the department of geography — is aimed at preparing a strategy for vulnerability reduction

through information, education and communication.

"This is a long-term project where students are taking the lead to organise mock drills, conduct safety audits and impart the necessary training to their peers by involving relevant organisations," explains Pratibha Jolly, principal, Miranda House. "Prior to this course, students organised a safety drill with colour-coded maps and evacuation plans in association with the National Institute of Disaster Man-

agement." According to Jolly, disaster preparedness is an important skill because a prepared group of volunteers can help reduce losses in an emergency.

Based on the premise of peer training, the certificate course is a master class with representatives from different departments. "Participants are introduced to the basics of human anatomy, given hands-on training in tying different types of bandages, how to form a chair by linking one's hands, how to lift people with dif-

ferent types of injuries, among other things," says Punam Behan, associate professor, department of geography and one of the course participants.

As a part of this project, students prepared small kits consisting of important but inexpensive medicines and basic food items for various emergencies.

The college plans to conduct more such activities. "Mock drills and safety training cannot be one-off exercises and have to be followed up," sums up Jolly.



Apart from these, the volunteers are appreciated individually at various forums like Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Centre in Japan, Gurugram Police Cyber Security Summer Internship, Monograph writing competition on 'Ethics and Disaster Management' at JNU and during presentation at National Workshop at Swami Shraddhanand College etc.

## WAY FORWARD

- Regular Mock Drills in college
- Updating and revising Evacuation Plan of the college
- Training and sensitizing differently abled students.
- Workshops in neighbourhood schools.
- Creating a Youth Brigade of University students for disaster preparedness.

*The team intends to establish a centre in near future to have more comprehensive approach towards disaster studies.*

## Faculty Co-ordinator



Dr Rakhi Parijat

## Student Co-ordinator



Anshika Yaduvanshi



Anjali Sharma



Sravani

(Batch of 2016-19)

*Special thanks to Ms. Divyakshi Jain, Alumni of DPT (batch of 2017) for her help and guidance in compilation of the activities into the brochure.*



MAPPING THROUGH THE LENS, A DOCUMENTARY BY DPT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBO5-uVyRT8>

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FACEBOOK PAGE:

<http://www.facebook.com/disaster.awareness/?fref=ts>