

REACH

2016-17

REACH, an acronym for Reaffirming Equity, Access, Capacity and Humanism, is an initiative that was created at LSR with support from the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) in 2002. REACH acts as the equal opportunity Cell of the college. REACH organized various events throughout the year with the aim of providing an inclusive platform so that students could build capacity while being part of a community that celebrates difference and diversity.

Representatives from KPMG came to visit the visually impaired (VI) persons who use Swalambhan, Resource Centre, Flat no. 10 on the 23rd of August 2016. The agenda of this meeting was to acquaint the newly admitted VIs with the state of art technology available at LSR for them. The representatives along with the already existing users of the resource centre, that is, the second and the third year VIs made the new comers comfortable around the resource centre.

A Mobility Training Workshop this year was held on 27th August 2016. Mr. Anil Kumar from National Association of the Blind conducted this workshop on the importance and use of the White Cane for the visually impaired. Mr. Kumar divided the workshop into two parts – a theory session on mobility and a practical session to acquaint the visually impaired students with the campus. All the buddies were present with their volunteers and carefully followed what Mr. Kumar said. In the end, however, he mentioned that there have to be multiple sessions on mobility for the students to be able to move around independently.

REACH made a visit to Shri Ram College of Commerce and Indraprastha College for Women on 8th September 2016 and 23rd September 2016, respectively. These visits were made primarily to observe the more disabled-friendly technology and more accessible infrastructure that these colleges have in comparison to LSR. Both these colleges have a significant number of PwD candidates for which they have myriad of facilities available and we wanted to learn about the same. The visits were about an hour long, conducted by the convenors of their Equal Opportunity Cells. We learned about various technological and infrastructural differences between LSR and these colleges, and we are looking forward to implementing these for the betterment of students with disabilities at LSR.

An informal meeting was held on the 9th of September 2016 with the students with disabilities and their volunteer buddies. They were made to sit in teams of three where each team had to do an activity that resembled the spin-a-yarn competition. Each team was given a word, using which they had to make a story and the following team had to continue the story made by the previous teams and also had to use their given word. This activity was held to increase conversations and interaction among all the members of REACH. This was also a way to strengthen the flagship Buddy Programme. The meeting was fruitful as many teams continued meeting outside the sphere of REACH to build new friendships.

The Bookshare Presentation, held on September 22nd, 2016, was a greatly anticipated event in college, and was the semester's first major event of REACH. There was a general air of excitement just before the event was to take place, especially among students who were already bookshare members or those who knew about it. REACH invited two reputed members of the Bookshare India team for the panel: Dr. Homiyar Mobedji, who is the current country director of Bookshare, and Ms. Zainab Chinikamwala, who is the outreach and training consultant for North India. Dr. Homiyar gave a brief about the sense, importance and usage of Bookshare and concluded by saying that in an institution like LSR where state-of-art technology is present, Bookshare should also be made an integral part of students with disabilities' lives.

REACH in collaboration with KPMG conducted an Eye Check for students with visual disability at Shroff Hospital, old Delhi.

REACH, organized a sensitization workshop on 29th September 2016. The guest speaker at the session was Mr George Abraham, Founder—Score Foundation. The interactive event aimed at not only the breaking myths and barriers that exist about the disabled in our society but to also make the disabled more aware of how they can also actively engage themselves with others and enjoy fruitful relationships.

On the occasion of White Cane Day, REACH, conducted a talk with Neha Arora, the founder of Planeta Abled. White Cane Day is celebrated all across the world on the 15th of October every year. Its aim is to convey the message that a person with disability can lead an independent life. Thus, on the 27th of October, 2016, the members of REACH gathered for an interactive session with the founder of Planet Abled.

An informal chocolate making session was conducted on 15th February 2017, by Ms. Neelam J. Malhotra, Staff Advisor, REACH for the visually impaired students. The aim of this activity was to instill a sense of Entrepreneurship in the students. The session started with ma'am introducing the ingredients and tools of chocolate making to students, followed by batches of chocolates made by the students themselves under her supervision. This session made the students with disability understand the importance of independence and instilled in them a sense of being self-employed. The session was greatly appreciated and hence was carried forward by the coordinators in the Residence Hall as well.

REACH, in collaboration with KMPG organized a one day trip to Pratapgarh Farms on 18th February 2017. The trip was for the students who use Resource Centre. This trip was long due as it was planned a few years back and was finally held this year. Pratapgarh Farms had a plethora of activities for the students with disabilities. Along with the activities it also provided a chance for all the students and teachers to catch-up and take time out from their hectic college schedules. This trip was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. And these trips continue to feature as future goals for next set of student coordinators.

As a part of the pre-parwaaz festivities, on 2nd March 2017, a guest lecture by Mr P. K. Pincha, former Chief Commissioner for persons with disability under the social justice ministry, was organised on the newly passed Rights of Person with Disabilities Bill (RPDB). The lecture began with a basic explanation of the background of the act and how the current act is much more nuanced in terms of categorising people with disability. It further dwelled on the structure of the act followed by some special provisions for people with benchmark disabilities. This act articulates the civil and political rights of PWD along with the social aspects.

Pre-Parwaaz began on the 7th of March by screening the movie named The Theory of Everything. The purpose of screening the movie was again to increase interaction among members of REACH by discussing the issues taken up in the movie. This particular movie was screened to make people more accepting of their disability. After the screening a short discussion by the coordinators and the audience took place which included the parallelism between the aim and vision of REACH and this movie.

REACH organized a panel discussion on 'Discrimination through the lens of Gender and Disability' on 9th March 2017. The panel discussion was held on the occasion of International Women's Day which is celebrated worldwide on 8th March every year. Aimed at understanding and analyzing the process of dual oppression, the panelists included famous disability rights activists Ms. Abha Khetarpal Maurya and Ms. Japleen Pasricha. Ms. Khetarpal is the President at 'Cross the Hurdles'. Ms. Pasricha on the other hand is the founder of 'Feminism in India'—an award winning digital intersectional feminist platform that aims to develop a feminist consciousness and she is also associated with 'Point of View' which

publishes articles for disabled females. The panel was moderated by Dr Mahesh S Panicker, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Faculty Advisor for REACH.

The opening guest lecture by Mr. Javed Abidi, director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) took place on 23rd March, 2017 as a pre Parwaaz event. This “lecture” was interactive in nature, dealing with the topic of disability rights in India. It was attended by an attentive audience as well as our faculty advisor Dr. Mahesh S. Panicker, and was thoroughly informative and eye opening.

Parwaaz 2017 was held on 25th March 2017. It saw an unprecedented level of participation. It had four events- debate, creative writing, talent hunt and quiz. All the participants and the judges thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of love, care, compassion and life.

On 13th April 2017, Lord Michael Hastings, Global CSR Head from KPMG was invited to Lady Shri Ram College for Women to observe the use of the state-of-art facilities that the college has in flat number 10, Resource Centre. He was greeted by the students with disabilities who are regular users of the facilities made available to them by KPMG. He understood how the assistive technology is being made a part of day to day lives of the students. Due to paucity of time, he was there with the students for a short period of time. He was commemorated by Dr Sharma, Principal, Lady Shri Ram College with a token of appreciation. After observing the judicial use of the technology, Lord Hastings is eager on continuing the association of KPMG with LSR.

2017-18

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TIMELINE

- Society Orientation - 8 August 2017
- Computer training session focusing on Kurzweil -22 August 2017
- Library Orientation - 31 August 2017
- Icebreaker Session for the Members - 14 September 2017
- Panel Discussion organised in collaboration with Interface on the theme “Access to Public Space in the context of Disability” - 28 September 2017
- #HowISee Online Campaign for Awareness - 14 October 2017
- Movie Screening on White Cane Safety Day - 15 October 2017
- Mobility Workshops - over months of January and February 2018
- Gender and disability: Guest Lecture - 13 January 2018
- Access Audit – 16 January 2018
- Satendra Singh: Pre Parwaaz Guest Lecture - 3 April 2018
- Origami Workshop - 4 April 2018
- Parwaaz 2018 – 7 April 2018

LIST OF EVENTS HELD IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18

Society Orientation: The Orientation was organised on 8 August, 2017 in the Auditorium to introduce REACH to the general student body and encourage students to join the society. During the event, efforts were made to explain REACH’s purpose and objectives as well as

inform students of nuances of the application process and deadlines regarding the same. One of REACH's staff advisors, Dr. Mahesh S. Panicker also spoke on the occasion.

Computer training session focusing on Kurzweil: Kurzweil is a multifaceted and hugely helpful assistive software that is a veritable Swiss army knife among accessible reading tools for people with print disabilities. With its ability to accommodate diverse reading, bookmarking and note-making preferences, coupled with its well-renowned OCR engine, Kurzweil was considered a useful piece of software to acquaint our visually-impaired population with right in the beginning. The session was held in the resource center i.e. flat no. 10 in the ECA period from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM on August 22nd, 2017. Dr. Mahesh S. Panicker, one of our faculty advisors, conducted the session, familiarising the buddies with Kurzweil and its commonly used keyboard shortcuts to begin with. The session then moved on to talking about scanning, reading, bookmarking, exporting and importing files to and from Kurzweil, with short demonstrations for each of these activities. The session was reasonably successful, with requests afterward to have Kurzweil installed on the PCs of those buddies who were new to it.

Library Orientation: REACH also organised a library orientation in collaboration with the administrative staff of college library on 31 August'17, with a special focus on familiarising the buddies with visual impairment with the services offered by the library and the University of Delhi. Students were given extensive information about the various digital resources that are offered as well as the steps involved in accessing the same. Special attention was paid to N-List which is considered as a prolific source of digital knowledge and content. Other programmes such as J-store and subject specific online databases were also discussed. The students were also oriented with physical infrastructure of the library and reference section. Efforts made by Institute of Lifelong Learning in building online material in subject matter of hindi were also mentioned and appreciated.

Icebreaker Session for the Members: As soon as the application process concluded, on the 14 September 2017, REACH held its first meeting with the volunteers and buddies to inform them about the events the society had planned for in coming few months and gather their feedback and suggestions for the same. But in addition to this, an ice breaker session was held so as to encourage the buddies and the volunteers to get to know each other. A game of taboo was held where the members participated in teams and actively interacted with each other. The meeting cum the mixer was also attended by the staff advisors – Ms Neelam J. Malhotra, Dr Mahesh S. Panicker and Ms Karuna Rajeev.

Panel Discussion organised in collaboration with Interface on the theme “Access to Public Space in the context of Disability”: On 28 September 2017, REACH and Interface collaboratively conducted a panel discussion on the topic “Access to public space in the context of disability”. Students were introduced to enlightening perspectives from two eminent panelists – Prof. Anita Ghai, professor of Disability Studies at Ambedkar University, and Mr. Prashant Verma, a wiz in assistive technology.

Prof. Ghai explored the idea of public space and a person's right to navigate the same from multiple perspectives, describing how design and other people's attitudes disable a person and restrict their access to public space rather than the disability itself. She shared her personal experiences of navigating public spaces as a wheelchair-user – how going to the movie theatre, shopping at a marketplace, using the metro, even using a public toilet impinged on her self-dependence and dignity. She talked about the challenges involved in seemingly mundane daily experiences. She also touched upon the appropriate terminology relating to disability – ‘differently abled’ or ‘differently challenged’ is patronizing (considering how every person has different abilities and challenges) whereas terms like ‘person with disability’ or ‘disabled person’, which leave the concept of personhood intact, are considered acceptable. She also provided an important insight into why the term ‘handicapped’ is considered derogatory – it

uses the imagery of a ‘cap-in-hand’ person, associating disability with charity or begging. Prof. Ghai underscored an important albeit infrequently acknowledged fact that disability is not equal to asexuality or hyper-sexuality, and how a disabled person’s sexuality is often seen as a burden to their family which compels them to get forced hysterectomies. This act only dehumanizes the disabled person further. To end with, she reiterated that every discipline should include disability in its studies.

Mr. Prashant Verma then proceeded with a presentation on Accessibility of Communication and Technology. He started with the universally accepted definition of disability and its key terms – ‘impairment’ and ‘equal participation in society’. The presentation outlined the specific needs of every type of disability, from visual to auditory to locomotive. He went on the break some common myths about disabilities with well-established facts and also shared important notes on the correct way to interact with people with disabilities. He emphasized particularly on the ICT and how it fills the potential digital divide in society.

#HowISee Online Campaign for Awareness: The #HowISee campaign was first introduced and popularised by the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) in the UK, and it aims to spread awareness about the completely different ways in which people with a variety of different eye conditions see the world. Our engagement with the campaign started on 14 October 2017, a day before the White Cane Safety day, with the sharing of RNIB’s short film #HowISee on the REACH Facebook page. The film emphasises the sheer diversity in the spectrum of blindness/visual impairment. This was followed by a series of three other posts with the same hashtag, sharing snippets of experiences of three visually impaired students in college,, their respective eye conditions and how they translate into sensory experience, and a short explanation of how they use their working vision (if any) in conjunction with other mobility aids like the white cane to make their way around college. This was an attempt to celebrate the diversity in the spectrum of visual impairment, to contribute to the worldwide #HowISee campaign for awareness, and to commemorate the white cane, which has emancipated thousands of blind and partially-sighted people around the world. The campaign was also placed as a lead up to the White Cane Safety day.

Movie Screening on White Cane Safety Day: An audio-described version of the Award-winning movie *The Great Gatsby* was screened on the occasion of White Cane Safety day, which is celebrated on 15 October. Audio description, like the white cane, is one of those revolutionary aids that facilitated independence and self-sufficiency for the blind and partially-sighted population, and was therefore picked as a suitable avenue to explore on the occasion. After a section of the movie was screened, a discussion was started about the nature of audio-description, its seamless blending into the movie’s soundtrack without displacing other elements, and its skillful correspondence with the video, that enabled visually-impaired viewers to enjoy movies in real time and in a manner that circumvents the necessity for dependence on fellow sighted viewers. The discussion naturally led on to the white cane, and its growing use within campus. The event closed with a sharing of experiences of using a white cane in college, which was a step in the direction of increased awareness about cane use.

Mobility Workshops: REACH has strived to hold mobility workshops for students with visual impairment for several years. With the assistance of KMPG, instructor Sandeep Garg was invited to teach the students about the “White Cane” and demonstrate to them its usage. The workshop was spread over 3 sessions on consecutive Saturdays, with a participation of around 10 students. Each student brought her cane along. Mr. Garg explained the technique of holding the cane, and using it to detect obstacles in the path. Students were also shown how the cane could aid them while climbing a flight of stairs. The usage of the cane is one step towards easier and independent movement, and this is part of the vision for our society.

Gender and Disability: Guest Lecture: On 13th January 2018, REACH in collaboration with the department of Political Science hosted Dr. Renu Addlakha in college. Dr. Addlakha is a

professor and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women's Development Studies. The lecture centred around the intersection of "Gender and Disability". She emphasised on the neglect of persons with disability in India's population census. She spoke of the impact of disability as a social taboo on lives of women with disability. She also spoke of how sexual intimacy is hampered, and how women with disabilities are either victims of sexual abuse or viewed as asexual objects. She also brought into the discourse the debate of "separate schools"- how it might foster more segregation and stigmatization.

Access Audit: This year, the society coordinators along with our staff advisor, Karuna Rajeev, held an accessibility audit around the college campus. The objective of this activity was to identify areas in college which were an obstacle to easy mobility. Broken and damaged ramps were noted, along with some inaccessible areas which required the construction of new ramps. The need for a professional access audit listing out concerns around design and architecture was felt by everyone. By the end of the year, ramps have been constructed at Nescafe and the admin gazebo; further, Tarang was made inclusive by creating a separate, accessible space for students with disability to bring their friends and enjoy the evenings!

Satendra Singh: Pre Parwaaz Guest Lecture As a pre-Parwaaz event, a lecture was delivered by Dr. Satendra Singh on the topic "Bridging the Divide: Khwahish-e-Parwaaz", on 3 April 2018. Dr. Singh teaches at the University College of Medical Science, Delhi and extensively worked during the 2014 general elections to make the voting process accessible to the disabled citizens. The lecture started off with a quote that stated that disability is, simply, a part of life and everyone at some point in life, is disabled. Shaking the very interpretations of the term "disabled," Dr. Singh highlighted how disability is not just a physical aspect, but also, a state of mind. He also went on to motivate the audience by giving examples of achievers, or rather overachievers, who, despite their disabilities, broke all the barriers of the society and went on to win accolades in their respective fields. On a deeper level, he made the audience reflect on the fact that it is the society which is forcing people to be "disabled." Attitude, behaviour, communication, diversity and empathy are needed to integrate and assimilate the disabled into our society, according to Dr. Singh who also said that there is a need for proper Infrastructure. It is that which acts as the key to upholding the dignity of the disabled. He ended the lecture by urging people to take pride in their disability instead of hiding it. With this unique lecture, Parwaaz '18 was declared open on a very positive and energetic note.

Origami Workshop: The second pre-Parwaaz event this year, an Origami Workshop, was organised for the student body in association with HIVE on 4th April, 2018. The aim was to promote the idea of creativity, inclusion, integration as well as independence. Everything else aside, the Origami Workshop turned out to be one of the most fun-filled activities organised by REACH this year and saw an active involvement of the disabled, non-disabled as well as the faculty members. The HIVE coordinator, Kanishka, took lead and the students were guided step-by-step on how to make movable puppet lips as well as a wind-driven paper fan.

The fan turned out to be the highlight of the event, obvious from the joy on everybody's faces when it whirled swiftly when held under the ceiling fans. The workshop turned out to a huge success, as evident from the delightful faces of our students and the faculty, alike.

PARWAAZ 2018: April 7th, 2018

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the annual inclusive fest of REACH- Parwaaz '18, commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the staff advisors. Parwaaz, a treasure trove of possibilities, next, saw a welcoming note by the coordinators Aparna and Sumi, on behalf of the entire REACH family. Ms. Karuna Rajeev, our staff advisor welcomed the audience next- participants and judges alike and emphasized the importance of conversations in achieving the goals of the community. She talked about negotiations and acceptance as a part of civil discourse. It was

followed by a touching performance by Dhvani- the Indian Music Society (IMS) of LSR which left participants, judges and every other attendee awestruck and filled them with super high spirits for the fun-filled, day long fest. In the end, rules for various events were explained and then the participants headed to their respective event venues.

Talent Hunt

Talent hunt, the flagship event of Parwaaz, has always served as a wonderful platform for talent which otherwise, mostly, goes unnoticed. This year, the event invited performers under the categories of music, dance, fine arts- a new initiative and miscellaneous activities. It was the first event of the day and began with the vibrant energy of the hosts, Chetna and Tejal, as well as that of the participants.

The judges for the show came from varied walks of life and with noteworthy accolades in their own respective fields. Ms. Tanushree Das, a Bharatnatyam dance performer, Ishaan Chowdhary, a slam poet and a member of Slip of Tongue, Mr. Jonathan Koshy Varghese, a professor at the English department of Lady Shri Ram College for Women and more importantly, the staff advisor of HIVE, the fine arts society of LSR, and Ms Bhavana Reddy, possessing a knack to understand two polar opposite fields like Kuchipudi and Western contemporary music were invited to judge the event.

Talent hunt saw participation from around 40 people in the various fields including dance, music, poetry and mimicry. We also witnessed some out of the box rap and ghazal performances. The whole lot of talent left everyone amazed. The event turned out to be a true example of inclusivity and reflection of skills and passions.

Creative Writing: What's your Story?

Creative Writing was held in two slots this year to give participants the freedom to participate in at least two events of their choice. After a beautiful opening ceremony, Parwaaz 2018 kicked off with the first slot of What's Your Story? The amiable organisers welcomed the participants and helped them settle down, and familiarised them with the rules. At 11am in Room no. 8, enthusiastic volunteers from REACH and NSS assisted and scribed where required, and the room buzzed with excitement and creative energy. The prompt was simple and yet opened the gates to the endless imagination of the writers. Participants got the freedom to let their creativity run wild in English or Hindi, delving into any genre they liked. Inking their thoughts on paper or typing away on their laptops, the participant turnout impressed the event organisers quite a lot. The first part of the event ended at 1pm and the organisers geared up to host another set of creative and enthusiastic participants. The 2nd slot of the creative writing event started from 2:30 PM and was completed by 4:30 PM.

Debate

A debate competition was organised in the New Conference Hall and the motion for the same was, "Experience of oppression is necessary to participate in a social movement." The participants were allowed to speak either for or against the motion in either Hindi or English. There were three judges on the panel who judged the speakers on their creativity, content, logic, presentation and rebuttal.

The debate fiercely started with most participants speaking for the motion. Examples of struggles and subsequent social campaigns started by Dr. BR Ambedkar, Rama Bai, Gandhiji, Abraham Lincoln and the likes were presented to illustrate support towards the motion. A counter opinion was put forth stating that to start social movement, more than experience, a sense of social responsibility and truthfulness is essential. It is a question of individual mindset and intention to bring change in society.

At the end of the debate, the judges took to the podium to share their thoughts about the entire debate. Emphasizing on the need for intellectual integrity in order to bring any substantial change, the judges also applauded the participants for their brilliant performance.

Quizzard

The quiz competition at Parwaaz, 2018 was a perfect combination of fun and knowledge. The event lasted for about 2.5 hours and kept the entire audience hooked throughout!

There were two rounds, first being a written, qualifying one. Twenty teams across colleges participated in this round. Post this, six teams were shortlisted for the next round which had a total of 24 questions. The questions were a bit tricky but most of the answers were related to the everyday life of an individual. It was an eye-opener for every single person sitting there-emphasizing how we tend to over-think and complicate even the simplest of things

It was wonderful to have with us Mr. Abhishek Mishra as the quiz master for the event. A cordial and understanding man, he demonstrated his friendly attitude at numerous instances during the event, by going out of his way to ensure that the participants got all of their doubts solved and questions translated and interpreted right.

To conclude, the quiz provided the perfect conclusion to the day full of diverse competitions and events.

Closing Ceremony

After a very energetic and vibrant day, the closing ceremony of Parwaaz, the annual fest of REACH, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, started at 4:30PM. Parwaaz 2018 was the last event to be supervised by Ms. Neelam J. Malhotra, one of the senior staff advisors to REACH who has been associated with it since its very inception. Ms. Priti Prajapati, Dr. Mahesh S. Panicker, Ms. Karuna Rajeev, along with one of the coordinators of REACH 2016-17, Bhavya (through a video), expressed their sadness over her leaving the society. It was highlighted that Ms. Malhotra was the pillar of REACH, and it wouldn't have been possible for REACH to attain the heights that it has attained today and cater to the needs of all, without her. Following this was a performance by Rukmani, an instrumentalist of LSR, an outstanding flute player who left everyone mesmerised by her talent.

This was followed by the prize distribution which brought a fresh rush of excitement among the participants. There was a vibe of healthy competition amongst the participants and everyone was encouraging each other. In creative writing, the winners were Sandeep Yadav, Prathishtha Deveshwar, Sandeep Singh and Aalok. For the debate, there were three prizes: the best interjector, bagged by Popin Kumar and that of the two best speakers, which were bagged by Shubham Arya and Prakhar Srivastav. In talent hunt, Pooja Kumari was the winner in the fine arts category. In the miscellaneous category, Gaurav Singh stood at the first place, Ajeet Singh won the second prize and Rajeev Ranjan won the third prize. In dance Nagma, Kushboo and Afzal bagged the top three positions. In the music category, Shubham Arya won the third place, Manish won the second place and Amit puri won the first prize. In Quiz, the third prize was a tie between two teams: Sudheer and Sanjeev and Satendra and Chetna. The second prize was bagged by Sayantani and Anusha's team while the first prize was bagged by Aastha and Arushi. Parwaaz '18 was then declared closed, and the society members promised to come back next year with an even more vibrant and eventful fest.

2018-19

REACH acts as the equal opportunity Cell of the college. REACH organized various events throughout the year with the aim of providing an inclusive platform so that students could build capacity while being part of a community that celebrates difference and diversity.

The following events were held in the academic session:

Campus walk: A walk was organized by REACH on 7 August to help students get acquainted with the college campus. All 'buddies' were taken on a tour of the college to help familiarize them with the infrastructure and facilities. The walk enabled easier mobility for 'buddies' in the campus.

Talks and interactive sessions : A fun session with *Mr. Ankur Warikoo, founder and CEO of nearbuy.com* kick-started REACH's events for the year on 7 September. Being an entrepreneur and a motivational speaker, Mr. Warikoo did not offer a sugar coated version of what college life is going to be like but stressed on facing reality. His definition of contentment is not one which is defined by our position or the amount of money we earn but the amount of satisfaction that one gains from being where they want to be in life and making peace with oneself. He warned us about three ways in which one could waste one's college life.

Being in a campus with a heterogeneous mixture of students from diverse backgrounds, we tend to gravitate towards people with similar interests and find our comfort zone so that we can feel that we belong. He believes that this contradicts the entire purpose of being in college as people try to fit in just because they don't want to feel different from others. Only when we start appreciating others, do we see a different side to ourselves. The world that we see around us is what we want to see and not necessarily reality. Rather than being better versions of ourselves we tend towards becoming a bigger version of ourselves. Mr. Warikoo's speech left us motivated. His speech concluded with a thunderous applause from the audience who couldn't have asked for a better start to an amazing year ahead filled with challenges and opportunities.

On 7 September, another talk by *Ms. Dorodi Sharma* on the topic, '**Evolution of Disability as a Human Right**' was held. Ms. Dorodi is a United Nations Disability Rights specialist at UN Resident's Coordinator Office and a Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL) officer at International Disability Alliance.

A session by *Ms. Pritika, representative of KPMG* for the functioning of resource center was also organized on 29th September. KPMG has been supporting LSR for its objectives to enhance accessibility since past several years. It established a resource center named, 'Swabalamban' in August 2013 to assist students with visual impairment by providing technological support. Currently, the center has 40 laptops, 17 recorders and 7 magnifiers. Several resources such as reading material, digital books, braille books and audio books are provided to the resource center by faculty at LSR from different departments. It was an open discussion about the needs of the PWD students of college and their requirements that can be taken up by KPMG. It ended on a very positive note with an assurance from KPMG that all the requirements raised will be looked into as soon as possible. *Nipun Malhotra, founder of Nipman* foundation delivered a talk on "**How public policy can aim for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?**" in an event on 9th October, 2018 organised by REACH along with Voluntary Agency Placement Programme.

Parwaaz, the annual cultural fest of REACH is organized every year since 2012. The theme of this year's Parwaaz was the idea of inclusivity thereby, allowing participation of non-PwD i.e. general students in teams paired with PwD students. As a prequel to Parwaaz, Pre-Parwaaz was organized on the theme to draw inspiration from the lives of eminent persons with disabilities doing exemplary work in their respective fields. The session started on a zealous note by the guests of honor, Padma Shri awardee Mr. Jawahar Lal Kaul, Director General and founding member of All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB), a pioneer organization working for the rights and upliftment of persons with visual impairment, Ms. Preeti Singh, Miss Wheelchair-India pageant winner, graduated from SRCC, and our Elsa, Ms. Lalita Baghel, presently a researcher and Assistant Professor at a college in Delhi University.

2015 UPSC topper Ms. Ira Singhal gave an absolutely remarkable opening speech to Parwaaz'19. This was followed by launch of a book, "*Tactile Guitar Chord Book*" which consists of practical guidelines for the visually impaired who desired to learn guitar by the Golden Sunshine Foundation. The book has tactile illustrations to learn the orientations of learning guitar and is available in print and braille. It was launched by Ms. Ira Singhal, Mr.

Shariq Mustafa and our staff advisors. Shariq Mustafa, renowned tabla player mesmerized everyone with his recital. REACH was glad to host both guests who expressed their delight at being at an event which celebrates the spirit of taking flight, regardless of the type of disability. **Quizzard** was one of the most awaited events of Parwaaz '19. A debate was also organised.

Recognizing the transformative and therapeutic power of expression, REACH organized the aptly named *Catharsis, the creative writing competition* for Parwaaz'19 on 9th of March 2019, The event saw 67 participations and was judged by Professor Megha Dhillon, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, LSR and Meena Chhabra, a prominent Hindi writer. It was a delight to witness the participants as they poured their hearts and creativity into their stories.

2019-20

LSR attempts to address questions of inclusivity by creating classroom spaces within which students from different segments of society get the opportunity to voice their opinions. Beyond the classrooms, the SC-ST Cell and REACH have remained active in their efforts to raise social awareness around societal divides. *Swavalamban* is a resource centre in college for differently-abled students, particularly for those with visual disabilities. It provides access to assistive technology and equipment including the Everest-D Braille Embosser, Screen Reading Software, Lex-Talk Scanner, Book Scanners, DAISY Recorders and Players and OCR software for English and Hindi. The resource centre also has computer systems that facilitate the work of both English and Hindi discipline students. REACH works with the Equal Opportunity Cell of the University of Delhi, to ensure that students have access to reading material, laptops and other recording devices provided by the University.

For the term 2019-20, the focus of REACH was on greater infrastructural accessibility coupled with awareness raising and sensitization in order to create and sustain an inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities. This was also coupled with an attempt to amplify the voices and experiences of students with disabilities in college through various informal events, online campaigns and their newsletter.

Infrastructural Accessibility

- **Accessible ATM:** The College ATM now has an audio output which would enable blind students to transact independently.
- **Regular Functioning of elevators:** Throughout the year, REACH maintained constant communication with the administration to ensure regular and smooth functioning of the elevator.
- **Volunteers to map out inaccessibility:** REACH assigned a few volunteers the task of noting down various forms of inaccessibility in and around college and also attend to things like improper arrangement of furniture in classrooms which make it difficult for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and blind students to find their way.

Various events were organised throughout the year by REACH. A summary is presented below:

Theme	Details
Developmental Disabilities within the Indian Family: Guest Lecture in collaboration with the Department of Sociology.	19/09/2019 Speaker: Dr. Shubhangi Vaidya Number of Participants: 60

Workshop on Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication with the Blind Graduates Forum of India: Workshop for blind students in collaboration with the Blind Graduates Forum of India.	28/09/2019 Number of Participants: 50
Chocolate Making Workshop	Workshop with MS Neelam J. Malhotra 22/10/2019 Number of Participants: 30
Informal Discussion on the Intersection of Disability and Sexuality	05/11/2019 Number of Participants: 30
Guest Lecture on Intersection of gender, sexuality and disability: Guest Lecture in collaboration with the Women's Development Cell with Dr. Anita Ghazi.	07/11/2019 Number of Participants: 50
Informal Discussion on Descent and Disability in collaboration with the BDR club of Department of Political Science.	30/01/2020 Number of Participants: 60.
Informal Discussion on Difference and Diversity: Reading of an Excerpt followed by a discussion.	14/02/2020 Number of Participants: 20
Accessible Sculpture Workshop in Collaboration with Hive:	25/02/2020 Number of Participants: 50
Movie Screening: Audio descriptive movie screening of The Interviewer.	26/02/2020 Number of participants: 20
Guest Lecture on Learning Disabilities: Speaker: Dr. Geet Oberoi	27/02/2020 Number of Participants: 50

Other developments included:

- A series of 12 workshops in collaboration with NSS affiliated NGOs for children from lower socio-economic strata on disability. These workshops were organized in the months of September, October, January and February. The idea was to sensitize children about disability, the proper terminology to refer to people with disabilities, accessible modes of communication and proper etiquettes.
- Publication of Newsletter of REACH titled The Purple Post- a platform for students with disabilities and non-disabled students to engage with various facets of disabilities and share their experiences.
- Online campaigns to raise awareness and sensitize people about disability. This included a weekly series called "Fun Fact Friday", weekly series on various types of disabilities like dyslexia and deafness, posts on disability days like Down syndrome day, white cane safety day and so on. REACH also provided a platform for students with disabilities to share their experiences around issues like mental health and

independence. This helped create sustained online presence and enhance the engagement of students with the topic of disability and the discourses around it.

2020-21

REACH started functioning via the online mode due to the pandemic. The team was involved in ensuring availability of accessible study materials for the virtual semester and ensuring the smooth conduct of the OBE exams for the final semester students.

December 2020-January 2021

1. New Coordinators were selected and forms were released for REACH membership and team formulated.
2. Making of the group for all PwD students of the college (buddies group)
3. Collecting and sending information for students eligible for Help The Blind Foundation Scholarship
4. Orientation
5. Event 1: “What’s so special: Disability and inclusive language” - A video screening followed by discussion within student body on the topic “inclusive language ad how to address people with disabilities”. The insights from this event are summarised in this post:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CLHcM7mqmf3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

February 2020

1. Event 2: Documentary Screening- “Picture This” followed by student discussion.
Minutes of the event: On 25th February 2021, REACH, LSR organised a documentary screening. The documentary titled "Picture This" explored themes and issues around disability, queerness, and sexuality. It addressed the lack of conversation around the topic which translates into lack of representation and acceptance. It even highlighted how people with disabilities are often seen as asexual or their sexual desires are seen as taboo. This was followed by a free flowing discussion among the attendees. .

March 2020:

1. Spot The Stigma Collaboration with MUN Society: We collaborated with MUN society to collect pads for free of cost distribution to the sections of the society that need them. This was accompanied by educational campaigns by REACH and MUN where we sought to remove the stigma around menstrual hygiene and also explored the intersection between disability and menstrual hygiene management.

April 2020:

1. REACHing the Departments - A social media campaign started by REACH in collaboration with 10 departments of LSR (Sociology, Hindi, English, Commerce, History, Philosophy, Economics, B.El.Ed, Psychology, and Sanskrit) to put up posts regarding various topics falling at the intersection of Disability and the respective departments’ subject of concern.
2. Event 3: “Navigating An Ableist Education System” - A guest discussion inviting members of the Revival Disability Magazine in collaboration with Dhyana Society. The discussion focused on the intricacies of navigataion through the education system while dealing with its inherent ableism.

3. Event 4: Open Mic for students with disabilities in collaboration with the College Magazine. Students with disabilities presented their articles, poems, songs and art. College Magazine has decided to publish some of them in the College Magazine.

Social Media Campaigns

1. Awareness Series: We followed the international disability calendar (<https://disabilityin.org/resource/2021-calendar-of-disability-related-dates/>) and curated posts dedicated to a disability, chronic illness or other disability related topics.

The topics taken up from in this series during March 2020 - April 2021 are as follows:

- Down Syndrome Day: (https://www.instagram.com/p/B-ANeaIJQ8y/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Purple Day: (https://www.instagram.com/p/B-eba2bJFzD/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Cerebral Palsy:
(https://www.instagram.com/p/CNF8MdeJXGp/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
https://www.instagram.com/p/CNF8ZWzJ-kN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

2. Fun Fact Friday- Another social media series that took up small topics with the aim to generate sensitivity and awareness regarding disability related concerns.

The topics taken up from in this series during March 2020 - April 2021 are as follows:

- Covid and Disability
- Mythology and Disability
(https://www.instagram.com/p/CMTx1YiH_VE/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Ostomies (https://www.instagram.com/p/CML6jk-JsDN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Ambulatory wheelchair users
(https://www.instagram.com/p/CM4dTt0pdIr/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Audio Descriptions and Alt Text
(https://www.instagram.com/p/COBDnAWnvXK/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)