

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL (EOC)**

### **JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE**

#### **EOC REPORT: 2016-2017**

The cell started its functioning under the aegis of our coordinator Dr. Amita Tiwari, with Dr. Rashi Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Disha Narula as members. Dr Savita Rastogi took over the charge in October. The year began with the election of the president (Priyanka Choudhary), vice-president (Kajal Mishra), and the core team.

The cell organized a talk by Prof. Prem Singh (Professor Emeritus, University of Delhi) on 11th January, 2017. Prof Prem Singh, a visually challenged teacher, shared with us her journey as a specially-abled person and challenges she faced. She narrated how different people at different stages of life encouraged her to go ahead and discover herself, her capacities and achieve great heights in life. She ended her talk with recitation of poems she has written over a period of time.

On 16 January 2017, intra-college competitions were held on and students participated in them with great enthusiasm. On 18 January, 2017, a fund raiser was organized where bake and games stalls were put up by the core team members. **The EOC also organised a movie screening “ACCSEX” on 8 February 2017.** This film explores notions of beauty, the ‘ideal body’ and sexuality through four storytellers; four women who happen to be differently-abled. The film brings to the fore questions of acceptance, confidence and resistance to the normative. As it turns out, these questions are not too removed from everyday realities of several others, deemed ‘imperfect’ and ‘monstrous’ for not fitting in. ACCSEX traces the journeys of the storytellers as they reclaim agency and the right to unapologetic confidence, sexual expression and happiness.

Dr. Rastogi, together with vice president Kajal Mishra, attended a day-long event on empowering disability at Bharti College, University of Delhi on the 31st of January. During MONTAGE’17, the annual cultural festival of the college, the EOC organised inter-college competitions on 17th February, 2016, and singing, dancing and creative writing competitions were held. Students from various colleges participated in these with great enthusiasm.

EOC celebrated **National Science Day on the theme: Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons** on 28 February 2017 by organizing talks by two speakers. The first speaker was Dr. Anita Ghai who spoke on ‘Reflecting on issues of Gender and Disability from lens of Reproductive Technology.’ She is a disability rights activist in the areas of education, health, sexuality and gender. She has been a Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, and has also been the president of the Indian Association for Women's Studies. The second speaker of the day was Yogacharya Sh. Jagmaal who shared his views on ‘Contribution of science of Yoga and Ayurveda in the proper development of mankind.

The EOC celebrated its **annual festival UNNATI** on March 6, 2017. It was our attempt to increase understanding and ensure that specially-abled individuals have the opportunities to fulfil their potential. Through our endeavours, we brought in a mélange of differently abled students across all colleges for a day-long event filled with different activities. The key note speaker for this event was Mr. Sidh Taneja. He is specially-abled person, living with cerebral palsy, who does all his work with toes.

He cycles, treks, and participates in other adventure activities without any hesitation. He is part of several NGO's like Ability Foundation to help specially-abled people of society. He is a reputed employee of Make My Trip. He has received various awards such as 13th Cavinkare Ability Award (2015). He has addressed crowds at IIT Delhi along with Deep Kalra (Founder and Group CEO, Make My Trip) at their event U X NOW. It was a great honour to listen him and it made us reflect about ourselves and wonder that if he, despite all his physical limitations, can be a person with great temperament, attitude and undying spirit, we can surely become more enthusiastic and aspire towards changing our outlook for the better.

In addition to this, inter-college singing and creative writing competitions were held and Ad-Mad competitions were held for all the students. Cash prizes and certificates were given to the winners and certificates of participation were also distributed. The event was partly sponsored by Federal Bank and our media partners were the DU Express and the Education Tree.

Asmita Theatre Group was invited by the EOC to perform their **play titled 'Mard'**. Asmita Theatre Group is one of the leading Hindi theatre groups in the country and stands committed to aesthetically innovative and socially relevant theatre. Since its inception in 1993, it has carved a niche for itself in the Indian theatre scene by staging plays of varied socio-political interest while not losing out on their appeal to the masses. The group takes up contemporary issues to highlight the contours of our times. They showed how gender stereotypes exist in our society and how the members of the society can break the shackles of the same.

EOC is proud to have organised such successful events throughout the year. It was made possible by the cooperated and concentrated efforts of the entire team. A valedictory ceremony was held on 12 April, 2017, to give away certificates to all the core team members and office bearers who have been part of Equal Opportunity Cell.