

## **Report 2012-13**

**Faculty Convener: Dr. Geetesh Nirban**

**Student Conveners: Samiksha Todaria and Anjali Gupta**

The year 2012 was a year of great learning for the team members of Shining Network. On the 24th of January 2012, Shining Network organized an interactive session on 'Partition Imprints'. The invited speakers were Prof Alok Bhalla (Professor Emeritus and visiting faculty at Ambedkar University, New Delhi) and Dr. Debjani Sengupta (Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Indraprastha College, DU), both being experts in partition studies. The distinguished speakers touched upon the trauma of partition, the after effects and the present scenario with emphasis on building better ties with our separated brethren on both sides of the border. A bookmark with a quote "Harmony lies in erasing the lines from our hearts and from our minds..." was released and the session concluded with an insightful discussion.

On 28th January 2012, the team Shining Network visited the Ma Dham (Widow Empowerment Centre run under the able guidance of Dr. Mohini Giri) in the Hare Krishna town of Vrindavan. A day long field-visit acquainted the students with the stigma attached to widowhood even in the 21st century India and they observed how widowhood proves to be a form of double marginalization for a woman. The team also visited the government owned widow homes which were maintained by NGOs -Maitreyi and Action Point Samiti ( Lucknow ).This visit was a real eye opener and encouraged students to take up a serious study of the same.

A life skills workshop was held on 29th Feb 2012 on the topic 'Youth and A Beautiful Mind: Self Exploration Through Life Skills Education' wherein the resource person was Dr. Jitendra Nagpal (Senior Psychiatrist, Moolchand Medicity). The workshop enabled the team to think of planning more such workshops on regular basis in the next academic session.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor (Minister of State, Human Resource and Development Ministry, Government of India) was invited to address the students in the college auditorium on 20th March 2012 on the topic 'Role and Responsibility of Youth in Building the Nation'. A book mark commemorating the day was released with the quote "We cannot always build the future for youth, but we can build our youth for the future".

On 14th August, the team celebrated Independence Day with the little ones of Nanha Ahsaas (a nursery school for the under privileged run by Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, Psychiatrist, Moolchand Medicity and his team in the urban slums of SaritaVihar). The team Shining Network prepared an audio visual show on Independence Day for the students and the kids were made to colour the national flag and learn the significance of each colour in the flag

in an interesting way that helped them enjoy the activity. Shining Network was invited to hoist the flag by the school.

A workshop on Breaking Stereotypes was organised on 7th September in collaboration with Breakthrough-a global human rights organisation. This workshop made the students interact amongst themselves to learn how stereotypical behaviour affected them and how they could avoid cultivating the same in themselves. On this day the team released a bookmark with the following quote by Soren Kierkegaard, "Once you label me, you negate me".

On 17th September, Dr Mohini Giri was invited to interact with the students on 'Widows of Vrindavan: Whose Concern'. The team Shining network presented an audio visual report of their visit to the widow home Ma Dhaam at Vrindavan. The interaction with the founder of Ma Dham helped the team learn about the core issues and the problems related to the running of the homes for the widows, the concerns of the women and how the centres evolve as empowerment centres. The team released the book mark with the following quote, "Exclusion and seclusion do not define the life of women in white. It is the dignity and empowerment that must mark their existence."

Shining Network celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda by organising two-day long event on 1st and 2nd November, wherein on day one an audio visual presentation on 'Swami Vivekananda: Glimpses of an Extraordinary life' was organised in the college auditorium. This audio visual show had performers from various background, the script was written by Dr. Aruna Chakravarti (Former Principal of Janki Devi College ) and one of the participants was Dr. Minoti Chatterjee (Principal of Kamala Nehru College). It was a college event wherein the chief guest was Mr. Suresh Goel (Director, Indian Council of Cultural Relations).

On day two, an interactive session on 'Youth and a Beautiful Mind: Self-Exploration through Life Skills and Value based Education' was organised wherein Dr. Jitendra Nagpal and Padma Bhushan Ms. Geeta Chandran (Bharatnatyam Dancer) addressed the students on 'Youth, Values and Life Skills' whereas Dr. Shikha Sharma (Nutritionist) spoke on 'Food for a Beautiful Mind'. The team released a book mark with the quote of Seneca, "As long as you live, keep learning how to live". The interactive session was followed by a quiz 'Run the Brain Engine' on health, nutrition and wellbeing, and a bookmark making competition, 'Make A Mark'. Students from various colleges participated in these competitions and teams from Lady Shri Ram College and KNC bagged the first and the second prizes. In this way the activities of the year 2012 came to a close on an encouraging note while inspiring the team of Shining Network to work harder in the year 2013.