GANDH STUDY CIRCLE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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Zakir Husain Delhi College University of Delhi

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Gandhi Study Circle of Zakir Husain Delhi college, which has a consistent history of being the most vigorous society with efficiently providing insights of the political and social life of Mahatma Gandhi to the students for enriching their knowledge to analyze Gandhian values and philosophy along with the practical approach to his beliefs. With the perfection and eminent history of organizing seminars and the webinars of International and national significance, conferences, debates chained up along with the skillful activities for students. Gandhi Study Circle turned the academic year 2020–21 into another landmark with an excellent set of activities despite the constraints imposed by the COVID–19 pandemic. Worthiest of all is our beliefs and actions of not only studying Gandhi but also to adopt and to give life back to all the practices which Gandhiji adopted himself and for achieving the same our society has set new standards by organizing Charkha class, Reading club, Mind management class, and Yoga Class.

To Look upon and to guide the proceedings and the functioning of the society, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, convener of Gandhi Study Circle, let the students understand our practical- idealist Gandhiji. Under his guidance, students are able to connect themselves with not only the Supremacy of politics in the Gandhian context but also with the Gandhian process of social change and nation-building.

Under the guidance of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Tripta Sharma, and Dr. Shabana Aazmi, the student body comprised of the President, Vice-president, General Secretary and Outreach-head worked to make every day remarkable for society. For the the academic year 2020-21, to look over the works of the society as a General Secretary Zoya Ansari from second-year got the lead. Another member of the society Tushar Dwivedi has got the prestigious responsibility of being the Vice-president of the society. Finally, for the post of maximum responsibility, Aarti Bansal from the third year was elected as the President of the society which was later handed over to Sakshi Vats, Interim- President from 3rd year to manage the society in an efficient manner. A team of 12 core member students was there from the first, second, third year

A separate media team was also created to look over the technical works for the events organized during the pandemic. The core media members were Naseef Abdulla, Ankit Vashishth, Kalpita Mahanta, Karan, Satyarth. Outreach Committee was under the responsibility of Sameer Malik, the committee's main task was to increase the scope and outreach of the society to make its events a huge success especially under this going pandemic situation. Here are some of the major highlights of this year's activities:

Plantation Drive, 6th September 2020

In the month of September, on 6th September 2020, Gandhi Study Circle along with the NSS, Zakir Husain Delhi college collaborated in organizing a plantation drive which was an initiative of Srishti (Nature and Environment society), ZHDC. This ecological and environmental event was based on the theme of "Plant a toxin-free future". Serving to the essence of the theme, plantation took place to a great degree. Organized on the online platform of Google meet, this event was addressed by Prof Masroor Ahmed Beg, Principal Zakir Husain Delhi college.

Gandhi Jayanti Celebration and 1st Lecture of "Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series" by Prof Akeel Bilgrami, 2nd October 2020

Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary celebration, Gandhi Study Circle organized a weeklong celebration with a series of events, both academic and creative. Before 2nd October, a week-long online competition was organized namely Mono act, Digital art, and letter-Writing. In Mono- Act, participants were asked to present a short mono-act on the theme "Be the voice of the institution you think has suffered the most in independent India" meanwhile in letter writing competition theme decided for the participants were "A letter from Gandhi to address Contemporary Distress" which, in other words, was an open-letter writing competition. Adding to the necessity of time, a modern set of technical competition digital Art on the theme of "Undoing 2020" was also organized.

On 2nd October 2020, Gandhi Study Circle organized "Gandhi Jayanti celebration" in collaboration with Gandhi Study Circle, Miranda House in which a relaxing meditative session was organized in which illustrious BK Nikita Ji, let the audience understand the importance of meditation and its habitable practice. In the event, meditation was also practiced for a considerable duration of time. The entire event was highly interactive and enriching along with a meditative session. Another event "Dastan – E– Bapu" in which an enriching "Dastan Goi" a unique form of storytelling by MS Rupali Gupta of Miranda House served the essence and importance of the day.

In the same very event, core members of Gandhi Study Circle, Zakir Husain Delhi college recited poems dedicated to the greatness and the personality of our respected Bapu.

On 2nd October 2020, in the evening, Gandhi Study Circle inaugurated another great initiative of the "Distinguished Gandhi lecture series" which is still in practice and three different lectures of this series have been organized.

The inaugural lecture of this series was presented by an eminent personality Akeel Bilgrami, professor department of philosophy at Columbia University who is an Indian philosopher of language and mind. Professor Bilgrami endorsed and embraced the evening of Gandhi Jayanti on "Gandhi's Legacy of our Times". The talk was joined by eminent scholars all over the world. The conversation became fruitful and enriching by the sharp interventions by the Scholars and the audience who attended the event. The event was telecasted live on Facebook and the YouTube page of GSC and we had more than 250 participants. The link to the lecture is provided below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxc7dwlxMDw&t=5512s

2nd Lecture of Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series, 5th November 2020

On 5th November 2020, GSC conducted its second lecture of "Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series" in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell. The theme of the lecture was "Gandhi's Silence". The lecture was delivered by Professor Faisal Devji, Professor of Modern South Asian History, Director of Asian Studies Centre, University of Oxford. This lecture was successfully conducted on Google Meet with a huge number of participants. The event was live telecasted on the Youtube and the Facebook page of GSC and we had more than 250 participants. The link to the session is provided below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLM_FOLFAvU&t=1484s

Orientation Program, 27th November 2020

Pandemic shifted the orientation event to the month of November, the society hosted its interactive orientation session on 27th November 2020 through online platform MS Teams under the guidance of convener head of the society Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, and professor faculty Dr. Shabana Azmi, and Dr.Tripta. The event and its significance got its positive result in the event itself with the active participation of new student members with their ideas and vision behind joining this active society and contributing towards the development of it. Prior to them, some of the senior members and office bearers shared their views about their enriching journey with Gandhi Study Circle.

Inspiring for all students, the teacher faculty mentioned the high points of the society, emphasizing the idea of how society needs the participation of students in this online mode of the platform, with their innovative ideas and team work.

3rd Lecture of Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series, 15th January 2021

Functioning in online mode persuaded our core members to utilize the online platform to its best by organizing an international webinar under the guidance and support from our convener Dr. Sanjeev Kumar. The society organized its 3rd lecture under 'Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series' on 15th January 2021 on online platform zoom, the event was organized in collaboration with 'Gandhi Research Foundation', the theme of the lecture was 'Gandhi and Swaraj in ideas'. The lecture was delivered by eminent dignitary Lord Bhikhu Parekh, emeritus professor Political Philosophy, University of Westminster and Member of Parliament of United Kingdom, the event was chaired by Professor Geeta Dharampal, Dean, and prof. of Gandhi Research Foundation, Jalgaon.

The event began with an opening video created by our core student member, which introduces the society and the events it has organized in the past year, and through the ongoing pandemic, the event concluded with a question-answer session that was moderated by the student member of Gandhi Study Circle. The discussion was joined by scholars like prof. Faisal Devji, Dr. Gopal Guru, renowned personalities like Mr. Mark Tully, former BBC Bureau Chief, and students from universities across the globe. The event witnessed the presence of more than 347 participants and was telecasted live on Facebook and the youtube page of Gandhi Study Circle, allowing more participants to join it. The link to the lecture is provided below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gBDMfewOyE&t=5s

Shaheed Diwas, 30th January 2021

A week before 30th January GSC conducted a poetry competition and a quiz competition. The theme of the poetry and quiz competition was "Gandhi and You" and "Life of Mahatma Gandhi" respectively. The quiz competition was conducted in two rounds due to huge participation from school and college students.

The top 3 winners were declared on the basis of the marks they scored. There was also active participation in the poetry competition and the winners were declared in two categories i.e., English and Hindi.

On 30th January 2021 GSC observed Shaheed Diwas by conducting a webinar on the theme "अहंसक और शांतिपूर्ण समाज के निर्माण का मार्ग" by Gandhian Human Rights Activist Shree Himanshu Kumar. The webinar was conducted on google meet. The webinar was live telecasted on the Youtube and Facebook page of GSC and we got more than 150 participants. The results of the poetry and quiz competition were announced at the end of this session. The link to the webinar is shared below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnjlicv57uM

Webinar in collaboration with AVAAM, 15th February 2021

The ongoing farmer's protest and movement attracted the attention of our new joined first-year students, which encouraged us in organizing an interactive session on the ongoing farmers and rural India issue Under the guidance of our convener Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi study circle in collaboration with AVAAM, the department of political science, Zakir Husain Delhi College, conducted an interactive and enriching session on the topic किसान आंदोलन और ग्रामीण भारत के नव - निर्माण का गाँधी मार्ग (Farmers movement and reconstruction of rural India-the Gandhian way) by eminent Academician, Social activist, Professor Anand Kumar. The event was moderated by Dr. Tripta, and was organized on the online platform Zoom; the event saw the participation of more than 190 scholars, eminent personalities, and students from universities across India.

Mind Management Club

Successful Yoga classes from the year 2019 got a renovation in the year 2020 with a new name and characteristics', covering the demands of this online mode, Mind Management classes was an idea initiated by our teacher faculty Dr. Shabana Azmi, considering the drawbacks of lockdown affecting the mental health of the students.

Gandhi study circle organized and conducted Mind Management class every week for two hours under the professional guidance of Professor Shailza Gupta a meditation expert who has been practicing meditation for 20 years, guided students in practicing the art of minding our thoughts and believing in the art of inner non-violence, the classes witnessed the presence of more than 75 students in every session. The session was and is being conducted on the online platform Google Meet, every week. Our efficient core members under the guidance of ma'am managed the classes throughout the year, ensuring smoothing running of Mind Management classes.

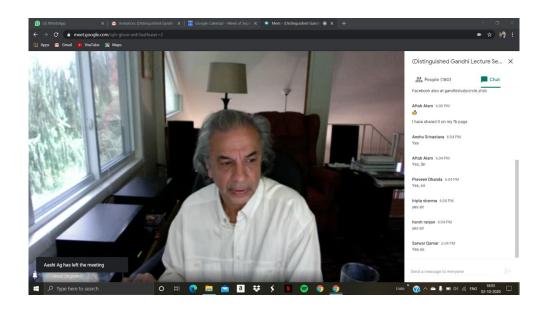
Reading Club

Another great initiative of Gandhi study circle which was started during the pandemic and is now a well-established unit of society is of "Reading Club", which is a true sense that serves the objectives of Gandhi Study Circle. The primary objective of the Reading Club is collectively reading of various Gandhian literature, articles from various national and international journals, and then discussing one own's personal analysis. Thematic Discussions based on different themes like caste, politics, and environment based on Gandhi's readings are also practiced in the reading club. Under this initiative, a student has to select a portion of a book on a thematic basis after which he /she goes through reading, and then a collective discussion is organized. Plans are there to extend the activities to writing the analysis in the forms of articles/essays/paragraphs and inviting scholars from different fields once a month to have some fruitful discussions. The entire task of the Reading club was coordinated by Suvaiba Zaheen, a third-year student, under the guidance of Dr. Shabana Aazmi and Dr. Tripta Sharma.

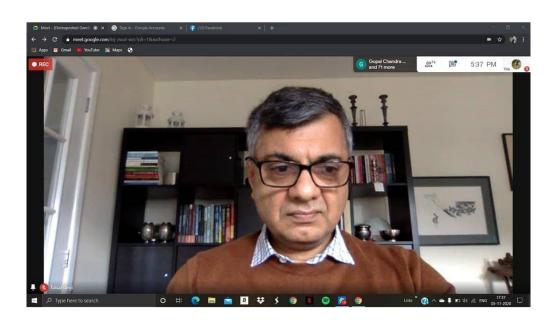
Summing up

Even the pandemic could not stop the Gandhi Study Circle of Zakir Husain Delhi College to continue its regular tasks and society even excelled this year by breaking its own records. Society tirelessly worked to make the events successful in the online mode and has even put more effort to challenge itself during the pandemic situation. The teachers and the student members worked equally hard as they used to do in the offline mode. COVID has been a huge challenge for our society but it was not such a big challenge in front of our determination to take this society towards great heights.

Glimpses of our past events:





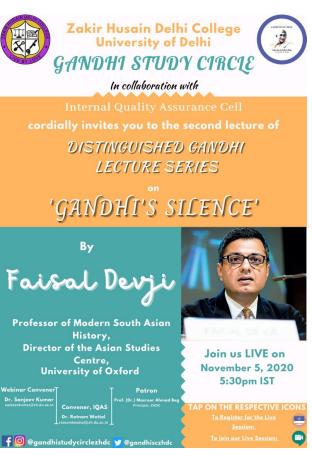


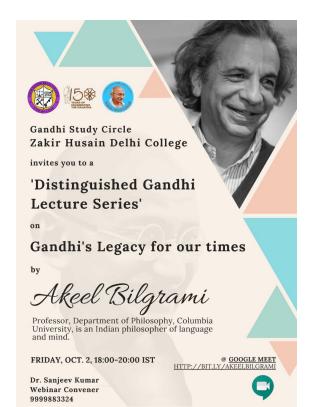


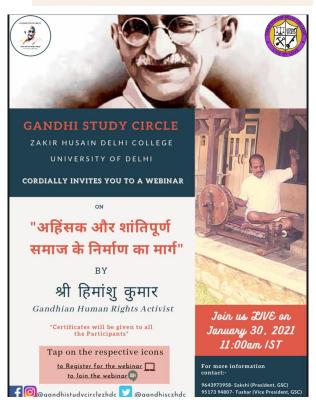


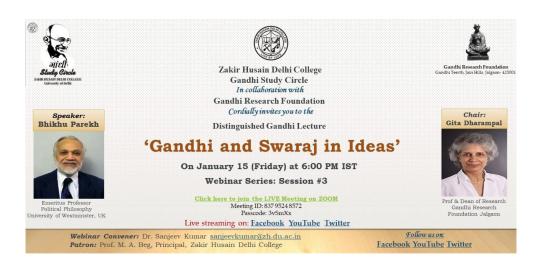




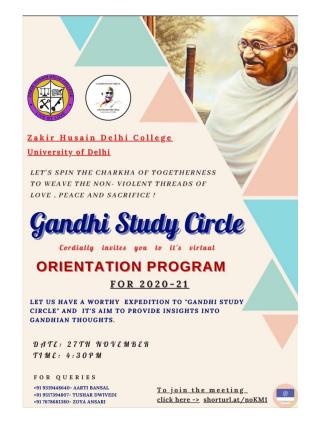


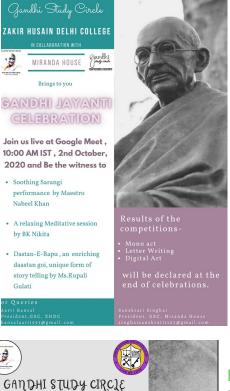


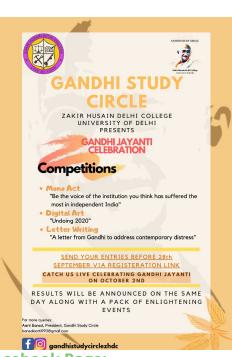


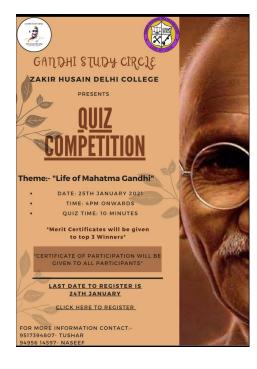












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Convener Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sakshi Vats (President) Tushar Dwivedi (Vice President) Zoya Ansari (General Secretary)