



Issue January 2020

# INTERCOM

Together We Are Mission



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## A MEMORY FROM THE PAST

It's 2020. Playing around with those digits, I came to 2002, the year it was the turn of YWCA of Delhi to host the National YWCA Convention. It was to be in early February for one week. The main areas of responsibility were board and lodging for about 140 to 150 delegates, transportation to and from airports, train stations and interstate bus terminals and organizing the opening worship, besides several other requirements. The logistics were quite a challenge at the time

However, the YWCA of Delhi was not to be daunted & dug its heels in. The BTFH was closed to outside guests for 8 days which was a big loss specially as it fell within the 'peak' period, wherein the guest house made most of its money. Yet it could house 80 to 84 persons at best. The WTI was also closed for 1 week for students but the staff were assigned duties for the event. The thought of hiring 80 beds, linen, pillows and quilts was not at all appealing and the cost would have drained most of the allocated budget. The very thought our delegates having to sleep in blankets and quilts that had been used by all and sundry with suspicions as to their having been very properly laundered was awful. So a brilliant idea of buying 80 folding cots, pillows, mattresses and quilts was approved and carried out with absolutely no dent in the budget as all the 'bed sets' were pre-booked and bought by staff at cost price. Sheets and pillow cases went to the BTFH's inventory for its use. All double rooms at BTFH had an extra bed put in and conference rooms turned into dormitories for 6 persons each. The library and classrooms near the toilets in WTI were converted into dormitories for Youth delegates as well as the guest room and a couple of offices in the Administrative block served as double or single rooms. Class rooms in WTI on the ground floor became venues for workshops and office and Nominating committee requirements. The accommodation and board aspects were excellently and very smoothly handled under the able leadership of Manel Singh the then BTFH HOD, the BTFH Committee and all the BTFH staff. It was a mammoth job indeed.

Next was the food. The National were to give us Rs. 100/- per head per day for bed tea, breakfast, elevenses, lunch, tea, dinner & after dinner coffee and cookies. Highly inadequate to say the least! It would not even cover half the costs. So each committee was called upon to sponsor one non veg item or a dessert for one meal. The response was great and individuals contributed as well. The caterers also cut down their charges and we were given a big pat on the back for having organized the best National YWCA Convention till date. The meals provided surpassed those served at any other national convention.

The travel agent on campus, Vinstring Travels and Tours pitched in by providing free transportation by way of buses, coaches and taxis to and from airports, train stations and interstate bus terminals. A very generous gesture indeed ! Round the clock monitoring was required as people arrived at all of hours of the day and night. This difficult area was beautifully handled by Jacob George and Gabriel who had to keep track of various flight and train delays and make immediate adjustments when various arrivals arrived or departed at the same time specially with regard to international delegates.

The REC Committee organized a beautiful and inspiring opening worship service at The Sacred Heart Cathedral at the Gol Dakhana Circle. A choir from our then RDP project sang beautiful Hindi bhajans as well.

It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the various Rural & Urban development projects and work that the YWCA of Delhi was doing with visits organised to the various sites.

A week of hard work by each and every staff member alongside Board and Committee members working together shoulder to shoulder made it a wonderful example of team work. Three cheers to the YWCA of Delhi!

**Rekha Kapila**  
**Chairperson-MAP**

## M's Story

I have always known that the work we do at the YWCA of Delhi is significant. This is story about M. I am not mentioning her name for obvious reasons. The work we do at our shelter homes is so important. We are transforming lives and providing much needed support to women from all over the world. The importance of our work at the Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, short stay shelter home for women who are victims of violence was brought home to me yesterday. I was driving to work when I received a phone call that gave me immense pleasure and joy. The young woman at the other end said "Hello GS mam how are you, this is M. Do you remember me?" It was like a flash back in the movies... my mind took me back to June 2011, when the YWCA of Delhi had a visit from a government official. This official was asked to come and check out RKAK. A lot of questions were asked about the functioning of the shelter home especially about the security measures. Who was allowed to enter the home? What kind of security was prevalent at the gate? So on and so forth. So we explained everything to the official who left and we did not hear from the official again for a while.

The RKK shelter home was reopened in 2009 when I had just taken over as General Secretary. I remember Ms. Pramindha Bannerjee the then president of the YWCA of Delhi, that reopening the shelter home for victims of violence was one of her main priorities. RKAK was to be a short stay shelter home to help the women out of crisis situations. The shelter home was reopened with Ms. Kiran Walia who was the then Minister of the Women and Child Department of the Government of the NCT of Delhi as the chief guest. By the way she was also the chief guest when we opened Matrutva Chaya the shelter homes for pregnant and lactating destitute women.

Anyway, I digress, back to the reason for my happiness. In November 2011, a young woman (around 18 years of age) from Afghanistan was brought to the shelter home by the government official whom we had met in June that year. We were told that she was a high security risk person and she needed a safe and secure place to stay. We took young M in immediately and gave special security instructions to all concerned. A beautiful, graceful, strong and resilient young woman, she adjusted very well to the ways of RKAK. She was helpful and kind to the other residents of the shelter home. She wanted to learn English and so began taking English speaking classes at FRAP. She had spent nearly 3 months with us when I received an application from her to extend her stay. As per rules of RKAK the longest she could possibly stay was 3 months. I needed to get special permission from the board to extend her stay. The board would need extenuating reasons for it to extend M's stay.

I called in Ms. Beena Nidar who was the coordinator of the shelter home to come along with M. I wanted to know why she came to RKAK in the first place and the reason for the application to extend her stay. The story M narrated was in human, shocking and scary. M lived with her family in a small town. Like any young teenager even one in Afghanistan M, became friendly with the neighbour's son who was around the same age as her. Like any traditional community such friendships are forbidden. This was an innocent enough friendship. Now M's father was apparently a senior member of the Taliban in Afghanistan at a time when the Taliban wielded a lot of power in the country. When he got to know about this forbidden friendship he became incensed. He grabbed his rifle and stormed into his neighbour's house. No questions were asked, no explanations were asked for either. Without any warning he opened fire and shot dead the whole family. Not a single person was left alive. Young M was so terrified she knew if she did not escape her father would come after her. She somehow managed to escape from her home and eventually reached a shelter home in Kabul. The shelter home provided her with a lot of support. Four years had passed and the shelter home in Kabul got to hear that M's father was making enquires about her. They were worried that being the man that he was and the power that he wielded it was a matter of time before he would land up



at their door. It was then that international agencies were contacted who in turn got in touch with the Indian government officials and M was brought to RKAK.

With the support of the board, we were able to have M stay with us for a year. In the meantime, Beena Nidar was given the responsibility to work with UNHCR and other international agencies to help M get asylum as a refugee in the United States of America. In November 2012 M left for the United States of America where she had been granted asylum.

Over the years M would send me a message every now and again on Facebook messenger asking me how I was doing. We would have a brief correspondence and then all would go quiet. Just last week I was wondering how M's life had turned out. So when I got this call yesterday I was so happy to hear her voice. M is now a US citizen. She has learnt to drive and has a job. She is now an independent young woman strong and resilient. She is in India on her honeymoon. She and her husband were going to visit the Taj Mahal at Agra and return to the United States of America at the end of the week.

It is these stories of courage, resilience and transformation that makes all the tough times of running a shelter home absolutely worth it. This is the reason why the YWCA is such a significant organisation.

**Anuvinda Varkey**

**Chairperson-PASI**

## TESTIMONY OF MS. SHALINI MERRILL

My journey of pain began on 18th Nov 2019. I was in shock and got depressed when I came to know that I am bedridden because of a slip disc and sciatica pain in my right leg and could not walk. But then my only hope was on our living God, our Lord Jesus Christ. He helped me meet God chosen people. I cried in pain every day, but my eyes were on my Abba Lord Jesus. He connected me with amazing blessed people who fasted and prayed for me. A lot of people were shocked to see my pain and see me bedridden.

But the Lord's promise for me was - "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" Isaiah 40:29. Depending on this word from God, I was waiting for the miracle to happen. Day by day I was losing hope, but God helped me hold on. My hopes were shattered especially after an MRI scan which was done on 17th Dec 2019. The MRI report indicated a need for an operation and the doctor had scared us completely. But miraculously, my body kept indicating improvement contradicting the report.

This is only the grace of the Lord, fasting and prayers of godly people that my health was improving. The Lord doesn't test us always, nor does He punish us. In fact, sometimes He lets things happen to give us time to ponder on our lives. He wants us to spend more time in meditation. Our Abba Lord Jesus Christ is a father who wants his children to sit with him, talk to him and share goodness of Life.

I'd like to share this verse as I conclude - "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" Psalm 100:5.

May God be with you all.

**Shalini Merrill**  
**Member of YWCA of Delhi**

## BLUE TRIANGLE FAMILY HOSTEL (BTFH)



The YWCA Blue Triangle Family Hostel (BTFH), guest house located in the heart of Delhi, Connaught Place offers budgeted accommodation to travelers from all over the world. BTFH welcomes all the visitors with smile & make the guest feel at home “A Home Away from Home”. Few work & Achievements in this quarter are as follows:

- **Human Resources:** One Bell Boy has been appointed W.e.f 04/12/2019.
- **Laundry Vendor:** M/s. Anita Laundry & Drycleaners contract renewed for 1-year W.e.f 01/01/2020.
- **BTFH Lawn Hiring Charges:** Lawn Charges for four hours have been reduced.
- **Achievement:** BTFH have achieved the projected income from April 2019- December 2019.
- **BTFH Exterior Painting work:** Final Phase of the work completed.
- **License:** Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) consent to operate License renewed W.e.f 19/09/2019 to 18/09/2024.
- **BTFH Room Tariff:** Room Tariff have been revised for Single, Double Room Single Occupancy & Double Room.
- **ROOM TARIFF REVISED ROOM TARIFF W.e.f 01/01/2020**

TYPE OF ACCOMMADATION	BASIC TARIFF	INCLUSIVE OF ALL TAXES + TMF
SINGLE ROOM	Rs.1999/-	Rs.2298/-
DOUBLE ROOM (SINGLE OCCUPANCY)	Rs.2700/-	Rs.3083/-
DOUBLE ROOM	Rs.3300/-	Rs.3814/-
EXECUTIVE DELUXE ROOM (SINGLE OCCUPANCY)	Rs.2863/-	Rs.3266/-
EXECUTIVE DELUXE ROOM	Rs.3472/-	Rs.4007/-
FAMILY SUITE ROOM	Rs.4019/-	Rs.4737/-
DORMITORY (MINIMUM 6 PERSON)	Rs.766/- per person	Rs.917/- per person
EXTRA BED	Rs.638/-	Rs.812/-
CHILD WITHOUT EXTRA BED (5 TO 12 YEARS)	Rs.383/-	Rs.452/-

**Meriel Irene Joy Michael**  
(Chairperson-BTFH)

**Satish Kumar**  
(BTFH-Coordinator)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CDP)

**Inclusiveness** :-It can be challenging to stay and work with individuals who come from different cultures, where values beliefs and societal practices and conventions are distinctly different. We at YWCA of Delhi believe in diversity and use it to demonstrate our strength. Women & girls from diverse social and economic background are enrolled for vocational training courses at Najafgarh. Formation of women's collective and self-help groups. The Mahila Panchayat programme at Govindpuri & Sangam Vihar provide space for women from different social background where they can feel safe, respected, provide a platform to raise their voice against societal evils and comfortable in being themselves and expressing all aspects of their identities.



75 YOUNG GIRLS ARE GIVEN TRAINING FOR ON VARIOUS TRADES TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT

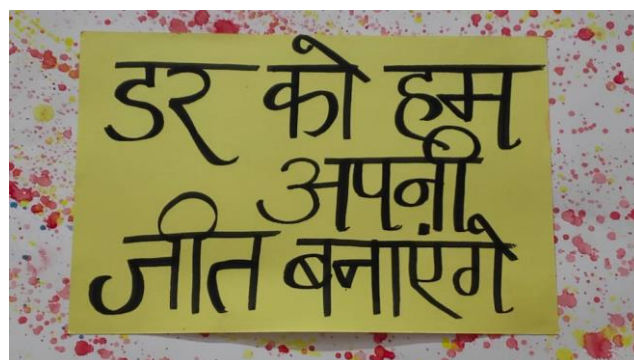


PUTTING UP OF STALL AT DIWALI MELA SALE OF HANDICRAFTS AND PICKLES

**Working with Men & Boys**:- Engaging with youth through formation of Bal Panchayats/ Youth groups and establishment of youth friendly centers at community level engage youths through dialogue, discussions on issues related to them.

Regular interaction & Counseling of Husbands & male members of the families are being provided while handling & dealing violence & liquor addict cases under Mahila panchayat Program.

Community youth members participated in youth festival held at YWCA Ashoka Road with the theme 'Gender Parity' to sensitize boys on healthy relationships with the female gender an attempt to make youth advocates of Gender Equality. The program was in three parts. Photo competition, documentary movie, speech by speaker and dance session.





On 14<sup>th</sup> November '19 Children's day was celebrated at C D P centers. Children's participated in sports activities held during the day and prizes were given to the winners. They enjoyed the program.



**Stand against Violence** :- Violence against women is a violation of human rights and fundamental freedom of women. That is why our departments and programmes respond by speaking out and standing up against violence. CDP focuses on advancing rights of women and girls. Through its various projects, the department works towards building self-confidence, leadership and knowledge on violence against women.

The CDP implements Mahila Panchayat programme funded by Delhi Commission for Women in slums and resettlement colonies of Delhi. This is an innovative and collective approach for the community women to address issues of women by women leaders of the community. They are trained on legal matters and laws relevant to crimes against women. They are also provided training in counseling, filing of FIR, following up with police stations, and process for legal recourse.

**Details of Violence cases dealt by Mahila Panchayat, August 2019 to December 2019.**

Name of Centre	Total No. of Cases Reg.	Solved Cases	Referred Cases	Closed/Withdrawl Cases	Under process
Govindpuri	82	42	10	13	17
Sangam Vihar	45	12	8	5	20

**A MINOR GIRL CHILD CAUGHT IN CRISIS**

महिला सोनी (name changed) का मुंह बोला भाई साहिल (name changed) पुरानी दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन से एक नाबालिग बच्ची को लाया ओर उसे सोनी ,अपनी बहन के घर पर छोड़ा और कहा की उसकी गाँवकी बहन है काम करने दिल्ली आई है | महिला ने रात भर उसे रखा और अगले दिन लड़की को लेकर नवजीवन कैंप में महिला पंचायत लीडर मुन्नी (name changed) के घर आई और बच्ची के विषय मे बताया | मुन्नी देवी ने कहा की पंचायत मे बताया जाता है कि इस तरहकी बच्ची को कोई भी ऐसे नहीं रख सकता और वे बच्ची को लेकर महिला पंचायत ऑफिस मे आए | महिला पंचायत स्टाफ ने बच्ची की जानकारी ली | बच्ची अप्रैल माहसे घर से निकली थी और इन दिनों मे किसी दोस्त से बनारस मे उसने शादी भी कर ली | परन्तु लड़के ने अपने घर वालों के डर से लड़की को पुनः

दिल्ली भेज दिया। पंचायत ने तुरंत 1098 चाइल्ड लाइन को सूचित किया। चाइल्ड लाइन ने पूरी कहानी बच्ची की सुनी और कहा की पोक्सो का केस है फिर 100 नंबर पर कॉल हुई। पुलिस आई बच्ची ने बयान दिये की किस तरहउसे लड़की ने, नई दिल्ली स्टेशन पर उसका यौन उत्पीड़न किया। उसी मिनट, लड़की को पुलिस महिला पंचायत ऑफिस से, चाइल्ड लाइन के स्टाफ के साथ कालकाजी थाने मे ले गई। महिला पंचायत स्टाफ वलीडर भी साथ गए। लड़के ओर उसके तीन ओर साथियो को भी पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया। इस तरहमहिला पंचायत ने लड़की को सुरक्षित हाथों मे सोपा।



**“घरेलू हिंसा को अगर कोई खत्म कर सकता है तो हम सब D C W Chief on Indefinite Hunger at Rajghat**

**मिलकर ही खत्म कर सकते है” महिला एकता- महिला पंचायत | (03/12/19 to 15/12/19)**

**Networking & Partnership:-** YWCA of Delhi has invested in building strong relationships with government departments, civil society organizations, embassies and the private sector . These partnerships and networking has given the opportunities to the organization to access broader range of resources and expertise.

The Mahila Panchayat program at Govindpuri & Sangam Vihar is a result of continuous networking with Delhi Commission for women. At community level we work with Police Stations, CAW cell, DLSA, Local area Municipal Councilor, M L A and key opinion leaders of the community.

We are also working with Delhi Minorities Commission in creating awareness on Minority Education & Welfare schemes.

A large “Awareness” Camp on Minorities welfare schemes was organized on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 by YWCA of Delhi Community Development Program with the financial support of Delhi Minorities Commission. Around 140 beneficiaries from minority communities of Govindpuri area attended the Awareness Camp in the auspicious presence of Hon’ble Sister Anastasia Gill (Member Delhi Minorities Commission), Pastor Kiran (Resource person), Ms. Maghdlina (Secretary of Sister Anastasia Gill - Member Delhi Minorities Commission),officials from – YWCA of Delhi), & key opinion Leaders from the Community addressed the programme and motivated the beneficiaries of the area about the scholarship & loan schemes of Govt. of NCT of Delhi. For organizing this camp we received financial assistance from D M C.



**Dr. Sonajharia Minz**  
**Chairperson**



**Nafees Ahmad**  
**H O D**

## **JASOLA WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTEL (JWWH)**

Jasola Working Women's Hostel celebrated a DJ night on 30/12/19 to celebrate the advent of the New Year.

1. All the residents gathered in the inner garden at 9.pm and danced away till 11.pm.
2. Special dinner was served to them with Soup and cake in between.

There was a lot of merriment and excitement in the air, making those away from home happy where they were. The cold chilly night was not able to dampen their spirit and their happy faces were proof of money well spent.



**Maria A. Rajamani**  
**Chairperson-WWHs**



**Rita Das Gupta**  
**DD-WWHs**



## **THE CENTENARY HOSTEL FOR WORKING WOMEN (CHWW)**

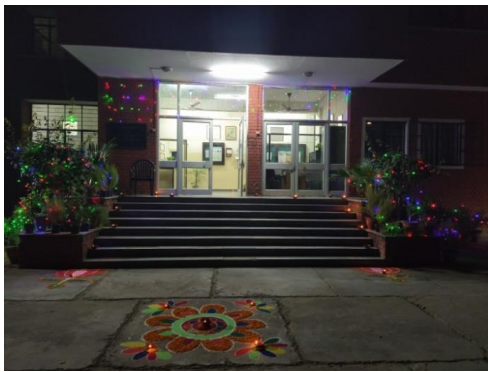
The Centenary Hostel for Working Women of the YWCA of Delhi was renovated and inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1994. The Completion Certificate was received on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1995 and started functioning from 6<sup>th</sup> February 1995.

Situated in the heart of Delhi, it offers safe, comfortable and affordable accommodation to working women from all over India. With 65 rooms on 3 floors, there are 17 single, 29 two seater, 6 three seater, 1 four seater and 12 six seater rooms and fees are marked accordingly with stay not beyond 33 months. It can accommodate 169 women. The different categories of rooms with all facilities meet the need of every Resident and make them feel at home.

Three Guests rooms are available on twin sharing basis for short durations to women who come for internships, interviews, holidays, and official purpose. Out of these 3 rooms, one room has AC and attached bathroom.

In order to make the hostel life very colorful and interesting for the Residents and create an atmosphere of “home away from home” various events are held from time to time. Some of the events held from October 2019 till January 2020 are:

Diwali was celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Residents and staff made Rangoli and lit diyas and put up lights. No crackers were burned to support green Diwali. A special dinner was provided; it was a fun filled day though only few of them were available.



On 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, the hostels in collaboration with Membership Department held the Christmas Program in which Residents from different states of all the three hostels CHWW, JWVH and PWWH came forward and shared their culture and display their talents through dancing. A Christmas Carols were also presented. This is done to encourage a harmonious co-existence and mutual respect for each other.



In November 2019, a new Hostel Committee was formed under the leadership of Ms. Maria A. Rajamani to guide and support the day-to-day functioning of the Hostels. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Hostel Committee Meetings were held.

**Maria A. Rajamani**  
Chairperson

**Niangaihulun Samte**  
Coordinator



## Membership & Programmes (MAP)

### **Orientation Programme: Theme Networking**

Orientation Programme for members was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019, at Constantia Hall of YWCA of Delhi. Theme of the programme was “Sharing & Giving”. Ms. Apphia A. Daniel welcomed everyone. Hymn “This little light of mine” was sung by all. Bible reading was done by Ms. Anita Keskar. She also read a poem on “A Joy of Unselfish Giving”. Prayer was said by all.

Ms. Zarina Bazliel organized a fun game for all with the help of Ms. Anita Keskar. Youth Members-Ms. Apphia A. Daniel and Ms. Saumya Jogy spoke about their journey in the YWCA. Ms. Rekha Kapila gave an overview of YWCA. Departmental information of YWCA of Delhi was displayed on the basis of which a quiz was organized. The winners got chocolates and had great fun in participation.

Ms. Dimple Tresa Abraham requested everyone to be a generous giver and highlighted the requirements of Shelter Homes, CHWW and CDP. Many members came forward to give their contribution for the same.

Ms. Krishna Kapoor, talked about the benefits of “Laughter Yoga” and gave demo on the same. Everyone participated and laughed a lot with her.

The programme came to an end with “Hum Honge Kamyab”-sung by all. Lunch was served to all after the programme. 25 Members and 15 staff members (HODs & Coordinators) attended the programme and enjoyed it. Ms. Hazel Siromoni expressed the need to have more programmes like this in future.

Photos:



**Christmas Programme: Theme: Inclusiveness**

Membership and Programmes joined hands with Hostels to organize the Christmas Programme on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Hostels took the responsibility of decorating the Constantia hall with blue and silver lights which were enchanting. Christmas tree was also decorated by them. The Programme started with tea, coffee, soup, mix veg pakora and cake.

Ms. Rekha Kapila, Chairperson, welcomed everyone. Opening prayer was done by Ms. Apphia A Daniel. Rev. Ayo Zimik, our esteemed speaker was introduced by Ms. Renuka and felicitated by Ms. Hazel Siromoni, President, with a token gift. Rev. Ayo Zimik shared his amazing Christmas message of giving and sharing. A Praise & Worship team of Delhi Lotha Christian Fellowship sang a medley of Christmas Carols, led by Mr. Russell Humtsoe. Neighbourhood School Children presented a Christmas skit beautifully. There were three magnificent dance performances given by Hostels-Bamboo Dance (JWWH), Rajasthani Dance (PWWH) and Fusion Dance (CHWW). YWCA Choir, led by Ms. Sushma Ramswami, sung Christmas carols and stole everyone’s heart. Vote of thanks was given by Ms. Abha Ekka, General Secretary. Benediction and Grace was given by Rev. Ayo Zimik. The programme was ended with dinner.

It was a successful programme. 234 people attended the programme and enjoyed it to the hilt.



**Rekha Kapila  
(Chairperson-MAP)**

**Renuka Das  
(HOD-MAP)**

# **PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL ISSUES (PASI)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The YWCA's of India's themes for the present quadrennium on which the PASI Department has worked on during the reporting period are:

- Safe Spaces for women
- Networking.

## **SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN**

As part of our strategy to create safe spaces for women we have found that building awareness on issues of safety would be one of the means of achieving our aim of creating safe spaces for women. The PASI department in collaboration with the Youth Department organized seven workshops on the Topic "Safe Spaces for Women". Our target audience were the students of the YWCA's, Women's Training Institute (WTI). 7 workshops were held and about 213 number of women participated. The trainers were Ms. Rita Agarwal and Ms. Narmada the HOD of PASI and the Counsellor of the YWCA of Delhi respectively. The topics covered were on sexual harassment and on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressed), 2013. The legal and psycho-social aspects of sexual harassment and the law were dealt with. Helpline numbers were shared with the women. The objective of the workshops was to build awareness of the meaning of sexual harassment in terms of the law as well as the law which protects working women. The sessions were interactive sessions with women bringing up issues that they face and the possible issues that they may face in the workplace.

The outcomes of these sessions were that the women who participated in the training programmes now know and understand what sexual harassment is and its legal implications. Further, the participants are now aware of their rights and would be able to exercise the same in their workplace. Finally, they know where they will be able to get psychological and legal help for themselves or their friends' family members and acquaintances.

### **Cyber Bullying**

A workshop on Cyber bullying was held for WTI students. The aim was to make the participants aware of how to be safe in cyberspace. The resource person was Mr. Anshe's Roy DCP Cybercrime, Delhi Police. 146 number of students participated in the workshop. With the help of a power point presentation on Cyber Crime he create awareness that social media platforms that we use to keep up with friends and family – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube – have given rise to a vast global cybercriminal network, and young girls fall victims and are harassed. How to keep yourself safe from being victimised was highlighted and how to increase its preventive capabilities in the fight against **cybercrime**.

### **Domestic Violence**

The second series of workshops were held on Domestic Violence. These workshops were held in the YWCA's CDP project areas of Dhansa where 64 women attended. From Roshanpura and

Dharmapura villages 24 women 10 men participated in these workshops, from Deenpur 32 women participated. The trainer for the programme was Rita Aggarwal. Provisions of the Domestic Violence Act was shared with the women. The aim of the workshop was to build awareness of the law and to engage with women to build strategies to mitigate violence in their families. Awareness of the law informed them of the redressed and safety provisions of the law.



These sessions were interactive with women sharing cases of domestic violence. Through these incidents types of domestic violence were explained. Further they were made aware of patriarchal mind-sets of their communities. The outcomes of these workshops were that women were made aware of the law on Domestic violence, the complaint and redressed mechanisms and the rights granted to them under the law. They are aware now that they can seek the protection of district protection officers and that they can approach the Delhi Commission of Women and other NGOs apart from the YWCA to seek help for cases of Domestic Violence.



## NETWORKING

The YWCA of India has placed an emphasis on Networking. To this end the General Secretary of the YWCA of Delhi attended a meeting organized by the Delhi Minority Commission on seeking justice for the 10 years of imprisonment of innocent people in the aftermath of the Khandwa violence. PASI collaborated with ANHAD and NFIW in the culmination of pan India campaign to safeguard Constitutional values, and spread message of peace, harmony, tolerance and love in 200 cities. Dr. Sonajharia Minz was one of the speakers together with Dr. Anne Raja and Dr. Shabnum Hashmi at this event this was followed by a public meeting at Parliament Street.



**Anuvinda Varkey**  
Chairperson

**Rita S Aggarwal**  
Head of Department



## PRIYADARSHINI WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTEL (PWWH)

In the month from October to December, 2019 two programs were organized by PWWH. 'Diwali' celebration and the other was 'Christmas' which we celebrated along with other hostels and in house also. 'Diwali' is the festival of lights, came alive at PWWH on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 when the entire hostel wore a festive look with glistening diyas, coruscating festoons, scintillating string lights and a vibrant rangoli. The hostel gleamed like a radiant star on the occasion of Diwali which symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. The celebration began at 7:30pm in the evening with the residents and ARS assembling in the reception area. The event commenced with the lighting of diyas by the inmates followed by prayer. Countless memories were made and captured on cameras and phones.



'Christmas' is a holy event of sharing happiness, hopes and blessings among all. This year, Christmas celebration of YWCA hostels was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at YWCA, Ashoka Road. This time, it was organized by joint effort of all YWCA branches of Delhi, to bring some different taste. The said event was hosted at Constantia Hall of YWCA in a grand manner. The programme started with welcome note by Ms. Rekha Kapila at 6:30pm followed by opening prayer by Ms. Apphia. A brief introduction was given by Ms. Renuka (Speaker) and message by Mr. Ayo Zimik (Chief Guest). The celebration of Christmas was started with the DLCF choir which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Thereafter, neighbourhood school children presented a beautiful Christmas skit. Later on, hostlers from different hostel presented regional dance programmes viz. bamboo dance (Jasola), Rajasthani dance (PWWH) and bhangra dance (CHWW) along with YWCA choir. Lastly a vote of thanks was given by Ms. Abha Ekka. The overall decorum along with dinner was very nice. The Christmas gifts were distributed among all the participants.



On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, PWWH celebrated Christmas in house; PWWH premises were decorated with beautiful lights and creative decorative items. The programme started at 7:00pm and was followed by music & dance. Residents enjoyed a lot & the atmosphere of PWWH was covered with enthusiasm. The celebration included photo session and delicious food which were provided in the dinner.



In a whole, residents enjoyed in these programmes and they benefitted from each programme. It was a memorable event for the residents and the staff of the PWWH.

**Rita Das Gupta**  
DD-WWHs

**Maria Antoinette Rajamani**  
Chairperson-WWHs



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (REC)

### Theme: Inclusiveness:

**World YWCA and World YMCA Week of Prayer (10-16 November, 2019)  
Prayer Service held at YWCA of Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 3.00 p.m.**

World YWCA and World YMCA Week of prayer was observed from November 10-16, 2019. The theme of this week was “Young People Transforming Power Structures for Gender Equality”. Inauguration combined worship service was held at Free Church, Parliament Street, New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 9.30 a.m. Ms. Abha Ekka, General Secretary was present with Ms. Renuka Das. Ms. Renuka Das did Bible reading -Romans 12:1-2.

During this week, the prayer service held at Constantia Hall of YWCA of Delhi, on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, at 3.00 p.m. The theme for the day was “Equal Rights & Justice” (Numbers 27:1-7). Our esteemed Speaker was Prof. Peter Jo from Korea.

The introduction of Week of Prayer and welcome speech was given by Ms. Mercy Rao, Chairperson of REC. Call to worship was offered by Rev. Dheera Bhola and Ms. Molly Cherian. Opening hymn “When upon life’s below...Count your blessings” was sung by all. Scripture reading was done by Ms. Renuka Das. A Skit was played by Neighbourhood School Children on the theme “Equal Rights and Justice”. The skit was appreciated by all and efforts of Mrs. Meera Asthana were appreciated.

The esteemed Speaker, Prof. Peter Jo, was introduced by Ms. Molly Cherian and felicitated by Ms. Hazel Siromoni, President.

Prof. Peter Jo started his message with the presentation of history of women who suffered and stood to fight for their rights and sought justice in the whole world. He further highlighted that the man and woman were made equal in God’s image. God gave certain duties/responsibilities to men and women according to Bible (examples were quoted from Genesis 2:18, Genesis 3:16, Ephesians 5:22-25, Corinthians 11:3). It was a meaningful presentation.

Closing hymn “Gin Gin ke Stuti Karon” was sung by all. There was a closing prayer said by all. The event was attended by about 63 people, including National YMCA, National YWCA, YWCA Staff, Members of YWCA and Neighbourhood School children.

Ms. Abha Ekka, General Secretary, thanked all present and asked everyone to give the Neighbourhood School Children a good round of applause for their magnificent performance. The programme ended with fellowship tea & refreshment.





**Mercy Rao**  
**Chairperson-REC**



**Renuka Das**  
**HOD-REC**



# **MAATRITAVA CHHAYA SHELTER HOMES JAHANGIRPURI & SARAI ROHILLA**

**&**

## **RKAK SHORT STAY HOME ASHOKA ROAD NEW DELHI**

### **Stand Against Violence**

YWCA of Delhi is running Two Maatritava Chhaya Shelter Homes for Destitute Pregnant & Lactating women at Jahangirpuri & Sarai Rohilla respectively and the Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Short Stay Home at Ashoka Road New Delhi. Both the M.C. Shelter Homes at Sarai Rohilla and Jahangirpuri are given financial assistance to meet expenditure on operations and in addition Buildings and basic infrastructures are also provided by the Government through the aegis of Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi Administration.

The most common problems reported are domestic violence, desertion by the husbands, abandoned by the families, sexual abuse, love affair, missing, rescue cases, psycho social problems like mentally retarded, differently-abled ladies etc.

### **BRIEF on SUCCESS STORY**

One of such case of domestic violence survivor is Renu (Name Changed), who was 35 years of age when she came to our Shelter Home with 9 month of pregnancy through Delhi Commission for Women. She got married to a man with whom she fell in love on face book. Before her marriage, she was working in some job placement agency and was financially independent and happy but after her marriage she had to leave her job in order to shift to her husband's hometown in Punjab. Since the Husband happened to be without any source of income and unemployed, they started having problem in maintaining their house hold and meeting basic requirement of the family. This way frequent arguments and unpleasant incidents happened between Renu and her husband, so much so that her husband started torturing her physically and mentally. Finally she felt that the best option for her would be to leave her husband. She was in her pregnant condition. And this was the time when she needed love, care & support of her family and husband and her unborn baby needed proper diet and medical attention. Under such circumstances she had to move from one place to another looking for support and finally landed up in our Shelter Home.

Every possible help was given to Renu in terms of medical treatment, nutrition, physical, emotional and mental care and support during her stay in the shelter home. She delivered a beautiful baby girl which encouraged her and instilled a new hope and inspiration in her to move forward in life. Counseling sessions were conducted on a regular basis in order to assist her in making her aware about her rights and responsibilities as a mother and wife. Her husband also in the meantime was contacted by the Shelter Home Staff and was counseled on phone a number of times. Finally, he too, realized his mistakes what he had done to his wife and unborn child. He asked for forgiveness from his wife Renu and asked her to start living with him once more. Renu also decided to forgive her husband for the maltreatment given to her. Both of them were counseled to be re-united. This was a very satisfying moment for our Shelter Home that the husband, wife and the baby girl started living together with mutual love, understanding and respect. Renu now has started her own Job Placement Agency along with her husband and are having a happy blessed life as a family.



### Engaging with men & boys

#### Neighborhood school:

Co-education of neighborhood school plays a significant role in shaping the mindset of the students where both boys and girls study together. It covers from the age group of 6 years to 18 years belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society.

Co-ed confers many social benefits. It develops mutual respect, helps to overcome the fear of the opposite gender, encourages the survival in the future, character enhancement, no space for discrimination and develops self esteem among the gender. As a result of this, many boys and girls who have passed class 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> and are above 18 years of age are doing good job without facing any problem. Participation in cultural events, sports and debates are providing opportunity to develop the thought of equality.



### Neighborhood School boys and girls participating in festival and events

**Ms. Shikha Rebecca John**  
(Chairperson)

**Ms. Linda Gangmei**  
(Head of Department)

## WOMEN'S TRAINING INSTITUTE (WTI)

&

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE(VTI)

### Stand against violence

Exposure Visit made by the teachers and students of Office Management, DMLT, Beauty Culture and IT, from 21 Oct to 24 Oct 2019 to Parliament Street Police Station. They met SI Komal, who took sessions on women's safety and how they can take help from police in various situations which needs to be tackled by girls in their daily routine.



Visit to Parliament Street Police Station



Sessions with girls in Police Station

Self-defense training conducted by Delhi Police for WTI 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 and for VTI 3 Dec to 13 Dec 2019.



Self Defense at WTI and VTI

### Networking

WTI and VTI participated in Career Conclave by putting up a stall, thereby provided information on vocational skill courses and career options. The five-day event was organized by Directorate of Education -GNCT of Delhi from 21 October 2019 to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Thyagaraj Stadium. This event provided a platform to the students of class 12 from govt school who visited from all over Delhi and interacted with universities, colleges, skill institutes for various career opportunities.





**YWCA Stall at Thyagaraj Stadium during Career Conclave**



**Session with students**



**Opening Ceremony**

Students from WTI participated in International Youth Festival organized by New Delhi YMCA from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2019. WTI girls performed in singing, poster making, spot painting and skit competition and won various positions in different category.



Diwali Mela was organized by VTI on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as a promotional activity in Dwarka and their extended networks with the vendors, stall holders, students, residents etc. who participated and visited the VTI.





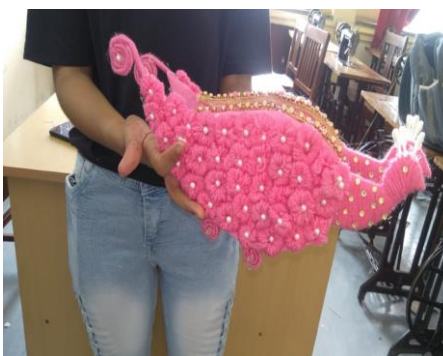
**Diwali Mela at VTI**

## Other Activities

**VTI** celebrated the Annual Convocation Ceremony on 25 Oct 2019. This year we had the honor and privilege of having in our midst two high profiles, Dr. Mamta Sharma, Principal of Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi University and Ms. Swati Maliwal, Chairperson Delhi Commission for Women.

**VTI** celebrated its first Convocation Ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. The chief guest for the occasion was Col. Anil Kumar Pokhriyal, (Retd.), CEO of MEPSC.

Best out of waste, class activity organized to sensitize students on environmental issues such as air and water pollution, plastic waste and the importance of recycling and reuse. Students prepared craft items, painting and slogan on the said theme.



Rangoli competition was organized on the eve of Diwali on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019, where students prepared different rangoli designs with natural materials and flowers in order to showcase their creativity, use of colors and environment friendly theme.



**Zarina Bazliel**  
**Chairperson**  
**Education Committee**



**Anita Keskar**  
**Dy. Director**  
**WTI and VTI**

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Youth HOD organized workshops for the Youth of the Women's Training Institute in YWCA. the topic was 'Safe Spaces for Women' around 400 students benefitted from these workshops.



Programmes on Gender balance workshop on Domestic violence was organized in Deenpur Village for adolescents and Women's group. The Youth were sensitized on The Domestic Violence Act of Act 2005. Keeping in mind the quadrennium plan to encourage men to speak against violence on women. This was in collaboration with PASI department. This was a small step taken to pave the way for deeper penetration into gender based problems. Similar workshops were organized for Roshanpura and Karampura beneficiaries.

### **Cybercrime workshop for Empowerment of Youth**

In November 2019 Cyber bullying workshop was organized for students of Women's Training Institute. Deputy Commissioner of Police for Cybercrime, Mr. Anyesh Roy conducted this. Total of 146 students benefitted from this programme.

Children's Human Rights Assessment & Status perceptions facilitated by India Alliance for Child Rights. The chief guest was Justice Mr. V.N. Sinha from the Supreme Court. The Youth Department was actively involved in a series of meetings which the India Alliance of Child Rights is piloting with various NGOs throughout India. This is for the purpose of revising the Govt. of India's Child Protection Policy.

### **Youth Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

The Youth Department of the YWCA of Delhi organized International Youth Day on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019 for the Youth of YWCA keeping in mind the requirement of working with men and boys to promote gender equality. Ms. Karuna John was the Speaker. She is the Editor and Writer with 20 years of work experience in leading newspapers and magazines and well versed with social development, politics and gender based violence.

A Photo Competition on Gender Parity was organized for the boys and girls who were enrolled in the YWCA educational programmes. Twenty five boys from the community development programme from Govindpuri and Mongolpuri attended this programme together with the students from Najafgarh and Women's Training Institute. The participants watched the documentary "Safe Cities for Women" which showed video clips of testimonies of students from different parts of the country who had survived sexual violence, a portion of the movie showed the testimony of the acid attack survivor Lakshmi who is now a campaigner for Stop Acid Attacks and clips of similar women who came out as courageous voices for the voiceless was very motivating. The incident of Nirbhaya incident was part of the movie which highlighted the gender violence.



The youth bonded with Ms. Karuna John immediately, an activity was conducted to produce a pledge. Each of the three groups made a pledge and the participants took a pledge, followed by a mask dance to end violence. There was a prize distribution ceremony, followed by lunch for the participants.

The winners of the photo competitions on gender parity are as below.

- Anuradha Nautiyal of WTI first prize
- Mehak Goel of WTI second prize
- Kirti of Najafgarh third prize



**Youth Department's participation in International Youth Festival in YMCA of Delhi as part their celebration of completing 175 years.**

YWCA participated in six events in the International Youth Festival organized by New Delhi YMCA, on 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 The YWCA performance was outstanding as we won five prizes against six entries. The Youth Department HOD had trained the students and coordinated the event.

**Achievement of awards at the International Youth Festival is as below:**

1. English Group song was awarded first Prize. The participation was inclusive as one of the singers was 100% visually impaired. The students were:
  - Ms Summer Massey,
  - Ms Shipha Minz
  - Ms. Riya
  - Ms Vanshikha Arora
  - Ms Pawan Preet Kaur

- Ms. Shilpi Singh
- Ms Prerna Sharma

2. Indian solo performance was awarded second prize. (Ms Shipha Minz)
3. Poster making was awarded first prize (Ms Sonal Arora)
4. On The Spot Painting was awarded third prize. (Ms P Rajeshwari)
5. Mehandi competition was awarded second prize (Ms Ayushi Rangra)
6. The Skit in Hindi ‘Beti Ka Wajood’ based on the patriarchal mindset and its effect on the girl child was highly commended. It was performed again for the 71<sup>st</sup> Chrysanthemum Show.



**Rita S Aggarwal**  
Head of Department

**Maria Gabriel**  
Chairperson

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