

Annual Report 2024-25

***GANDHI STUDY CIRCLE
Miranda House***

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Gandhi Study Circle, Miranda House

The Gandhi Study Circle provides an active platform for the Students to understand Gandhi, his thoughts, ideas, and Gandhian action. Gandhi Study Circle is one of the oldest And most active societies in Miranda House. The society Aims to propagate Gandhian values and philosophy amongst The student and teacher fraternity. It provides an active Platform for students to understand, promote and practice The Gandhian ideology in modern times by organizing Various activities such as seminars, cleanliness drives, street Plays, reading sessions, discussion rounds, field trips,Quizzes, creative writing, and debate competitions, around The year. Gandhi has touched upon a plethora of ideas and Issues and the students of the society express a diverse Opinion on various issues, at times expanding the Gandhian Ideas. The society celebrates Khadi as an ideology and a Movement to highlight the idea of self-sufficiency or Swadeshi and economic productivity leading to swaraj.

Session

2024-25

Student Office bearers:

President: Anushka Sharma

Vice President: Purvi Saini

Treasurer: Shalu Rani

General Secretary: Isha Singh

Convener of the society:

Dr. Skylab Sahu

Staff Advisors:

Dr. Sushmita Banerjee

Dr. Prafullit Bisht

Mr. Dushyant Kumar

Dr. Soumini Ghosh

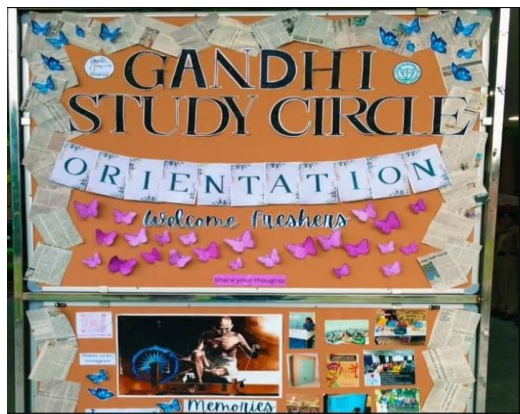
Dr Jagriti Pandit

Dr Surabhi

The Orientation Program

Date 10th September 2024

No. of students present : 134



The event introduced students to the society's mission, core Values, and plans for the academic year. The program featured Inspiring addresses by Prof. (Dr) Bijyalakshmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, and Prof. Skylab Sahu, Convener Of GSC, who emphasized the importance of Gandhian values In addressing contemporary challenges.

The President of GSC, along with the vice president, general Secretary and the treasurer motivated students by sharing Their experiences and inviting active participation of the Society's activities. GSC's objectives of promoting Gandhian Principles such as non-violence, truth, and sustainable living- Were highlighted alongside initiatives like seminars, creative Competitions, and community outreach programs.

The orientation also shed light on the five verticals of GSC: Editorial, Logistics, Creative, Social Outreach and Public Relations, and Social Media & Photography. Each vertical provides studerits with Opportunities for skill development, event organization, and creative Expression. The session also celebrated sustainability, with a focus on Khadi as a symbol of self-reliance and eco-conscious living. The Announcement of the upcoming Khadi Utsav, featuring charkha spinning Workshops and exhibitions, was a key highlight. It will be safe to say that the program provided a platform discuss the Relevance of Gandhian values in today's world, including their Application to sustainability, social justice, and personal growth.

Students left with a deeper understanding of how these ideals can drive Meaningful change in their communities and beyond. The event Concluded successfully, inspiring students to actively engage with GSC's Mission of fostering peace, sustainability, and social change in the Miranda House community. The society extends its gratitude to all Speakers and mentors for their valuable contributions.

The Lecture Series – Lecture 1

Date: 10 September 2024

No. Of students present: 126



Theme – Gandhi and Women

Speaker: Prof. (Dr.) Bijayalakshmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House

The Gandhi Study Circle of Miranda House, in collaboration with the Centre for Global Research and Advancement in Social Studies (CGRASS), organized a special lecture titled “Gandhi and Women” on 10 September 2024. Delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Bijayalakshmi Narida, Principal of Miranda House and a distinguished scholar, the lecture Explored Mahatma Gandhi’s perspectives on feminism, women’s Empowerment, and their role in India’s independence movement.

Prof. Nanda further highlighted Gandhi’s empowerment of women Through political campaigns like the Khadi movement and the Salt March, transforming domestic spaces into platforms for public Participation She went on describe Gandhi’s leadership as “feminized, characterized by non-violence and care, contrasting with British imperialism’s hyper-masculinity. However, she also noted the Paradoxes in Gandhi’s approach, which often limited women to Traditional roles, sparking debates about whether Gandhi truly Empowered women or used them as tools for political mobilization The lecture also shed light on the critiques of Gandhi’s approach to Women’s empowerment, citing scholars like Arundhati Roy and Erik Erikson, who argued that Gandhi’s strategies, while groundbreaking, Sometimes viewed women as instruments for political mobilization Rather than independent agents. Prof. Nanda urged the audience to Critically reflect on this duality, acknowledging both Gandhi’s Contributions and the limitations of his patriarchal context. She thereby Encouraged attendees to reclaim Gandhi’s emphasis on reflective Autonomy and non-violent resistance to tackle modern challenges, such As declining female workforce participation and gender-based violence.

This balanced perspective enriched the audience’s understanding of Gandhian feminism and its complexities.

Prof. Nanda emphasized the relevance of Gandhian ideals in addressing Modern issues like gender Inequality and violence, arguing that Gandhi’s Reflective and ethical leadership remains an antidote to divisive Leadership styles today. She concluded with a thought-provoking

Question: Did Gandhi's feminized leadership shape women's participation in the independence movement, or vice versa?

The event was well-attended by students and faculty, sparking meaningful discussions on Gandhian feminism and its contemporary relevance. The Gandhi Study Circle extends its gratitude to Prof. Nanda for her profound insights, as well as to the organizers for making the event a success. The lecture reaffirmed the enduring importance of Gandhian principles in addressing societal challenges today.

The Group Discussion in

Collaboration with GSC, Hindu College

Date – 21 September, 2024

No of students participated: 37



The Gandhi Study Circles of Miranda House and Hindu College organized a collaborative group discussion in the conference hall of Hindu College. The event aimed to explore the relevance of philosophical ideas and their impact on modern-day challenges. Students and faculty from both institutions participated in this intellectually stimulating discussion. The participants from Miranda House presented a detailed and thoughtful perspective during the event. Their presentation emphasized the practical application of these principles in addressing pressing issues such as social inequality, Environmental degradation, and global conflicts. They provided examples and insights to demonstrate how these ideas could guide individuals and communities in achieving sustainable and ethical discussion.

The presentation also delved into contemporary issues, drawing parallels Between historical contexts and current realities. By incorporating real- World examples and innovative interpretations, the team illustrated how Philosophical principles continue to offer a framework for addressing Modern societal concerns. The arguments presented by Miranda House Were both analytical and practical, which enhanced the depth of the Discussion.

The discussion was further enriched by the active participation of Students from both colleges, who brought diverse perspectives to the Table. The interactive format encouraged participants to critically Evaluate the applicability of philosophical ideas in today's world and Consider ways to implement them effectively. The exchange of ideas Fostered a dynamic atmosphere of learning and collaboration, making the Event intellectually rewarding for all attendees.

The session concluded with reflections on the enduring significance of These principles and their potential to inspire change in contemporary Times. The group discussion served as a platform for meaningful dialogue and strengthened academic collaboration between the two institutions, Leaving participants with valuable insights and a renewed commitm

Gandhian Week

Inauguration ceremony

Date: 1 October , 2024

No. of students present:94



Lamp Lighting is truly enlightenment. It stands wisdom means of invoking divine energy and a symbol of harmony, knowledge and the inauguration of Gandhian Week commenced with the auspicious lamp Lighting Ceremony by esteemed Surbhi ma'am, Dushyant sir and Council members. It was followed by offering flowers and garlanding the Trame of beloved Gandhiji which served as a token of love, respect and reverence to commemorate the father of the nation the lighting of the lamp was then graced with the soulful recital of Raghupati Raghav Rajan by our very own members of Gandhi Study Circle. This simple, soul-stirring bhajan is etched in the consciousness Of mitions across India. It also happened to be the signature hymn of Mahatma Gandhi and became synonymous with his site, as also with the freedom struggle. The melodious voices of the members filled the Room with optimism and ardor.

The Calebrations were further infused with spirit of fervor and real by a Video demonstration of mesmerizing singers from all over the globe Who alluringly sang the

renowned Vaishnav Jan To. The poem Traditional example of the concept of jiva daya, a form of ahimsa that Involves experiencing the pain of others and associating it with bhalisi To celebrate Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, artists from over 124 Countries contributed to a medlay version of the bhajan,

Open Mic

Date – 1st October, 2024

No. of students participated: 15



The Open Mic event held October 1st was a vibrant celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's legacy, emphasizing his profound impact on society and the Importance of self-realization. The event brought together various Performances that highlighted the principles of ahimsa, social harmony, and Personal growth, embodying the spirit of Gandhi's teachings. Anchor Bhavika's Opening Remarks: Bhavika set the tone for the evening Reflecting on Gandhi's influential philosophies and their relevance in today's World. She emphasized the balance Gandhi sought between personal and Social life, encouraging attendees to contribute to the nation's development.

Shwika also spoke about Gandhi's efforts in combating untouchability and the establishment of ashrams where people from diverse backgrounds lived together in harmony.

Pragya's Discussion on Gandhi's Philosophy: Pragya delved into various Philosophies and principles championed by Gandhi. Her insights underscored the need for a balance between individual aspirations and collective welfare, Inspiring the audience to engage in nation-building efforts. S D Tiwari's Poem by Al Shifa: Al Shifa delivered a poignant rendition of a Poem dedicated to the Father of the Nation, capturing the essence of Gandhi's Vision and dedication to peace and non-violence.

Musical Performance by Shalu and Groups: A captivating song performance by Shalu and her group resonated with the audience, celebrating the ideals of Unity and peace that Gandhi stood for.

Nancy's Presentation on Women Empowerment. Nancy highlighted the crucial role of women in societal development, aligning Gandhi's Teachings with contemporary issues of gender equality and Empowerment.

Anjali's Musical Contribution: Anjali enthralled the audience with a Soulful song, further enriching the event's atmosphere with musical Reflections on Gandhi's legacy.

Shala's Poem on Swachhata and Sabhyata: Shalu recited a powerful Poem Focusing on cleanliness and social values, drawing connections to Gandhi's emphasis on swachhata or cleanliness as a vital part of Personal and communal responsibility.

Krishnakumar Noir's poem by Anmat:

Anmal presented a thoughtful Poem written by Krishnakumar Nier honouring the father of the Nation, emphasizing the importance of individual contributors to the Breadier social fabric Group Song "Tere Mati The event concluded with A moving group rendition of Tere Mitti" which resonated deeply with The themes of sacrifice and patriotiam, embodying the spirit of Gandhi's love for the nation. The Open Mic event was a remarkable tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, bringing together diverse voices and talents to celebrate his enduring legacy It served not only as a platform for artistic expression but also as a call to action for social development and empowerment. The Participants left wh a renewed sence of purpose, inspired to the principles of ahimsa and contribute positively to society.

Special Lecture Series – Lecture 2

Date: 3 October 2024

Speaker – Prof Madhulika Bannerjee

Topic – "Is There Anything in Gandhi Relevant to Fight the Climate Crisis?"

No. of students present :106



The Gandhi Study Circle, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, MH & Centre for Global Research & Advancement in Social Studies Organized a thought-provoking seminar on the topic, "Is There Anything in Gandhi That is Relevant to Fight the Climate Crisis?" The Gandhi Study Circle, a Society devoted to promoting Gandhian

philosophy with a focus on non- Violence and truth, took the initiative to explore how the values and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi could serve as a guide in addressing one of the most pressing Issues of our time the climate crisis. The seminar commenced with a warm Welcome to the guest speaker, Prof. Madhulika Banerjee, along with other Distinguished dignitaries like Dr. Skylab Sahu, Convenor of GSC, Prof. Pushpa, TIC Of Pol science dept and our honorable. Principal Prof. Bijaylaxmi Nanda As A token of appreciation, a small present was offered to Prof. Banerjee, followed By a brief introduction to the seminar's topic. Prof Banerjee address laid the foundation for the discussions to follow, focusing on a critical question: Can Gandhi's ideas provide insights or solutions in the Global fight against climate change? She acknowledged the enormity of the Climate crisis, which transcends disciplines, sectors, and individuals. The Challenges posed by climate change affect every aspect of life- whether it's Environmental degradation, socio-economic inequality, or political instability. The crisis calls for a collective response that cuts across boundaries. In her insightful talk, Prof. Banerjee highlighted that while the climate crisis may seem insurmountable, Gandhi's teachings offer a possible guide.

Gandhi's life and movements provide numerous lessons that are still relevant today. His advocacy for minimalism, self-reliance, sustainable living, and the Ethical use of resources resonates with modern environmental movements.

Gandhi believed in the power of small, grassroots movements to create Significant change, and this principle aligns with the emphasis on Community-driven climate action. Prof. Banerjee emphasized that Gandhi's Principle of Sarvodaya (the welfare of all) aligns perfectly with the need for Inclusive and sustainable development, where the well-being of the planet and all living beings is prioritized. His Insistence on Ahimsa (non- violence) also extends to the environment, suggesting a path of harmony with nature rather than exploitation. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A Segment where participants, including students and faculty members, shared their thoughts to and posed questions about how Gandhian philosophy could be applied to modern environmental challenges. The seminar offered a fresh Perspective on Gandhi's relevance in today's world and provided a meaningful framework for addressing the climate crisis through ethical and Sustainable choices. In conclusion, the seminar not only deepened the Parttimelessness understanding of the climate crisis but also reinforced the Timelessness of Gandhi's teachings in navigating such complex global issues.

Vote of Thanks

At the end of the seminar, a heartfelt vote of thanks was delivered expressing Gratitude to Prof. Madhulika Banerjee for her enlightening insights and for taking the time to share her wisdom with the participants. Thanks were also extended to the dignitaries, the faculty of the Political Science Department, and the members of the Gandhi Study Circle for organizing the event. It concluded on a positive note, with everyone encouraged to continue Exploring Gandhian principles as a means to address modern-day challenges like the climate crisis .

Food Donation Drive

Date 4 October 2024
No of students participated: 68



The fourth day of Gandhian Week witnessed a heartwarming food donation drive, embodying Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of compassion and service to Humanity. The initiative encouraged participants to bring packed food items to be Distributed amongst the underprivileged. Students, faculty members, and Volunteers enthusiastically contributed, filling the collection area with packets of Nutritious food, including dry fruits, biscuits, and cooked meals.

The drive commenced with an inspiring address by the convenor, highlighting the Significance of sharing resources and ensuring dignity for all. Volunteers then Organized and distributed the food to the needy in near by areas, fostering a sense of community and gratitude.

The event not only addressed immediate hunger but also spread awareness about reducing food wastage and promoting inclusivity. It served as a profound Reminder of Gandhi's philosophy:

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others .”

Competitions

The Article writing

Date: 5th October 2024

Time: 9 AM- 10 AM

No. of students participated:23

Theme: Gandhian Era : A Renaissance in Indian political, social and Cultural history
A man is but the product of his thoughts, what he thinks he becomes-Mahatma Gandhi

On this note, our session of article writing competition starts on 5th October 2024 as one of the parts in celebration of “Gandhi Jayanti week” that starts from 1st October to 5th October dedicated to celebrating his Ideas, struggles and sacrifices on the occasion of his 155th birth Anniversary. The Article writing competition started at 9 A.M. and lasted till 10 A.M in the students Activity center (SAC), Miranda House on the theme of “ Gandhian Era : A Renaissance in Indian political, social and Cultural history.” Competition saw an appreciated number of about 20 participants . The Editorial head of Gandhi study circle Ms. Kritika and Palak has informed the rules that need to be followed in competition. Every participant was given two A-4 sheets of paper to write their articles. The participants with their full enthusiasm and dedication tried to draft their ideas on Mahatma Gandhi as paying a tribute towards his Ideas that changed the world. The participants have successfully completed their writings in allotted time and competition ended successfully.

Poster Making And Slogan writing

Date: 5th October 2024

Time: 10 AM- 11 AM

No. of students participated: 31

Theme: Gandhian Principles Be the change you want to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi

Art is the form of representation of emotions, ideas and Struggle and through slogans we can raise our voices towards these ideas. On this note, our session of Slogan writing and Poster making competition starts from 10 A.M.and lasts till 11.A.M. on 5th October 2024 in students Activity center (SAC), Miranda House, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti week. The Competition was held as a part of celebrating the 155th Anniversary of “ Father of Nation.” Instructions for poster Making and Slogan writing competition were given by union Members. Each participant was given sheets to draw or write their creativity. Poster Making and Slogan writing participants have to draft their creativity around the theme of “Gandhian Principles.” Participants have worked dedicatedly, Shaping their ideas on Gandhi . The competition ended successfully with both the efforts of participants and members of Gandhi study circle .

Trash to Art

Date: 5th October 2024

Time: 11 AM- 12 PM

No. of students participated: 14

Theme: Crafting Gandhi’s Principles: Sustainability through Minimalism
Often Trash is associated with waste, something which cannot be used but Mahatma Gandhi's thought truly revolutionized our ideas, as he treats “waste as

Best” Celebrating this idea of Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhi study circle on the occasion of “Gandhi Jayanti week” organizes “Trash to Art” competition on the theme of “ Crafting Gandhi’s Principles : Sustainability through Minimalism”. This theme fosters the idea of cleanliness and sustainability of Mahatma Gandhi. The competition starts at 11.A.M and lasts till 12P.M in the students Activity center (SAC), Miranda House on 5th of October 2024. Participants have to carry their waste materials and make beautiful crafts out of their waste. Participants have made beautiful crafts and submitted to organizers In allotted time and the competition ended successfully . Overall all the events ended successfully with great efforts of participants and head and team member of gandhi study circle .

5 Days **Workshop**

Day 1 of Workshop Series

Date: 4th October 2024

Time: 11:45 AM- 1:45 PM

Lecture By: Prof Sushmita Bannerjee & Prof. Saumini Ghosh

No. of students present: 67



The workshop series commenced with the theme of “Revisiting Gandhiji: A Philosophical Exploration”. The day, first in the series of sessions, started with the felicitation of the Professors and speakers. Then the history professor, Ms. Sushmita Banerjee gave a quick, yet deep overview on the life of Gandhiji and summarized his life from South Africa to his death in 1948 with deep insights on the major events. She told many incidents of transformation in individuals because of his Satyagraha. She also described the changing methods of protest on how he changed ways which were not working.

She explained in the process, she also helped students to understand the difference between Self-interest and selfishness; and Offensive Violence and Defensive Violence. Then came the Political Science professor, Ms. Saumini Ghosh who described the ideals of religious tolerance of Gandhiji vividly. She described the impact of Bhagvad Geeta and experiences in South Africa, which helped turn Bapu into a great leader. She also told about the three moderns — Leo Tolstoy, John Ruskin, and Rajchandra, and how they shaped the ideology of Gandhiji. She explained how Bapu secularized Hinduism and promoted religious education. She also told about Varnashram, where Gandhiji believed the caste system should not be on the basis of birth but work. She explained how Bapu believed in the philosophy of 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' and change by setting an example. It was followed by a fun activity where students had to prepare a flow chart about tolerance & then explain it to their peers about what they understood by tolerance. The workshop ended with an interactive doubt session where students cleared all their queries with the professors.

Day 2 of Workshop Series

Date: 5th October 2024

Time: 11:45 AM- 1:15 PM

Lecture By: Prof. Surabhi & Prof. Jagriti

No. of students present : 56



In the workshop on 5th October, organised by Gandhi Study Circle, Miranda House, During Gandhi Week, esteemed faculty of Miranda House, Professor Surabhi and Professor Jagriti from Political Science department lectured students on insights on Gandhiji and his philosophy.

Professor Surabhi spoke about “Constructive Programmes with SDGs”, she spoke on Gandhi’s Constructive Programmes and their alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The discussion explored the transformative potential of Gandhi’s vision in addressing contemporary challenges. Key themes included communal unity based on tolerance beyond religion, removal of untouchability to foster social harmony, and promoting Khadi as a symbol of self-reliance and “vocal for local” initiatives. Surabhi Ma’am highlighted the significance of sanitation as a cornerstone of public health and the integration of adult education, emphasizing the synergy between literacy and values to nurture head, heart, and soul. The session also shed light on economic equality through grassroots involvement and the Empowerment of women as agents of change. The interactive session inspired Participants to envision Gandhi’s ideas as a blueprint for inclusive and sustainable Development, encouraging actionable steps in today’s context. This session was followed by an insightful session by Jagriti ma’am On “Gandhi and National Integrity.” She presented Gandhi as a lifelong learner who openly acknowledged his mistakes and evolved as a human being. Jagriti Ma’am emphasized the need to view Gandhi not as an infallible figure but as a man who made errors and sought to rectify them, urging the audience to practice forgiveness—a crucial aspect of humanity. The session highlighted Gandhi’s profound understanding of national integrity and its moral foundation, referencing his list of Seven Social Sins as a timeless guide for societal transformation. These sins—wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principles—were discussed as barriers to peace and harmony. The session inspired participants to reflect on Gandhi’s teachings as a path to fostering unity, ethical governance, and enduring integrity. Almost 80-85 students mark the event with their presence.

Day 3 of Workshop Series

Date: 7th October 2024

Time: 10:45 AM- 12 PM

Lecture By : Prof. Meena & Prof. Prafullit

No. of students present: 65



In the workshop on 7th October, organised by Gandhi Study Circle, Miranda House, during Gandhi Week, esteemed faculty of Miranda House, Professor Meena from political science department and Professor Praffulit from Geography department lectured students on insights on Gandhiji and his philosophy.

Professor Meena spoke about “Gandhi and Education”, she introduced students about the dialogue on education in the book Hind swaraj, how education is much more than knowing a language. She made us understand how Gandhi’s Swaraj, i.e, rule over self rather than self-rule, is about the integration of mind (intellect), body (physical matter), heart (emotions) and soul (spiritual elevation) and that the amalgamation of these four aspects of one’s being and their holistic development can only be achieved through education.

Gandhi’s idea of education builds character as it focuses on “experimental learning” as is apparent from his autobiography “My experiments with truth”. He focuses on lived experience, “Live as if you were to die tomorrow and learn like you have to live forever”, through Ashram, where students learnt and lived together. Gandhi also gave the idea of Naya Talim, new education, focusing on education in Vernacular language not just because it is easier to understand but also because mother tongue provides the sense of belonging, affiliation and home! during the session Ma’am spoke about Gandhi’s opposing orientation towards Western ideas and how he rooted for the return of local Indian ideas. But through deliberation among students and teachers, we established that learning western ideas in local language and their Indian suitability and adaptability would be better than complete opposition and that is what better sums up Gandhi, “Amalgamation of the best”. This session was followed by an insightful presentation by Praffulit Sir on Gandhi and Environment. Sir made us realise the fact that Gandhi predated any modern environmental movement and environmentalism that roughly began in the late 20th century. Gandhi’s teachings have inspired various forms of peaceful environmental struggles in India, including that of Water Satyagraha, Micro irrigation etc. He recognised Gandhi as ‘World’s early environmentalist in Vision and Practice’. Sir brought our attention towards the most polluting factor in today’s time “mass production”, fast fashion, and consumerism born out of capitalism. Gandhiji was against all these even when these phenomena were nowhere in sight. He spoke of how modern Industrialisation produced according to profit and not need, this idea is spoken in great detail by Gandhiji, one of his most famous thoughts, “The world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for anyone’s greed” is a testimony to his ideas and ideals. He told

us that Gandhiji had warned against industrialisation and urbanisation, he had predicted unemployment, environmental destruction and urban degradation. Gandhiji always supported production by masses and was against mass production.

Sir made us understand Gandhi ji's idea of Gramodaya, and the upliftment of hathkarigars so that the Indian handicraft could be revived after deindustrialisation of cottage industries during British rule. He asked us to stir our emotions for the villagers who had lost their skills in the hands of rapid urbanisation and assembly line production and they being reduced to mere survival with no physical and mental Nourishment. We should gift them hope of the rejuvenation of Indian art and craft.

Day 4 of Workshop Series

Date: 8th October 2024

Time: 10:30 AM- 12 PM

Lecture By: Dr. Ceejun Chandran & Prof. Priya Kanojiya

No. of students present: 87



On 8th October, Gandhi Study Circle of Miranda House organized the fourth day of the Workshop—Revisiting Gandhi: A philosophical exploration. For this, Dr. Ceejun Chandran and Ms. Priya Kanojiya were invited to deliver their views on Gandhi in their domain. Firstly, Dr. Ceejun Chandran, a lecturer and associate professor at Miranda House, delivered her ideas and opinions on the Gandhian method of Conflict resolution. She described a wide range of methods which Gandhi employed to promote peace and harmony while avoiding conflict and violence. She told how Gandhi emphasized self purification of an individual. She explained the 11 principles of Mahatma Gandhi, while emphasizing on his teachings of truth, ahimsa, and Satyagraha. She also talked about Gandhi's ecological concerns and the alternative model of development suggested by

him. She described the four steps of conflict Resolution—Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation. After that, Ms. Priya Kanojiya gave a deep insight on Gandhi's approach to Caste and Untouchability. She divided her speech into four parts so that the students can have a better understanding. She told how Gandhi's approach changed in 1932, when he criticized the caste system for the first time. Before that, he always criticized untouchability alone. She told how he never practiced casteism ever since his childhood. She gave Examples like how he adopted a Dalit girl child and married her to a Brahmin, promoting inter-caste marriage. She also described how pragmatic and far-sighted a political strategist he was. She explained the transition from Orthodox Gandhi to a radical Gandhi. She also touched upon his critics like Dr. Ambedkar, British Government, Arundhati Roy, etc. Both sessions ended with an interactive question- and-answer session, where students cleared their doubts on Gandhi with their Professor .

Day 5 of workshop series

Date: 9th October 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Lecture by : Supriya Verma

No. of students present: 80



The last day of the 5-day workshop 'Revisiting Gandhi: A Philosophical Exploration', was organized by the Gandhi Study Circle of Miranda House in collaboration with CGRASS on 9th of October, 2024. Ms. Supriya Verma was invited for the session. She gave her views on the topic—"Gandhi and Ambedkar", And enlightened students with her deep insights. She explained about how the Ideologies of both these legends differed in their pathways for the upliftment of Dalits or untouchables in society. She explained about the areas of divergence or points of contention between them—how Ambedkar supported

separate electorates and Gandhi was strictly against it. She explained the points of view of both leaders. Then she described the points of convergence in their thoughts. She told about how both of them had the same motive, i.e., betterment of society and upliftment of backward sections of society. The session ended with students clearing their queries and sharing their ideas with the professor.

Date 9 October 2024

Time: 1 PM to 2 PM

Lecture by: Prof. Skylab Sahu

No. of students present: 96

On 9th October 2024, the Gandhi Study Circle hosted a thought-provoking seminar titled “Gandhi and Swaraj” as a part of the ongoing Gandhian week. It was presented by Skylab Sahu, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Miranda House, University of Delhi. The lecture aimed to delve into the multifaceted concepts of Swaraj as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi. Colonial Context and Civilising Mission: Professor Sahu opened the discussion by addressing the British colonial narrative, which often cloaked exploitative intentions under the guise of a “civilizing mission.” She referenced thinkers like Bhikhu Parekh, who critiqued this narrative and highlighted the need for a deeper understanding of the political dynamics of the time. This framing set the stage for exploring how Swaraj or self-rule emerged as a response to such colonial ideologies.

Conceptual Clarity of Swaraj:

The term “Swaraj,” initially popularised by Lokmanya Tilak, was discussed in terms of its evolving meanings. Professor Sahu emphasized the importance of conceptual clarity surrounding this term, noting that it transcends mere political autonomy to encompass a holistic understanding of self-governance. She pointed out that Swaraj involves a duality of political awareness and a community-oriented approach, contrasting it with egoistic self-interest.

Political Awareness and Historical Context: The seminar underscored the significance of political awareness in the Indian freedom struggle. Professor Sahu discussed the impact of sedition laws and their implications for post-independence India, emphasizing how such laws have historically stifled dissent and hindered democratic engagement. She urged attendees to appreciate the historical struggles for political expression that shaped contemporary Indian society.

Antyodaya, A Gandhian Principle: Another key concept addressed was “Antyodaya,” which means the upliftment of the last person in society. This principle reflects Gandhi’s commitment to social justice and equality, advocating for a society where everyone, especially the marginalized, has access to resources and opportunities. Professor Sahu argued that this vision of inclusivity is essential for achieving true Swaraj.

Gandhian Economics and Technology:

In the latter part of the seminar, Professor Sahu explored Gandhian economics, particularly in a post-pandemic context. She questioned The ethical implications of technology in today's world, encouraging participants to Reflect on how technological advancements can serve humanity rather than exacerbate Inequalities as Gandhi suggested.

Conclusion

This seminar proved to be an invaluable experience, enriching the participants' Understanding of Gandhi's enduring legacy and its relevance in contemporary society. The lecture was not only an academic exploration but also a call to action for all present to embody the principles of Swaraj in their daily lives.

KHADI UTSAV' 2025

2Nd April 2025
Miranda house



The *Khadi Utsav 2025, organised by the *Gandhi Study Circle of Miranda House,* Unfolded as a reflective and intellectually charged exploration of Gandhian ethics in a rapidly transforming world. Anchored in the theme *‘‘Understanding Gandhi’s Vision of Swadesh and Its Contemporary Relevance,’’* the event invited the audience to reconsider Khadi not as a relic of the national movement, but as a living epistemology, one that Interrogates our habits of consumption, our relationship to labour, and our understanding of selfhood.

The keynote address by *Dr. Dhananjay Rai* became the axis around which the day’s dialogue revolved. Moving beyond surface interpretations, Dr. Rai illuminated *swadesh* as a civilisational ideal, an ethic that binds individual responsibility with Collective well-being. He drew incisive connections between Gandhi’s spinning wheel and contemporary debates on sustainability, decentralised economies, and the moral consequences of globalised production. His argument positioned khadi as a subtle yet radical critique of

modern excess: a fibre that resists the velocity of consumerism and Reorients us toward dignity, restraint, and conscious citizenship.

Date: 2 April 2025

Time: 2 PM to 3 PM

Lecture by: Dr. Dhanajay Rai

No of students present:126

The session began with opening remarks from the *Prof Dr. Skylab Sahu, Who underscored the urgency of revisiting Gandhian thought at a moment when ecological Fragility, cultural homogenisation, and economic inequities define global narratives. An engaging discussion followed, with students and faculty posing probing questions on the Philosophical foundations of self-reliance, the politics of consumption, and the Imaginative possibilities of Gandhian praxis in today's world. The conversation transformed the event into a dialogic space where theory met lived realities.

A felicitation ceremony marked the conclusion of the programme, with the Convenor and the Union of the Gandhi Study Circle honouring *Dr. Rai* for his insightful Contribution and for reinvigorating the discourse surrounding Gandhi's intellectual legacy.

Khadi Utsav 2025* ultimately reaffirmed that Gandhian thought is not a memory to be archived, but a methodological tool, a way of thinking, questioning, and envisioning futures grounded in justice, simplicity, and interdependence. The event succeeded in reminding the community that the philosophy of *swadesh* continues to offer an ethical Compass for navigating the complexities of a world in search of sustainability and soul.

CONCLUSION

The activities of the Gandhi Study Circle, Miranda House, over the past academic year reaffirm Gandhi's Thought as a dynamic and critically relevant framework for engaging with contemporary Challenges. Through academic discourse, creative Expression, and community oriented initiatives, the Society has consistently treated Gandhian philosophy not as a commemorative legacy, but as a living ethic guiding reflection and action.

By fostering dialogue, interdisciplinary inquiry, and social responsibility, the Gandhi Study Circle has encouraged students to critically engage with values such as non-violence, Swaraj, social justice, sustainability, and ethical leadership. These initiatives have strengthened the connection between intellectual Inquiry and civic consciousness. As the society moves forward, it remains committed to nurturing reflective, socially responsive individuals who embody Gandhi's vision of ethical action grounded In conscience, dialogue, and responsibility affirming Education as a transformative force for a more just and

