

Annual Report 2023-24

Society Name – Lakshita, The Enabling Unit

Ø Overview of the Society- Lakshita, the Enabling Unit functions on the motto of Inclusivity and Accessibility both physical & social for all. The focus is on creating and enabling a barrier free environment. While it is the policy of the college to provide the best support to all students, special care is taken to ensure adequate resources are available to those with any disability. The Amba Dalmia Digital Resource Centre for Visually Challenged students (ADRC), established in 2006, is the first of its kind in the university, the center has installed a scanner, E-book reader, voice recorder, braille Embosser and Lex scanner. Additionally, all differently abled students have been issued laptops. Screen reading and OCR softwares has been installed on the laptops of all visually impaired students. This includes Braille face and Lex scanner compatible software. The students have also been issued DAISY angel recorders.

ADRC also runs a well structured certificate course in computer application for the visually challenged students.

Ø Activities-

- 1. Visit by The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment-** On 24th August 2023, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, members of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities visited Miranda House's Lakshita: The Enabling Unit. The interactive session, held in the IQAC Room, addressed accessibility facilities and student concerns. Discussions focused on issues with scholarships through the National Scholarship Portal, Help The Blind Foundation, and NIEPVD, including document validation and income criteria problems. Concerns about the Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) were also raised. Suggestions for improvements were collected, aiming for enhancements based on student feedback. The session was insightful, highlighting key issues for future consideration.
- 2. Workshop cum Interactive Session on Financial Literacy by Mr. Vivek Pathak:** On 20th September 2023, Lakshita hosted a workshop on Financial Literacy led by Mr. Vivek Pathak. The session began with a relatable story featuring Rahul and Mr. Ashok to illustrate key financial concepts. Mr. Pathak covered topics such as Fixed Deposits, the Power of Compounding, and Inflation, emphasizing the importance of making compounding work for you and avoiding inflation's impact. He discussed Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) and investment tips, recommending established companies and innovative firms. The workshop also highlighted emergency, family, and retirement

planning. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A and the quote: "Right action is needed in the right direction to have a good future."

- 3. Talent Hunt Show on the theme "Say no to Corruption, Commit to the Nation" in collaboration with National Insurance Company Limited:** On 5th October 2023, Lakshita, in collaboration with National Insurance Company Limited, hosted a Talent Hunt Show themed "Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation" during National Vigilance Awareness Week. Held in the auditorium, the event featured performances including songs, poems, speeches, and skits, judged by Mr. Rakesh Kadayla, Mr. Shrinivas Solanki, Dr. Ankita Chauhan, and Dr. Rajni. Participants, evaluated on theme relevance, innovation, and presentation, concluded with oaths against bribery. Winners included Sachin Kumar (Kirori Mal College), Neeru and Miracle (St. Stephen's College), and Deepika (Miranda House), with consolation prizes awarded to Ravi Shankar, Shreya, and Yashoda Kumawat.
- 4. Empowerment Through Legal Awareness- A Two - Week Certificate Program for VI Students of Miranda House:** From 2nd to 16th August 2023, Miranda House's Legal Aid Centre and Lakshita: The Enabling Unit conducted an online certificate program on "Empowerment through Legal Awareness" for visually impaired students. The course included quizzes and audio materials on legal topics. Out of 11 participants, 7 earned certificates.
- 5. Disability Sensitisation Programme:** On November 30, 2023, Miranda House's Lakshita Enabling Unit held a Disability Sensitisation Programme at Nescafe Lawns to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event featured interactive activities such as lip-syncing challenges, one-handed shirt buttoning, and drawing with non-dominant hands to simulate the daily challenges faced by students with special needs. Participants also explored Braille and tactile books. Both students and faculty engaged actively, fostering empathy and inclusivity. The programme effectively bridged gaps between the able-bodied and differently-abled, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive community at Miranda House.
- 6. Debate Competition on the Women's Reservation Bill:** On February 1, 2024, Lakshita: the Enabling Unit of Miranda House, hosted a debate on the theme "Women's Reservation Bill: a revolutionary step or an election gimmick?" in Room 145. The competition featured 30 participants who presented and defended their views on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam. Esteemed judges Dr. Chanda Sagar and Dr. Shakti Kumar Agarwal evaluated the debates, which sparked insightful discussions on gender parity in politics. Winners Mohit Jaiswal (History Department, University of Delhi), Shashank Gupta (Kirori Mal College), and Deepa Pandey (Miranda House) were recognized for their exceptional arguments and contributions. The event highlighted participants' intellectual engagement with critical social issues.

- 7. Poetry Competition - 'Surmai Samvedna':** On February 2, 2024, Lakshita: the Enabling Unit of Miranda House hosted the 'Surmai Samvedna' poetry competition in Room 145. With 30 participants, the event featured self-written poems addressing disability and the experiences of differently-abled individuals. Judges Dr. Chanda Sagar from Miranda House and Dr. Pritam Singh Sharma from Ramjas College provided constructive feedback on the performances. The competition was a success, showcasing exceptional talent and raising awareness about disability issues. The winners were Vikas Chaudhary (Hansraj College), Milan Kumar Mandal (Satyawati College), and Sanskriti Sharma (Ramjas College). The event celebrated artistic expression and empathy.
- 8. Awareness Event on Voting Rights and Inclusion by Jayant Singh Raghav:** Lakshita, the Enabling Unit of Miranda House, organized an awareness event on Voting Rights and Inclusion on February 21, 2024. Aimed at empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwBD), the event focused on educating them about their voting rights and the importance of electoral participation. Jayant Singh Raghav, a Javed Abidi Fellow, shared insights on disability rights and relevant constitutional articles. Open to all students of Miranda House and PwBD students of Delhi University, the event emphasized inclusivity, providing essential knowledge to advocate for their rights. It fostered dialogue, education, and empowerment, promoting greater PwBD representation in democratic processes.
- 9. Ghazal Competition-** On February 27, 2024, Lakshita, the Enabling Unit of Miranda House, organized a Ghazal Competition as part of the annual fest "Swataha." This event aimed to provide a platform for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) from Delhi University to showcase their talent in the classical art form of Ghazals, offering a refreshing contrast to the contemporary music trends dominated by Bollywood. The competition featured mesmerizing performances that demonstrated participants' mastery and emotional depth in interpreting the poetry. Judged by esteemed experts Dr. Sudha Singh Sanjeevavani and Dr. Avanish Tyagi, the event celebrated the rich heritage of Ghazals. The competition was open to all PwD students of Delhi University, fostering inclusivity and empowering participants.

Winners included Vikki from Satyawati College (First Prize), Miracle from St. Stephens College (Second Prize), Priya from Miranda House (Third Prize), and Surbhi from Miranda House (Consolation Prize). The event was a success, promoting cultural appreciation and artistic expression within the university community.
- 10. Play Competition on the theme "Wings of Possibility":** On February 28, 2024, Lakshita, the Enabling Unit of Miranda House, organized a Play Competition during the annual fest "Swataha" with the theme "Wings of Possibility." The event provided a platform for students with disabilities (PwD) from Delhi University to showcase their acting skills and address social issues through dramatic performances. Four teams participated, each delivering powerful narratives that highlighted topics like women's rights and the third gender, challenging social norms and advocating for inclusivity.

The event featured a special performance by Psychological Science students and was judged by experienced theater artiste Ms. Shahana. The competition results were:

1. Team MH, Miranda House
2. Team Parvaaz (Inter College Team)
3. Team Samarth (Inter College Team)

The competition successfully highlighted the importance of inclusivity and empowerment, fostering dialogue and awareness within the community. Lakshita's initiative underscored the significance of creating inclusive spaces for diverse voices and experiences, empowering students to embrace their potential.

- 11. Speaker Session by Dr. Naveen Agarwal (IAS):** On February 28, 2024, during the "Swataha" Annual Fest, the Enabling Unit of Miranda House hosted a speaker session featuring IAS Officer Dr. Naveen Agarwal. Dr. Naveen shared his inspiring journey, detailing how he overcame a life-changing ordeal in 2015 that resulted in speech impairment. His story emphasized resilience, determination, and the power to overcome adversity, inspiring all attendees. The event, which welcomed students from Miranda House and PwDs from the University of Delhi, fostered inclusivity, community, and empowerment. Dr. Naveen's session was a resounding success, highlighting Lakshita's commitment to supporting and inspiring all students.