



National Service Scheme 2017-18



The National Service Scheme (NSS) at Lady Shri Ram College for Women is a flourishing body of dedicated student volunteers and teachers who are devoted to the cause of bringing about positive social change and truly making a difference. Selflessness and commitment resonates through the slogan 'Not Me, But You', in all its initiatives. The vision and collective potential of the students is realized through grass-root level work with multiple on-ground community service endeavors. As a group, NSS also opens up space for dialogue and deliberation over a range of pertinent issues.

NSS LSR, through its community outreach programs addresses a number of urgent social issues, including development of rural women, social entrepreneurship, animal welfare, care for the elderly, education, child rights and so on. With this purpose, it has built fruitful collaborations with over 25 NGOs and a volunteer base of over 700 students.

The year was extremely productive for the students at NSS LSR. One of the highlights was the refurbishment of NSS LSR's in-house project - the Zamdrupur Development Program with the purpose of providing community outreach and necessary intervention to the residents of Zamrudpur, NSS LSR's adopted village. Twice a week, student volunteers conduct workshops with the residents there, primarily focusing on women and children. The workshops revolved around awareness activities to improve their living circumstances, including discussions on cleanliness and waste management, menstrual health and sanitation, etc.

NSS LSR brought back its initiative to engage with children from the less privileged sections of society by organizing Kala-an interactive, educational art competition and workshop for children frequenting NSS LSR's NGO collaborations. Over 62 children from six NGOs were hosted on campus and interacted with the volunteers while expressing their creativity and artistic skills.

In accordance with its tradition, NSS LSR organized its flagship event, the annual NSS Diwali Mela - Noor in the month of October. Receiving a massive turnout, the event was a celebration of the innovative skills of students and NGOs, showcasing a wide range of student entrepreneurs and NGO-made products. Children from several associated NGOs were also a part of the mela, having their own assigned 'Kids' Corner' and set of activities on campus. Noor, as the name suggests, was a manifestation of light and hope for all those involved with it in any capacity.

NSS LSR also organized its annual youth convention, Nexus 2018 in the month of March. Like before, it was an occasion to start meaningful conversations about issues of utmost societal significance. The theme for the convention was 'The Catalyst for Change: Youth and the Social Sector', initiating a discussion on the important role students and the youth play as change agents for the benefit of society. Students from across institutions participated in innovative events revolving around the sub themes the convention was highlighting, namely *Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Trauma Shaming, Cyber Bullying and Social Entrepreneurship*. A 'Kids' Corner' was once again specially installed for children from associated NGOs, merging entertainment with education through the activities lined up. After two days of fruitful conversation, problem-solving and learning, Nexus 2018 concluded with an enlightening speaker session with Ms. Guneet Sethi, Manager of Quality Assurance, Basix Academy for Building

Lifelong Employability (B-ABEL) and *Dr. Sanjay Kumar*, Director of SEWA Bharat and India Country Director of the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute Harvard University. They addressed the students gathered on the theme of the role of the youth in the social sector, its rewards and challenges, bringing to fruition the purpose of the convention.

Other highlights of the year were celebration of the Yoga Day; observance of the cleanliness campaign under Swachhta Pakhwara. As part of the cleanliness mission, volunteers cleaned areas in and around campus, including the nearby bus stops. They also carried out awareness drives in Zamrudpur, NSS LSR's adopted village, through pamphlet distribution and door to door interaction.

During the year training sessions were also organized for the volunteers to equip them with skills in the fields of social entrepreneurship, special needs, elementary education teaching methodology, etc. Several collection drives were also held on campus to collect items required in animal care, books and stationery for associated NGO children and so on. Basta, NSS LSR's social entrepreneurial venture which makes bags from waste material and gives skilled employment to women put up several stalls on campus throughout the year, garnering a great response from the students and teachers.

Rally for Rivers was carried out in a big way on campus to generate support to revive the country's drying rivers. Volunteers from NSS LSR also attended the National Workshop on Disasters and Community Resilience in the North Eastern States organized at JNU in October. The importance of voting and electoral duties was highlighted on several occasions. Youth Ki Awaz conducted an interactive workshop with the students. The message was reinforced by the Voter's Day Oath taken by the student volunteers in January. The potential of the youth was celebrated on Swami Vivekanand's birthday as the National Youth Day event.

April 2 is globally recognized as World Autism Day, is also celebrated by NSS LSR as the Autism Awareness Week. It is a week-long celebration that uses panel discussions, creative writing, film screenings, etc. to spread awareness about mental health and autism. The special needs NGOs working with NSS LSR, namely Tamana, Muskaan and Four Steps take the lead in organizing meaningful activities to enlighten the students in the best way possible. This year posters, screenings, discussions were used to generate awareness regarding the cause.

The academic year 2017 – 18 was a productive and active year for NSS LSR. The entire volunteer base came together to channelize their collective energies and achieve the common goal of social betterment. They helped NSS LSR realize its goal, living up to the LSR value of Leadership with Social Responsibility.