

Best Practice-I

Title of the practice: Sustainable Living

Context

Unrestrained exploitation of precious resources to satiate our immediate greeds and myopic considerations are not without undesirable consequences for all and the severity of it is likely to be unparalleled for the poor. The only remedy in sight is to practice sustainable living, the key elements of which are environmental preservation and conservation, promoting biodiversity, strengthening ecological balance, reducing carbon footprint to control global warming and in effect climate change, and curbing the polluting agents. This is the only way of living to ensure the sustenance of the blue planet and in effect our sustenance and the sustenance of our future generations. Thus, recognizing the significance of sustainable living, ZHDC has taken proactive steps to ensure that its principles are implemented in the college and that students are educated in a manner that they are sensitive to the needs for sustainable living and can become drivers of sustainable practice in the society.

Objectives

1. Promoting green practices in the college that aid in environmental conservation, promote biodiversity, strengthen ecological balance and reduce the carbon footprint of the college.
2. Developing green infrastructure
3. Training faculty in adopting and implementing sustainable practices
4. Sensitizing students to the significance of sustainable living, acquainting them with its principles and enabling them to become the drivers of sustainable practice within and outside the college campus.

Practices

ZHDC acknowledges the significance of sustainable living, in pursuance of which, we have managed to put in place a system to implement practices and policies that promote it. Through its academic departments and dedicated societies like Aranya, the Nature and Environment Society, Parimandal, the society of the Department of Environmental Studies, and the Garden and Greening Committee, the college organizes activities and sensitizes the students about the significance of sustainable living. The following are some of the practices put in place by the college administration, individual departments and stated societies under its supervision.

BODMEL-Environment friendly method

- We are very proud to state that a new compact glass apparatus, BODMEL, has been fabricated by two of the faculty members of our college for the determination of melting points, boiling point and for simple distillation of small volumes of liquid organic compounds. Distillation is the traditional method of choice for determination of boiling point, which requires a large volume of liquid organic compound (roughly 80–100 mL) of concentrated sulphuric acid bath in a Kjeldahl's flask or Thiele's tube. BODMEL, on the other hand, **requires only a very small amount of concentrated sulphuric acid (about**

2 mL) and similarly a **small amount of liquid organic compound (about 1-2 mL)** to determine the melting point and boiling point respectively. The newly fabricated miniature glass device BODMEL (abbreviated so for performing three functions viz., determination of **BO**iling point, **D**istillation, and **MEL**ting point with a single piece of equipment) is safe to use, simple to set up and delivers accurate results.

- Significance of BODMEL: It **drastically reduces the amount of chemicals used in our teaching laboratory at a very affordable price**, making it a very efficient lab equipment for a developing country like ours where resources are limited and therefore should be used judiciously. Further, it provides an **implementable and cost-effective solution to the large-scale waste disposal problem** faced by numerous colleges, universities, and schools that have on-site laboratories regularly producing a range of waste products and chemicals, none of which can be disposed off in an environment-friendly manner. One need not be reminded of the unspeakable horror and health hazards waiting to happen if such waste matter manages to leak into our surface and subsurface water bodies. BODMEL offers a viable solution to restrict the disastrous effects of such eventualities.
- Sangeeta Pandita, Sarita Passey, BODMEL: A Compact Apparatus for Simple Distillation Boiling Point and Melting Point Determination, *Journal of Laboratory Chemical Education*, Vol. 2 No. 3, 2014, pp. 50-52. doi: 10.5923/j.jlce.20140203.03.

Activities organized by the nature and environment society

- Inaugural lecture on **‘Bamboo- A Green Gold’** by Dr Krishna Kumar, Scientist C, Northeast Center for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR), Department of Science and Technology (DST) on September 12, 2018
- An Excursion to Sultanpur National Park and bird sanctuary, On January 30th, 2019, to enhance the knowledge and create awareness of the students concerning **the need for biodiversity and the conservation of flora and fauna**. The members were **acquainted with the various ecological systems like wetlands, aquatic and grassland systems**. Such trips, if utilized properly, play an important role in creating awareness among the students and aid them in understanding and appreciating the role of various stakeholders in protecting our environment.
- The members of the society contributed in **lake cleaning and habitat restoration** in collaboration with the Environmentalist Foundation of India (E.F.I), an environmental conservation group, with primary focus on wildlife conservation and habitat restoration. The student members of the society also pitched in for the **afforestation and animal care drive** in the Delhi region.
- The society organised a Poster Making Competition on the topic **‘Rising Landfills and Its Effects on Environment’**, and a nature Photography Competition “Kalakarito” showcasing to the public the beauty of nature and biodiversity
- An **Anti-Cracker Campaign** was organised by the society on 1st November 2018 to raise awareness for a safe Diwali, and a street play titled **“Diwali toh crackers free hi honi chahiye”** was performed by the members of the society on the eve of Diwali to highlight the noise and air pollution created by crackers. The society also organised a photography competition on the theme of natural beauty as a part of this campaign.
- An inter-college paper presentation was organised on **Consumerism and Sustainable Development**
- Further, an awareness campaign **“say no to plastic bags”** was organised by Nature and environment society in collaboration with the Gandhi Study Circle society by putting up a stall of **cloth bags for day-to-day shopping**. The special attractions were embroidered fancy cotton bags and specially designed vegetable shopping cotton bags. Members also discouraged people from using plucked and cut flowers and promoted the use of small potted plants.

- Finally, Nature and Environment Quiz was organised by the Nature and environment society in association with the Quiz Society of ZHDC ‘Quintessence’

Activities Organised by NCC

- Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Nukkad Natak was organised on **the need for cleanliness in our life**
- NCC, in its conservation efforts, also organised a **Plantation Drive**, ‘Plant Greenery’ in the premises of our college.

Miscellaneous

- The college also participated in the **61st Annual Delhi University Flower show** held on March 1st 2019, under several categories and groups, displaying seasonal flowering plants, perennial foliage plants, cacti & succulents, bonsai, hanging baskets, cut flowers and flower decorations along with the college herbal, rose and Rock gardens. All these plants are raised from fresh stocks every year in the college gardens themselves.
- To prevent the abuse of soil and to promote organic practices, the college is strict about **not using chemical fertilizers** and **relies on vermicompost units** to meet all the college requirements.
- The college accords high priority to **safe e-waste disposal practices**. Our successful association with Chintan continues in this regard. The college has installed separate bins for the collection of e-waste, which is subsequently handed over to Chintan for recycling and proper disposal.
- We have attempted to **minimize the use of paper** in our daily use by incorporating the electronic medium for regular communication between the administration, teaching staff, students and non-teaching staff. To this end, we also **re-use one-sided printed paper** for rough use, and waste papers from the office, labs and store are recycled in the handmade paper unit of college by our students. Large quantities of paper are also recycled through Jaagruti NGO.
- Energy conservation for sustainable living too is high on the agenda. College building, therefore, has been provided with **well-lit classrooms, laboratories, staffrooms and offices, to minimize the consumption of artificial light**. The **old fans have been replaced** in order to reduce the consumption of energy. The students and staff members are also advised to keep the electric switches off if not needed.
- The college has affirmed **to make the campus a plastic-free zone** and to this end, **non-plastic plates and cutlery have been made mandatory in the canteen** and for the staff kitchen. The college also regularly holds the **sale of recycled cloth bags** on campus as a part of its ‘Say no to Plastic’ drive at minimal prices.

Evidence of Success

The following are some of the encouraging results that have propelled us closer to fully embracing sustainable living.

- BODMEL, an innovative leap by our faculty members, has been a huge success for us and also for the country as it provides a safe and efficient solution to drastically reduce the amount of chemicals used in our teaching laboratory and also provides an implementable and cost-effective solution to limit the wastage coming out of our research labs.
- The college won several prizes in the 61st Annual Delhi University Flower show held on 1st March 2019, including a total of ten cups from all the entries. The herbal garden, Rose and Rock gardens of our college were adjudged second best in the league.

- College has become, to a considerable extent, no plastic zone on account of various drives listed above.
- Likewise, the college now fully relies on organic inputs for the care of green spaces in the college, which includes the utilization of in-campus leaf litter and canteen kitchen waste of the college, recycled through a vermicompost unit, making us self-sustainable towards the fertilizer requirements of college gardens.
- E-waste management, with proactive assistance from the civil society organization 'Chintan', has been a very successful project hitherto.
- The college has also signed a contract with Azure Power Ltd for the installation of solar panels on rooftops to fulfil its energy requirements.
- The college has been running a 'Handmade Paper Unit' for the last several years, and also regularly conducts workshops for the students and faculty to recycle wastepaper in collaboration with an NGO, 'Jaagruti'.

Problems Encountered

- Upkeeping many of the facilities for conservation efforts and building new ones is capital intensive. For instance, there is a shortage of open areas for the upkeep and maintenance of garden plants. The college does not have a proper plant nursery for multiplying and raising plants. Consequently, plants languish in cramped spaces, resulting in severe losses due to human interference, lack of proper care and neglect.
- Moreover, a lot of precious and rare plants and seedlings also die due to the vagaries of the season in semi-arid places like Delhi. In this regard, a greenhouse facility is long overdue in the college.
- Sustainable living is for every member of the society, and learning its principles and practices is a must for all the students, but often students from many departments struggle to participate and get benefit from some of the significant programs organized by various societies and departments on account of the timings of such events clashing with their regular but important academic classroom sessions.
- Many of the outreach programs such as community plantation drives, afforestation drives, and participating in environmental impact assessment projects require the support and cooperation of civil society organizations and agencies other than the college administration. Often, maintaining the necessary coordination for attaining a common goal in such multi agency projects is difficult.

Resources Required

- To undertake newer environmental projects and to upgrade the existing facilities of our green campus, ZHDC requires dedicated logistical and financial support along with aid from the government and civil society organizations. We wish to develop a Green House Facility for maintaining rare and precious germplasm and need garden spaces to build plant nurseries.
- Likewise, capital allotment is required to advertise and advocate the usage of BODMEL in the labs associated with other colleges, universities and schools.
- To acquaint students with the best practices in the scientific research in the field of environmental science, an understanding needs to be arrived at between some of the eminent environmental institutions in India and ZHDC so that resources can be pooled for some of our students with proven merit to allow them to gain valuable undergraduate research experience in such institutions.

Best practice- II

Title of the practice: Inclusive and Integrated Education

Context

ZHDC is fully committed to an inclusive and integrated education program. Apart from harnessing the potential of the students, bringing clarity to their vision and interests and persistently stimulating their drive to excel in their academic pursuits, we also intend to develop our students into reflective members of civil society, who are adept at making value judgments to shape and guide our society in a progressive direction. Thus, our undivided attention is towards creating an ecosystem where the holistic development of the students holds primacy.

Further, we acknowledge that marginalization is a hydra-headed reality of our society, which manifests often in the form of socio-economic hierarchies, gender biases, discrimination against differently abled and regional disparities. As a socially responsible and morally conscious institution, we are determined to adopt practices and set precedence wherever we can to bring the marginalized to the mainstream and persistently work with civil society to bring an end to any form of discrimination.

Objectives

1. To achieve holistic development of the students by affording them with the platforms to express their all-round potential
2. To infuse students with moral sensibilities, critical thinking tools for reflection, and general principles of value judgement
3. To afford students the opportunity to participate in social outreach programs as agents of progressive change.
4. To adopt policies and practices and develop infrastructure to facilitate the inclusion of the marginalized
5. To transform students into torchbearers of civil society to mitigate negative discrimination of any form.

Practices

The following are some of the practices adopted by ZHDC in 2018-19, to achieve the broader objective of integrated education and inclusivity.

For the all-round development of the students:

- The National Service Scheme Unit of Zakir Husain Delhi College took several initiatives. On 21st June 2018, International Yoga Day was celebrated in the college campus. The intent has been **to make Yoga a daily practice in the lives of students to lead physically and mentally healthy life**. In the month of August, it conducted an **Oath Ceremony on Corruption, Cleanliness Drive and Flag Distribution**; students also undertook an election cleanliness drive during the Delhi University Student Union Elections. “**Raddi**” a Collection Drive and *Diwali Mela* were organized from 30th October to 1st November 2018 as part of which the NSS volunteers **distributed clothes and sweets** to the children of Rajender Ashram and engaged them in entertaining activities and games, keeping up with the spirit of Diwali.
- An interactive **workshop** on “**Stress Management and Inter-personal Conflict Resolution**” was organized for the students on 30th July 2018 by Gandhi Study Circle.

- The inaugural lecture of the Girls' association 'Aasmi' was delivered on "**Good Health-A Key to Happiness**" on 3rd Oct 2018. Girl's association, in collaboration with the placement cell of Zakir Husain Delhi College, also conducted an **interactive workshop** and a talk on "**Know your Rights**" (*Ab Samjhouta Nahin*) with ITC vivel.
- On 25th January 2019 National Voters Day was celebrated with the objective to create **awareness amongst the students about their voting rights and duties**.
- Political Science Society - Avaam organized a series of three lectures in January 2019, the first of which was on '**Issues in Understanding the Philosophy of Ambedkar**', the second on '**Kashmir: Gender and Resistance**', and the third on '**Analysing Electoral Outcomes and Understanding Public Opinion**'. It also organised a **book discussion** with Professor Neera Chandhoke on her book '**Rethinking Pluralism, Secularism and Tolerance: Anxieties of Coexistence**'.
- Zoological Society 'Inheritance', maintained the "Wall Magazine", consisting of scientific articles **spreading awareness concerning the graveness of environmental pollution, plastic waste, micro-plastics menace to the seas and oceans**. For the students to **appreciate the significance of biodiversity and ecological balance**, an excursion trip was organized to RajaJi National Park situated in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in the last week of October.
- **Russian language certificate course** is offered by the college.
- ZHDC acknowledges the **significance of Physical Education and Sports** in the holistic development of students, and accordingly the administration ensures that every opportunity is made available, in terms of infrastructure and training, to those who exhibit special interest and skills in any particular sport. The Department of Physical Education and Sports, continuing with the practice, has organised various tournaments and games in this academic year. Our students have not only participated but have brought laurels to the college in football, volleyball, table tennis, athletics, chess, Judo etc. and have played at the national level such as North Zone Santosh Trophy.
- Over the years, with the persistent effort of many generations of our students, ZHDC has become a well-recognized cultivating ground for art and culture. The **art and culture society** of our college, with its six sub-committees, is the driving force behind this success. The six sub-societies of the Arts and Culture Society are *Aman*-the Theatre Society, *Dhanak*-the Western Dance Society, *Dhwanik*-the Indian Classical Music Society, *Suchitra*- the Fine Arts Society, *Nrityathi*-the Classical Dance Society, and *Illume*- the Western Music Society. Suchitra, Nrityathi, and Illume have been established in the current year. All these sub-societies have performed with excellence in various competitions and brought recognition and accolades to the college.
- *Aman*, the Theatre society has been invited to perform by organisations such as the Shakespeare Society of India, the British Council, Ashoka University, and Kirori Mal College, among many other prestigious institutions. Through its incessant hard work and unwavering commitment, Aman has been able to win the National Drama Competition of the Shakespeare Society of India for a record five times in a row.
- *Dhwanik*, the Classical Music Society, this year, composed four classical ragas- *RaagBhupali*, *RaagDesi*, *RaagSurMalhar*, and *RaagMiyaMalhar*.
- *Suchitra*: The Fine Arts Society, founded this year, has already made its presence felt in the fine arts community of the University. In addition to making regular contributions in various college events like NSS events, the society participated in various intra-college projects coupled with engagements at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay.
- *Nrityathi*, the Classical Dance Society currently consists of six committed classical dancers of varied backgrounds including *Odissi*, *Kathak*, *Mohiniyattam*, *Bharatanatyam* and *Kuchipudi*.

For Promoting Inclusion:

All-inclusive education is one of the guiding principles of ZHDC. Since its inception, the college has adopted a multi-pronged approach to facilitate the inclusion of the marginalized. Firstly, the administration has always ensured that the constitutional, statutory, legal and policy guidelines of the state for the empowerment and inclusion of the marginalized are implemented without any compromise.

Secondly, the policy framework and decision-making apparatus of the college have always prompted inclusion by means of institutional practices and infrastructural development. Finally, we have tailored our curriculum in a manner that makes our students sensitive to the plight of the marginalized and to the need for taking proactive steps for facilitating inclusion. The following are some of the practices ZHDC has adopted to promote inclusion:

- **For the differently-abled students**

- To facilitate unhindered access, ease of navigation and hygienic enclosures within the college campus, we have installed **ramps, lift, signage and wheelchairs** are available for the needy, and **Divyangjan-friendly toilets** have been built keeping in view their special needs.
- **Scribes** for examination are made available by the administration based on the nature of the disability and the statutory allowance.
- For ease of access to the study material and library facility, the administration has ensured that there is a **computer connected with Lex Scanner** for converting text into voice and **headphones** to be used by visually challenged students. When required, **the library staff helps** visually challenged users by converting their print material into voice material using Lex Scanner provided by the EQC of the University of Delhi.
- **Delhi University Braille library Membership** is also provided to visually challenged students where they are provided with all their reading materials both in Braille format and audio CDs.
- The students are also provided with an **Angel device** which assists visually challenged students to access the written material. Additionally, visually challenged students are provided with **laptops installed with JAWS software for assistive reading**.
- Efforts have been made to make the **college website Divyangjan friendly**. Likewise, book catalogues and some magazines, viz., The Touch, *Gyanodaya* and *Sparsh Setu* are provided in Braille format for easy access for visually challenged students.
- **Enabling Unit:** Hum Honge Kamyab is a society that works for the empowerment and inclusion of the differently abled. The annual fest of the society 'Utsav' was organized on 15 March 2019. The function was inaugurated with a motivational lecture followed by various inter-college competitions to provide a platform for showcasing the talents of differently-abled students to the larger student community in the college. The Enabling unit also sensitizes the youth on the daily challenges and the needs of the differently abled students and helps to promote the spirit of assimilation in the students' community.

- **For the Socioeconomic inclusion**

- In this regard, ZHDC adheres to the **reservation/positive discrimination** norms mandated by the law.
- In addition, **scholarships** are offered to students who belong to the socially and economically marginalized sections of the society, and the **Students Aid Committee** of the college too provides financial assistance to such students.
- A **book bank** facility has been created for the students, especially from the underprivileged backgrounds, to borrow books for the whole year.
- The college also offered **free of charge medical counselling** to the students who are unable to afford it otherwise.

- **For Women empowerment**

- In 2018-19, like all the previous academic sessions, various departments offered a **one per cent relaxation in cutoff marks** to the female students for securing admission.
- A **women's development cell** is in place, solely dedicated to address the concerns of female students.

- A **girl's common room** has been instituted to afford the female students a space where their privacy is uncompromisingly respected.
 - The **Internal Complaints Committee** worked efficiently and conscientiously towards its goal of resolving issues related to gender discrimination in the session 2018-19. It worked in collaboration with the NGO Saheli and held Orientation programmes on rules and regulations related to gender discrimination. The ICC also organized talks by eminent experts in this area to disseminate information about laws related to gender issues and the legal position of the ICC in these matters.
 - We live in the Information Age, where adeptness in handling ICT tools arguably holds unrivalled potential for empowering women educationally, economically and socially. Acknowledging the foregoing, ZHDC has introduced a **computing skills program for female students**.
- **For the Regional integration**
 - We at ZHDC recognize in full measure that regional integration is one of the necessities to promote fraternity, peace and contentment in a multicultural society like ours. We also recognize that the best foot forward in the direction is to experience, understand and celebrate the diversity that is India. To actualize the foregoing, we have been very encouraging and proactive in forming **regional societies** and **formal and informal forums** to look after the specific needs of the students coming from various linguistic and cultural regions of India.
 - the Northeast Students Counselling and Welfare Cell, a body designated to aid and assist students from the northeastern states of India, organized its annual festival, Kaleidoscope – “**Celebrating Diversity: Upholding Traditions**” on 5 March 2019. A renowned political psychologist spoke on the theme of “**the body and identity of individuals, collectives and nations**”. The occasion also served as a platform for the students to showcase their individual talents and the **rich cultural practices of the Northeastern people** in a spectacular exhibit of the diversity of meanings and choices of life.
 - The society also organized a colloquium on the National Register of Citizens in collaboration with the Department of Political Science on the 20th of September 2018. Professor Monirul Hussain of the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia and Bonojit Hussain of the Consortium of Asian Democracy Index (CADI) led the discussions on the politics of belonging and citizenship.

Evidence of success

- Primary objective for adopting the above-stated practices has been to promote integrated and inclusive education, where no one is left out from getting an opportunity to develop their all-around potential. The sheer number of above-listed events and practices are a testimony to the fact that the College has managed to provide a variety of opportunities in diverse domains for students to express their talent, skill and excellence.
- Likewise, to infuse students with moral sensibilities, critical thinking tools for reflection on social and ethical issues, to acquaint them with general principles of value judgement and to afford students the opportunity to participate in social outreach programs as agents of progressive change, we have been able to organize many programs, lecture series and drives with the able support of NSS, Gandhi circle and other student-run departmental societies of the college as detailed above.
- Further, we have been able to successfully continue with some of the existing policies and practices and also have been able to induct some new ones, as evidenced in the section for practices, to facilitate further inclusion of women, differently abled, socio-economically marginalized and the students from under-represented regions of the country.
- Furthermore, students enjoyed a good measure of autonomy in many of the practices mentioned, where they had the freedom to conceive and develop social and moral objectives to

be attained and to plan for the resource acquisition and deployment for the purpose. Such activities enabled the students to gain a first-person perspective on what it means to be a participant in the events of progressive social transformation.

- Finally, the overarching objective of all the above-listed practices has been to provide students with the opportunity for all-round development. A reasonable measure of its success is the recognition our students have managed to gain for their excellence in many of the extra-curricular activities. ZHDC is known for its excellence in Sports and related events, with many of our teams and individuals, as stated in the section for practices, have won recognition and accolades for their excellence in the year 2018-19. The same goes true for the students from our art and theatre societies: Aman-the Theatre Society; Dhanak-the Western Dance Society, Dhwanik-the Indian Classical Music Society; Suchitra- the Fine Arts Society; Nrityathi-the Classical Dance Society; and Illume- the Western Music Society. All of them have managed to bring laurels and national recognition to the college. The following are some such recognitions—
 - In the Inter-college Football Championship organised by Delhi University Sports Council (DUSC), the college football team reached the finals. Two members of the football team, Mr Mujtaba Khan from BA (H) Political Science 3rd year and Mr.Sahil Kumar of B.A. (H) Sanskrit 1st year played for the Delhi State in the North Zone Santosh Trophy and qualified for the National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy.
 - The Department of Physical Education and Sports, ZHDC organized the 31st edition of the Zakir Husain Memorial Football Tournament from 1st to 9th February 2019, on a knockout basis. It was held at Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi in which 16 teams from different colleges and universities in and around Delhi NCR participated.
 - Our college Volleyball team won the Delhi Technological University tournament, Aahvahan, Krishna Engineering College sports tournament, Infinito 2019. The team also entered the semi-finals of Inter College Volleyball Competition organized by the Delhi University Sports Council (DUSC).
 - The Boys' table tennis team participated and won in tournaments held at IIT Kanpur and BITS Goa. They also secured the runner-up position in the tournament organized by Rukmani Devi Institute of Advance Studies.
 - In Athletics, Mr Aman Kumar Jha won several medals in open tournaments and secured the second position in Decathlon, Inter College Athletics Meet, organized by DUSC.
 - The Judo team had a remarkable year. The College Boys team, consisting of Mr.Abhinay Kumar, Mr Suryansh Thakur, Mr.Alok Pandey and Mr.Vardhan, was the overall champion in Inter College Judo Tournament organized by Delhi University Sports Council (DUSC), winning five gold medals. Our 4 judokas were selected for the All India Inter University competition held at GNDU, Amritsar. Ms Nikita won the silver medal whereas Ms Sapna and Ms Kalpana won the bronze medal in Inter College Judo championship.
 - The Girls' chess team too participated in a number of tournaments and performed well.
 - In the session 2018-19, Aman Theatre Society performed Asghar Wajahat's *Godse@Gandhi.Com*, directed by Sumit Bera, at many national and state-level competitions winning accolades at institutions like IIT Ropar and IIT Roorkee. The play was also performed at the famous Kamani Auditorium as a part of SahityaKalaParishad's "Mahavidyalaya Naatya Samaaroh." Aman was selected to perform the play at the prestigious Old World Collegiate Theatre Festival organised at the India Habitat Centre. It had two houseful ticketed shows thus adding another feather in its cap. Ms Hridyanshi Toor won the Best Actor award for her performance in the play at IIT Ropar.
 - *Aman* performed its second production, 'Liyaqat', an adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy King Lear, directed by Zeeshan Khan at the Shakespeare Society of India's National Drama Competition. The performance won the award for the Best Production, while Alyasa Abbas won the Best Actor award and Nikhita Khurana won the award for

Best Supporting Actor. It also received two rolling trophies for winning the competition a record five times.

- *Dhanak*, the Dance Society, participated in different national-level competitions including prestigious institutions such as IIT Roorkee and IIT Bombay. Their performance won the second prize at IIT Roorkee. The performances were also given at various colleges of the University of Delhi, successfully making it to the finals of many competitions and winning at colleges like B.R. Ambedkar College and Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening). The team also debuted at the Delhi Dance Fever making it to the final round, a rare feat for a debutant team.
- Dhwanik, The Classical Music Society, participated in the national competition at IIT Kanpur in addition to other inter-college contests at the University of Delhi. The outstanding performances of Mr Nabeel, a skilled Sarangi player and Mr Daksh, a gifted classical singer brought remarkable recognition to the society. They won as many as twenty-four prizes at the college together with state and national level competitions. Mr Devesh Bisht and Mr Sargam Boruah gave individual performances at the University of Delhi colleges.
- *Suchitra*, the Fine Arts society participated in various intra-college projects coupled with engagements at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay. The members of the society were nurtured and inspired by this extensive exposure. Mr Amit Gupta, Mr. Ankur Raman, Ms Monika Rawat, Ms Javi Gautam, Mr Nitish Kumar Bharti and Mr. Tejas have won prizes in competitions as diverse as ‘making art out of waste’, ‘wall painting,’ ‘dress-making out of waste’ among many others.

Problems encountered

- To successfully attain the stated objective, participation of the students from all the departments needs to be ensured, but often it is difficult to attain, for it requires coordination and cooperation between all the departments to agree upon a time slot that doesn't encroach within their regular academic schedule. Thus, many students are often required to make a trade-off to attend such events, but we are working on the issue to find a proper solution to the problem in the future.
- Secondly, the administration is enthusiastic about introducing more social outreach programs where students gain firsthand experience of participating the activities that can bring progressive social change, but such events also require dedicated support from civil society organizations, alumni network and civil administration. Unless these bodies proactively support and aid in such activities, it is difficult for the college to manage and execute such programs.
- Finally, maintaining a fine balance between extra co-curricular activities and purely academic pursuits is often a difficult task, where tradeoffs have to be made very judiciously. Either set of activities cannot be pursued at the expense of the other. College authorities acknowledge the dynamic nature of the problem as it varies from year to year. Thus, a continuous evaluation is done to ensure that lines are not crossed in either direction.

Resources Required

Cooperation of the students and faculty is probably the most significant resource needed to ensure the success of all the objectives listed above, and that we have no dearth of. Apart from it, ZHDC is proud to have robust logistical and infrastructural support to organize seminars, symposia, workshops and lectures. Designated financial, physical and Human Resources are allotted in a timely manner to ensure that all the objectives are accomplished effectively.