



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Prayaas: A Step Towards Social Good

The School of Management and the Outreach and Extension Division jointly organized Prayaas: A Step Towards Social Good on Thursday, 20th February 2025, at the Kashmere Gate Campus, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. This community outreach initiative was designed to strengthen engagement with the social sector and sensitize students to critical social issues.

Introduction

Children's welfare remains a pressing social issue, with many underprivileged children struggling for access to education, healthcare, and basic rights. Universities must play an active role in fostering social responsibility among students.

Prayaas: A Step Towards Social Good, under the theme 'Together for Children's Welfare', was an effort to bridge the gap between academia and the social sector by creating awareness and encouraging action for children's welfare.

Objectives

- To sensitize students to the challenges faced by marginalized children.
- To promote active engagement with NGOs working for children's welfare.
- To strengthen institutional partnerships with the social sector.
- To encourage experiential learning, aligning with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Event Highlights

1. Changemaker Dialogue (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM): A keynote session was delivered by Dr. Mala Bhandari, Founder Director of SADRAAG, where she shared insights on child welfare initiatives.
2. NGO Showcase (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM): Seven NGOs dedicated to child welfare set up stalls to showcase their work, raise awareness, and sell handcrafted items made by children under their care.

Participating NGOs

- SADRAAG – Advocating for marginalized communities.
- ISSST – Providing quality education for underprivileged children.
- Children of the World (CWD) – Working with street children in Delhi.
- Pehchaan – Offering alternative education to neglected children.
- Jamghat – Supporting street children through education and theatre.

- Indus Action – Ensuring access to education under the RTE Act.
- Bhavishya – Empowering children through education and skill-building initiatives.

Event Proceedings

Welcome Address

The event commenced with a welcome speech by Dr. Richa Awasthy (Event Coordinator). She introduced the event's objectives and welcomed the panel members:

- Dr. Mala Bhandari (Guest Speaker, Founder Director, SADRAAG)
- Dr. Kartik Dave (Dean, School of Management)
- Dr. Rukmini Sen (Director, Outreach and Extension Division)

A token of appreciation was presented to the esteemed panel members by Dr. Anshu Gupta.

Address by Dr. Kartik Dave

Dr. Dave emphasized the importance of having a purpose in life. Addressing management students, he stressed the concept of 'profit with purpose,' encouraging individuals to give back to society. He referenced a 1978 Hindi song 'Jeena uska jeena jo auron ko jeevan deta ho' and the 2007 Bollywood film 'Taare Zameen Par,' drawing connections to the theme of social responsibility.

Address by Dr. Rukmini Sen

Dr. Rukmini Sen highlighted the significance of events like Prayaas in fostering student engagement with societal issues. She discussed:

- The necessity of NGOs in addressing child welfare concerns.
- The increase in school enrollments due to improved infrastructure like toilets and drinking water etc.
- The facts about children dropping out from schools and decline in reading abilities among children post-COVID-19.
- The legal framework of child rights in India and the responsibilities of institutions in ensuring their implementation.

Guest Speaker Talk and Q&A

Dr. Mala Bhandari initiated her session with the song 'Mera bhi toh adhikaar hai,' setting the tone for a discussion on child welfare. She elaborated on:

- The various child rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
- Key issues affecting children, including child labor, trafficking, and early marriages.
- The importance of legal protections, such as:
 - Right to Life (protection against sex determination)
 - Right to Protection (laws like POSCO, prohibition of child marriage, and child trafficking)
 - Right to Participation
 - Right to Development

She also shared success stories of rescuing children from child marriages in Mathura and Gautam Buddha District, emphasizing the role of her NGO in securing education and livelihoods for underprivileged children.

Dr. Bhandari urged students to be vigilant and report violations of child rights, stressing the importance of being proactive in supporting children in distress.

Vote of Thanks

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anshu Gupta (Event Coordinator), who expressed gratitude to the guest speaker, panel members, the Vice-Chancellor, administrative staff, and students for their enthusiastic participation.

Conclusion

Prayaas: A Step Towards Social Good successfully fostered awareness and active participation among students, strengthening ties between academia and the social sector. The event not only highlighted critical issues related to child welfare but also provided students with opportunities for experiential learning and real-world impact.





