



## National Service Scheme 2018-19



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. Apart from our flagship events Kala, Noor and Nexus, highlights of 2018-19 include the establishment of Ikhtiyaar- a new in-house project, hosting Valentines for Voiceless, Road safety workshop and the Tihar Programme.

On the 2nd of May, 2018, the newly elected NSS-LSR Union and Advisory Committee held a yoga demonstration and poster making competition as a precursor to the Yoga Day celebrations. On the 21st of June, Yoga Day was celebrated in the college premises. The Swachhta Pakhwara was conducted from the 1st to the 14th of August. The events hosted included an oath taking ceremony, numerous cleanliness drives in Zamrudpur, at the national monument Humayun's Tomb and on the college campus. NSS LSR continued its initiative to interact with children from the less privileged sections of society by organising Kala—an interactive, educational art competition and workshop for children frequenting NSS LSR's NGO collaborations. Children from various NGOs were hosted on campus and interacted with the volunteers while showing their creativity and artistic skills. This year's theme was "Udaan" or "taking flight." An interactive session with students of Macquire University, Australia took place on 14th September, 2018.

On September 24th, on the occasion of NSS Day 2018, a week long campaign series on the theme "Celebrating Humanity" was organised. This was followed by an opening ceremony, awareness campaign and wall painting on a prominent wall in LSR. It reads, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." In accordance with its tradition, NSS-LSR organised its flagship event, the annual NSS Diwali Mela- Noor in the month of November 2018. 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. A highlight this year was Ikhtiyar's hair braiding stall. 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.

2019 began with various activities, the first one being the Tihar Programme which began on the 1st of January with a four day long Clutch and Folder Making Module with the women inmates of

Tihar Jail. Other modules included beautiful bookmarks and handmade fridge magnet which required participants to put their creative caps on. An Expressive Arts Intervention Module was also conducted. The Paper Recycling session resulted in the creation of caterpillar, dresses, butterflies, hearts, snowmen and Santa Claus stickers, Christmas cards and photo frames. A refreshing break from their monotonous routines, the sessions proved to be therapeutic for the inmates and volunteers both.

Valentines for Voiceless was a pathbreaking event which saw the participation of FIAPO, Friendicoes and Campus Care volunteers who hosted a vegan tasting, panel discussion, quiz, exhibition, Interactive games, documentary screening and pledge for animals to bring home the message of “peaceful coexistence.” On February 19th, 2019 took place a session on Self Defence by Delhi Police. Self Defence techniques were demonstrated to make volunteers self reliant and confident. Gender sensitisation workshops were held at NSS-LSR affiliated NGO’s including Kriti, Hope, Khusbhu, Shanti Sanyog, Vidya and Aarohan, in collaboration with the Women’s Development Cell, LSR. These sessions were based on the following subject matter:- Gender Identities, Gender Roles, Ideas of Beauty, Power and Powerlessness, Idea of Consent & Safe and Unsafe Touch and Menstrual Health. These sessions were planned with different age-appropriate interactive activities and were focussing on boosting the children's knowledge. NSS-LSR also organised its annual youth convention, Nexus 2019 in the month of March. Like previous years, it was an occasion to start meaningful conversations about issues of utmost societal significance. The theme for the convention was ‘Celebrating Women’, initiating a discussion on the important role of women in society. After two days of fruitful conversation, problem-solving and learning, Nexus 2019 came to a successful end. This year, the Editorial Board successfully published four copies of “The NSS Gazette”, a bimonthly periodical. The academic year 2018-19 was a productive and active year for NSS LSR. The entire volunteer base came together to channelise their collective energies and achieve the common goal of social betterment. They helped NSS LSR realise its motive, living up to the LSR value of Leadership with Social Responsibility.