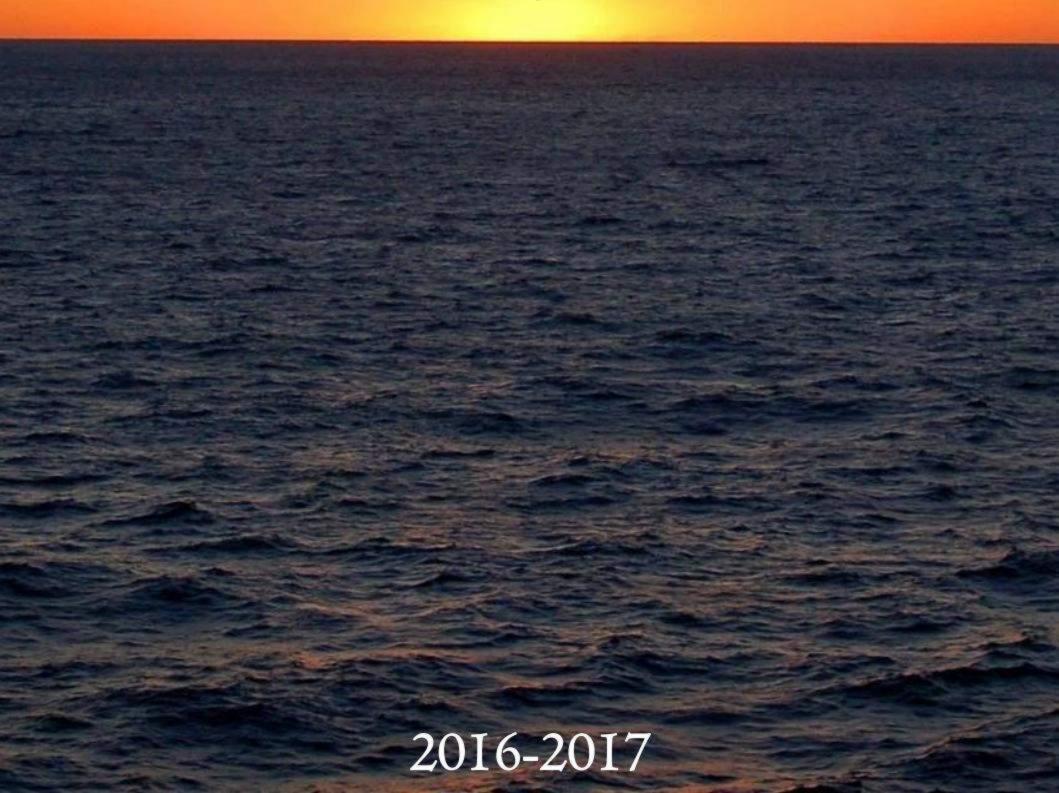


NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



PRERINA

6th Edition





NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE NSS TEAM 2016-2017







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All illustrations by Anisha Isharwalia.



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

I feel great pride and contentment to see the zest and the spirit with which "National Service Scheme" has been upholding the ideals of "selfless seva" through all these years. Their hard work and courage towards inculcating the idea of service to the society, in our students and helping them to become socially, culturally and environmentally more responsive, is worth all the appreciation. I bear this strong notion that the meaning of "Life" resides in our very thought process and it completely depends on us how we perceive it.



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When I go through this year's edition of the Prerna and ponder over

the ideas put forth by the young minds, I realize how uniquely they have interpreted some social issues, while accentuating several others. Their attempt to come up with a magazine that offers a balanced mix of all, good and bad, right and wrong, in our society gets me thinking on how varied the interpretations of a single thing can be.

Of all the societies, which function in the college, I have always looked up to National Service Scheme, and this appreciation stems from the time I was a student myself. Every project and activity coming under its realm has always made the college proud.

I would like to congratulate the entire team of NSS 2016-2017, the program officer Dr. Abhay Jain for his constant guidance to the students as well as the team of volunteers for carrying forward the tremendous work with all the values intact.

In the end, I would like to congratulate the Editorial Board for the successful completion of the annual magazine *Prerna*.

- DR. R.P. RUSTAGI



FROM THE PROGRAMME OFFICER



Social work intends to offer many valuable services to people in need. These services cannot be provided without the consistent involvement of its key volunteers who ensure timely help to the needy ones. In doing so, sometimes, they come across many practical experiences which give them the directions to think, how the resources for a better life can be provided to the needy ones. Such experiences sensitize the volunteers to build up their understanding towards the society to lead a life despite having scarcity of resources.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME Shri Ram College of Commerce

aims to serve the society through its dedicated team of volunteers. The NSS unit of SRCC has been actively involved in myriad social activities ranging from admission help desk to awareness programs, blood donation and health check up camps. With every passing year, we as a team, as a family try to cover new milestones in the field of social service. This year Project Vishwas was successfully launched and our volunteers are all geared up to take it to greater heights in the coming years. Project Sanskar expanded its idea of quality education by adding trips, outdoor games, creative workshops, etc to the regular classes for students. Women Empowerment conducted many enriching sessions on menstrual hygiene and adolescence and helped in educating many young inds living in slum areas across Delhi.

The innovative ideas of our students and their dedication to NSS has always filled me with pride. I would like to congratulate the Editorial Board for the completion of our annual magazine Prerna, which throws light on many social aspects in a very unique way. I wish them and all other NSS members, success for all their future objectives and endeavors.

- Dr. Abhay Jain



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My journey as the Editor-In-Chief of NSS SRCC has been the most memorable and enriching experience of my college life. Being part of a society like NSS, which has at its core an unending zest for serving the society selflessly, has been a matter of great pride for me and has inspired me at each step to contribute towards it to the best of my potential. Writing has always been my passion and being the Editor I have been in touch with it every single day, with each day bringing with itself a new learning. In this one year, I have been able to explore innumerable thoughts and ideas, develop my leadership abilities and hone other skills, while being able to experience the stark realities of our society more closely.



The cabinet of NSS is like a big family with each member not just concentrating on their core areas, but, contributing significant ideas for every activity and project wing, thus supporting each other's development. Being a part of this family has enhanced my ideas on team spirit and their dedication has motivated me every time to put in best efforts to bring to light their hard work in the most effective and creative manner.

This year, we increased the frequency of "Pehal" our newsletter series thus covering a wider range of ideas and activities. "Prerna" is just another rendition of the NSS Editorial Board which attempts to explore various social issues from a unique lens. We have tried to encompass a balanced mix of all that is good and bad, pessimistic and optimistic about our society. I congratulate my Editorial team which has worked for more than 3 months to make this magazine a success.

As the year comes to a close I realize that NSS has given me some of the fondest memories to cherish and most beautiful bonds to remember. I would surely miss our cabinet meetings and coming up with posts for our activities. In the end, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Presidents, Shivangi and Nikita for their constant support and help and to our Programme Officer, Dr. Abhay Jain who has motivated and guided us, throughout this one year.

- MADHURIMA KHOSLA



CO - EDITOR'S NOTE



National Service Scheme SRCC is more than just a society to most of us. For me, it is an emotion that has nurtured and introduced me to the various little ways through which I can make a difference to the society. As a part of the Editorial Board for two years now, I truly understood the meaning of the proverb- "The pen is mightier than the sword". I have had the opportunity to adopt and learn from the wide perspectives of my colleagues and also other people I interacted with throughout my NSS journey.

The Annual Magazine of National Service Scheme is a vast and

beautiful collection of prose, poems and articles. In this edition of the magazine, we have tried to incorporate some new forms of writing to reach out to the masses in a different manner and a unique approach.

We, the NSS editorial members believe in the mighty power of the pen and keeping that in mind the micro tales, photo essays and reviews have been written to leave a long lasting impact on our readers. Working for it, we came across many real life stories about the grim aspects of our society and as a team we decided to bring out those acts in a simplified though interesting way. For me, it was an informative and learning experience and the credits go to the team with whom I worked and learnt so much.

Our main aim has been to bring out the day to day social issues we see around us. It is time that we just stop apprehending about these talks and put our foot forward towards some action that will help bring a change.

I would like to congratulate the entire Editorial Board for this wonderful piece of work and I extend my heartiest gratitude to our Programme Officer Dr. Abhay Jain for his continuous guidance.

- ANKITA PARIKH

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

"Every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home."

It happens very rarely that a journey becomes so beautiful that you wish it never reaches its destination. The year has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life, teaching me lessons of compassion, social responsibility and team work beyond measure.

Taking ahead the goal of 'selfless seva', we at NSS SRCC scaled up Project Sanskar by increasing the number of students and incorporating field visits. Project Vishwas successfully conducted its first ever commercial sale of spices produced by differently-abled workers. For the very first time, NSS addressed the issue of menstrual



hygiene through regular sessions in different slums and as well as orphanages across Delhi. Besides performing street plays and flash mobs in Kamla Nagar Market, we also organised dental and eye check up camps for the college students. We collaborated with various NGOs such as Youth For Seva, Sulabh International and Bal Sahyog to increase the overall reach of our community service and also conducted Clean Yamuna Campaign, plantation and anti-pollution drives in various parts of Delhi.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Abhay Jain for being a constant source of inspiration to us. I thank our Principal Dr. R.P. Rustagi and the entire administration and accounts department for cooperating with us at every step. It has been an honour to lead a team of such hardworking executives and volunteers who have supported me in all the initiatives. NSS has taught me that all we have is this 'present moment', an opportunity to bring a smile to someone's face. The exposure to the stark realities of life, interacting with people from poor socio-economic background has humbled me as a person and turned me into a more responsible citizen. No matter where I am, I shall always strive to seize the moment and work towards building a happier society. As I bid adieu to this memorable journey, these words penned by Gulzar resonate in my heart:

"Thoda Sa Hasake, Thoda Sa Rulake, Pal Ye Bhi Jaanewala Hai."

- SHIVANGI SINHA



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VICE - PRESIDENT'S NOTE



National Service Scheme (NSS) works with the aim to "arouse the social consciousness of the students and to provide them with opportunity to work with people from various backgrounds and to expose them to the reality of life" so as to "bring about a change in their social perceptions".

We at SRCC have been working continuously towards various social issues through various platforms. This year too, by organizing flash mobs, plays, visits, workshops and various other mediums we worked sincerely towards our mission. This session, we successfully organized

An NSS Convention, a Yamuna cleanliness drive, and menstrual hygiene workshops in various orphanages and slums. I would like to congratulate the NSS team for the commendable efforts they have put to make NSS SRCC better than ever.

NSS motto "NOT ME BUT YOU" has contributed immensely in my development as a socially responsible citizen. Over the years, it has helped me to hone my skills and improve my personality. It has taught me discipline, team work, hard work and punctuality. I remember the day when I enrolled myself as an NSS volunteer to contribute my bit to the society. There is an inexplicable 'joy' in giving specially, devoting one's time and support. This pleasure of giving and improving lives is far greater than the joy of receiving. NSS has been the part and parcel of my college life. I remember each and every moment be it the visits, workshops, plays, blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, etc.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our principal Dr. R.P. Rustagi for supporting us in all our endeavors. I am very thankful to our NSS Programme Officer Dr. Abhay Jain who has continuously inspired us to do new and creative things.

- NIKITA AGGARWAL



Prerna Volume 6 Prose

UNHAPPY ALLIANCES

- SAMYA MITTAL

Divorce, a subject which was once a social stigma, has become increasingly popular in recent years. It is seen that married couples are walking away from their marriages, not just in metropolitans but in smaller cities and semi-urban areas as well. The rising trend is a reflection of India's changing socioeconomic landscape where this phenomenon is not restricted to the affluent, urban populace as it used to be in 80s. More people from middle class and lower middle class are also opting for it now.

Earlier, there were very few cases of divorce and the main causes were adultery, dowry demands and domestic violence. In most cases, the women continued with their broken marriages for the sake of kids and money. The orthodox now blame 'Women Empowerment' for the increasing divorce rates. Empowerment means giving power and when a woman is empowered, she comes to know about her legal powers which can be used to make her life better. Despite all the awareness, has the cultural attitudes of Indian men and women really changed so drastically? Parents-in-law would still like to see the bride cooking and cleaning the house even though they opted for a working daughter-in-law. They are expected to play a subservient role to their husbands. Conflict results from the contradiction between female wage earners and the normative expectations which surround married life.

For the present generation, the value attached to marriage is continuously depreciating. They consider it another 'adventure' to experience on the road of life. Today everything is about Individualism; anyone can live alone independently. Nuclear family structure, professional ambitions, mismatched expectations and modern life styles are together contributing to increase in the number of divorces. The hire and fire methodology of Corporate Culture has imbibed into our families. When there is a problem in the relationship, instead of finding a solution together they resort to divorce. Youth today do not subscribe to the rigid notions of the sanctity of marriage as an institution. Fun loving, vivacious and adventurous though they might be, they are having a negative impact on society. The couples marry hurriedly without getting to know each other well and then the marriage falls apart. Children are badly affected by the fact that their parents are divorced or on the verge of splitting. The truth of the hour is, the trend of divorce in India is here to stay until individuals and society makes adjustments to its ideas and expectations of marriage.

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Poetry Prerna Volume 6

My World

- Gouri Garg

My world ended too soon.

I heard the callous whispers,
The Doctors said,
"It's a girl. Yes! it's a girl."
And my father's heart sank.
He prompted,
"Another pain, another bane,
Oh! Not a girl, not another one.
Perhaps a curse,
I sought from the blissful Lord.
It's not a male but a Ponytail.
Oh! My lord;
I wanted a valorous scion for my race
Not something so fragile and frail."

The doctor showed his concern.

"Don't worry, All that is needed shall be done.

Just a few bucks and days of disgrace will end.

We will choke the harmless to breathless;

All I want is you to spend and be bold."

Father retrieved his composure

The words of joy relaxed his nerves.

Alas!

The doctor's stance made him confident.

He paid the amount

And got the load dismount.

AND THIS IS HOW I WAS KILLED IN THE WOMB

Perhaps to people it doesn't matter much

For I don't really cost much

Why my world ended too soon?

Why am I such a doom?

Ending this would never be easy.

But people need to get their basics right.

Their mother was also somebody's daughter

Yet they send girls to slaughter!



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

THE ALIEN

- ANKITA PARIKH

Dark circles under the bulgy eyes,

Beautiful pink lips turned black,

Curly hair tied up in an untidy bun,

There she was picking up the last bottle.

A prick of pain ran in her nerves,

Her senses drugged again,

As she breathed her last,

Huddled in the corner.

For months,

She had stayed the same,

As people had discarded her,

Not because she had an addiction,

But because she was an alien.

An alien to the society,

An alien to the normal decent human life,

An alien to the deceptive value systems of the working world.

She dropped the kilos faster,

Turning paler and paler,

Until the day came when she lost the battle.

All she needed was,
One faint light of support,
One firm hand to hold her,
One shoulder she could lean upon,
One last chance to breathe again.

But all the alien got,
Was a needle and a doze,
To doze off forever.



Prose Prerna Volume 6

REALITY CHECK

- MITALI MAWAL

"Feminism" is the most distorted, manipulated and misinterpreted word today, and lacks proper understanding. The idea of feminists as being the enemy of men is becoming so prolific that many people avoid calling themselves as feminists because of the stigma attached to the word. The subconscious of our culture automatically associates "feminists" with "men-haters". People see feminists as ones who are determined to usurp the power of the opposite gender and kick them off the throne.

For the record, this is squarely untrue. Feminism isn't about ending the tyranny of men, destroying masculinity or killing all men so that women can rise to power; it is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression. It's about putting them on the same level as men to provide them with equal respect, equal pay and equal opportunities as their male counterparts.

Feminism is something that everyone claims to understand but actually doesn't. There are several misconceptions that go around regarding the ideology of the term. Gross generalisation is done by saying 'all men are the same'. All men are not the same- they believe in equality as much as women do. In the case of sexism that prevails, punish the man responsible; not the gender. And yes, men will be equally ashamed of the responsible man's behaviour.

The worst aspect in implementation and execution of feminism is the misuse of laws. If one misuses the laws meant for the protection of women, one is indirectly mocking the real victims of dowry and rape, which goes against the ideology of feminism. After the Nirbhaya incident, the rape laws are stricter than ever. This step taken by the Government is over shadowed by the fake rape and dowry cases that are reported.

So, in the end we can rightly say that feminism stands for equality and it is as much "pro-men" as "pro-women". The feminist movement does not aim to establish a female dominance in the world as feminism in its true sense aims to establish a world where no gender supersedes the other.



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

THE WEEPING ROVE

- SHIWANI

Everything has changed in front of my eyes,

The cosmos was harsh as well as nice.

Once upon a time I was worshiped,

Now you left no stone unturned to leave me sordid.

I was boomed with beauty which will last,
With time I realized that everything is transient
and changes fast.

Now I am at the brim of my life,
I look ugly and aged but ironically I am still a
juvenile.

I owe you a view which was aesthetic,

Despite you turned me to pathetic.

Every day I wept and sobbed,

Left with no option other than feeling robbed.

From my selfless service to many,

I witnessed a behaviour which is uncanny.

you have deterred my pride,

you have obstructed my independent ride.

Once upon a time I gave life to whatever lay

by my side.

But now, my versatile glide is about to die.

You were harsh and malevolent,

Because of your sin I will dare not to torrent.

I will dare not to torrent.

Be careful and don't degrade me,

Before further delay,

Spur up and overcome the relay.

Rise, realise and win, or else regret your sin.



Prose Prerna Volume 6

THE LAST PROMISE

- MANSI MITTAL

This letter is from Humza Khureshi, a five year old Syrian boy, who drowned while attempting to reach the Greek islands to take refuge. He writes this letter to his mother, a letter from heaven.

Dear Mother,

It was that day, the day when I was wearing my favorite red t-shirt. Father told us that we are going to ride a boat and see our aunt; I could not anticipate why you looked so scared. We stepped on that boat and you looked more nervous than ever. I couldn't understand why. But, after some time, I did.

We all faced something that we could have never thought. Father was holding onto all of us and that was the moment when I realized that it was my time to face "Almawt" (Arabic for death). I was hurt you know, because in my last moments, I could not give you a hug, give father a kiss.

But, death seemed a relief from all the sufferings and torturous life. I still can't forget the day when our home was burnt in front of our eyes and you said it was because some bad people had thrown a bomb. I hope god's home is a peaceful place and I will be able to go out without any fear. There would be food here and I would not starve for days. Will I also meet my friends who had faced Almawt in the bomb blasts? I want to play with them freely like we used to before the war started. This world, dear mother, allowed me to live for five years. I know, I know it is a very short period of time, but, I remember the innate value of love and care that you and father pampered me with. I remember it all.

You taught me, that one comes to this world, learns lessons and goes back to Allah's house where we all belong. You were right. That day I learnt how to fight, but, I also learnt holding onto something for too long is not what fighting means. My dear mother, the one dear to me more than my life, we now have to face the truth. The world did not love us. It did not want my fate. But I will tell Allah about all those who were responsible for this. I promise.

I miss you. Take care mother. I love you and will always do.

Love,

Humza



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

IN TURMOIL

- TANVI PANDITA

Since childhood I heard stories of it,

Valley of beauty they called

But for my parents it was home,

A distant memory that enthralled.

Still, it brings tears to their eyes

When they left, the valley moaned

Series of sleepless nights and fear,

Leaving behind everything they owned.

The beautiful snow they remember well
While they played for hours,
Someone cursed the white beauty as well,

As I turn the news on,

I realize the beauty is gone

The place stands still in despair,

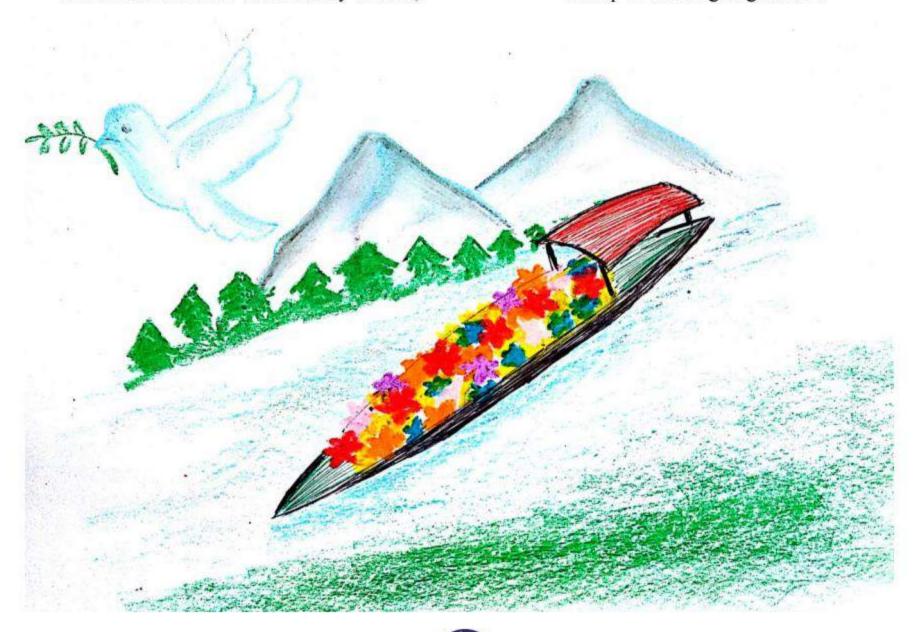
As another headline adds to the flair.

It's face, lost in search of peace, hearing new versions every day, All it asks for, is a life of ease, If only there was a way.

The valley has become a mere game,

That the law keepers want to win

Fed up of what's going around.



Prose Prerna Volume 6

WAGING WAR AGAINST BEGGARY

- ADITI AGRAWAL

The struggle between the country's youth and unemployment has been eminent. While everyone has his/her opinion on how to combat this problem, it is difficult to comprehend as to how to help that section of our society that has chosen to stay unemployed or are rather forced to remain unemployed? We come across them in our day-to-day life. We pity them, try to help them or sometimes even ignore them as the government's problem.

In this free country, a big division of underprivileged and mostly neglected people are employed in the nefarious practice of beggary. Most of these people are fit to work and with the provision of right resources they can be transformed into assets for the country. They go unnoticed but that doesn't mean they don't exist. They are there, based in a society that is not vigilant enough to deny them alms or a government that has not taken any steps to weed out this problem. It is an ongoing cycle that is slowly robbing the nation of it's resources from the very people who choose to ignore it. There have been movies, articles and various stories that have uncovered the web of corruption and other unscrupulous practices that are interconnected through beggary. Right under everyone's nose, this mafia controlled practice has taken someone else's fair share of livelihood. The earnings that they raise from the 'generous alms' is sometimes even more than what a normal laborer would earn after a day of hard work. The practice of kidnapping children, women and turning them into amputees is an insane crime which has been spreading across the nation like forest fire. The end point of this practice is seen in beggary today.

Being thrown into this beggary business since early childhood is hampering the minds of the young ones who eventually get detached from the humane world and continue to drown deeper into it. The sun never rises for them and a normal life becomes an unattainable dream. So the solution to eradicate beggary doesn't lie in refusing to give alms to beggars but in tracking such mafia rackets and putting an end to this business. Beggary is not the way to sustainability, but a predicament. Eradication of beggary is a struggle that we cannot overcome in a fortnight but that is not an excuse to be ignorant to this cause or to take small actions necessary to bring about the change that is long due now.



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

FALLING WITH FLAILING ARMS

- Shakthi Chandra

When Pandora is chronicled to have released
Hope and despair from the fateful box,
Your mind finds hovering around itself
Only the moths
With the hopeful butterflies at a loss.
Living at the peak of the mountain
That you made of
A supposedly meagre molehill.
Falling with flailing arms into a pothole,
Which your will fails to fill.

Attacking you the moment
You step out of your home's embrace.

Baffled with the society
That casually stigmatizes,
Digging afresh, the depth of the pothole.

WHO said few people suffer
The brunt of anxiety?

when stats say,
It's experienced by one in four,



Prose Prerna Volume 6

A RAY OF HOPE

- Urja Raheja

I was once told that it is not enough to have lived. What counts is that we live for mankind, bringing hope for the lost and love for the lonely. Amidst the blatant news of theft, deceit, corruption what remains suppressed behind the bars of media are the good deeds initiated for a better tomorrow. Deeds which are selfless and pure, which do not convey treachery and which are for the wholesome society.

One such epitome is **Mr. Mahesh Savani**. A Gujarati diamond merchant by profession, he is a prosperous businessman who has firm faith in reality and works towards the spread of education. What differentiates him from the crowd is the fact that he is a father to 470 orphan girls.

This commendable initiative owes its past to the death of Savani's brother ten years ago. When Savani performed the "Kanyadaan" of his niece, he was struck with the thought of millions of girls who did not have a father figure to look up to. Since that time, he has been determined to bring a change in the lives of such girls. He has funded the weddings of nearly 470 girls across different religions. Financing each marriage with a budget of four lakhs, he looks after the jewelry, clothing, utensils and other requirements for a married life. Even after the marriage, he is just a message away from his beloved daughters.

For bringing a change, realization is essential and for realization, hope is vital. With an intact hope that anything good undertaken will bear fruit, everyone can change the world towards a brighter future. Savani's deed has served as a paradigm for the society to step forward to help those who are in need.

It is aptly said that a seed of hope marks the beginning of every good thing in life. Hope is much more than a wish, yearning or a positive outlook. It believes for the best in the face of the worst circumstances. Hope is imagination. It is the first principle which directs to a happy and a fruitful life. With such optimism, let us kindle a lamp in the dark lives of others. Let us work together towards making the world a better place to live in.



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

WILL LIFE BE THE SAME?

- YACHNA AKSNOOR

Days have lost the shine,
Heavens no more divine.

Smiles vanished and body drained
The face, The soul
The small earth and my little sky
All those dissected feelings
They say, Life for me will never be the same.

Down came the hand
that swayed the cheeks
The eyes are bruised
The lashes are burned
They say, Life for me will never be the same.

Heart aches and emotions are troubled Feelings are miserable with tears no more.

I wake up with my eyes dry and heart sore.

They say, Life for me will never be the same.

A Face for a face,
A soul for a soul,
Hours have been passed, or maybe years,
Collectively burned the orbits of living.
They say, Life for me will never be the same.

But then I think, O God
You wanted a determined, courageous me.
Fresh hopes and new dreams
Instead of saying,
Life for me will never be the same,
She said,
I'll find my shine and smile again.



Prose Prerna Volume 6

ARE WE SOCIALISING RIGHT?

- Anisha Isharwalia

Kavya's house was recently looted by a group of dacoits. On interrogation, the dacoits said that they came to that all the family members were on a trip to Goa as her recent post read "Nothing can beat the happiness of being with the whole family in Goa". Bhavya, a 20 year old girl posts, "Alone at home for the first time, fingers crossed." She gets raped the same night. Saumya used to spend three to four hours in bathroom and had a drastic change in behavior. On inspection, her mother found vulgar stuff on her phone; she is now spending time in internet deaddiction center.

This 5 inch device, that we proudly look at day and night is really a multi-tasker. Isn't it? It has even started playing the role of digital heroin. Is this socialization or a show-off disease? Gone are the days when people used to chit-chat over tea or coffee and share true and loyal feelings. Today, everyone lives two lives- the original life and a charismatic life carefully painted with selected hues as displayed on social media. Does one even realize the reach of our posts and pictures before clicking the post button? In the increasing era of cyber crimes, one tends to open every chapter of life to the public. Sadly, pictures have been misused, fake profiles have been generated, people have been blackmailed and one becomes very happy on seeing 200+ likes on a post. People don't realise that this virtual world is just like the pitcher plant-attracting first with its charm and then ingesting. Relationships have been endangered, grades have been falling, people becoming sleep-deprived. There have been many cases where people, in order to take revenge from girls have misused their photos and destroyed their whole lives. Instead of painting a beautiful life on social media, why don't we try to make our real life beautiful? When was the last time we had a deep conversation with our family, our friends. The more we are socializing on the net the more we are getting distanced from our loved ones.

Instead of getting blinded by the lust of social media, one should ponder about what to disclose and what not. We don't even realise that social media is making us more and more lonely and we are happily falling into the trap. Its high time that we accept the reality and use these platforms judiciously.



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

CAN REALITY MY DREAMS BE?

- RIJU SHRIVASTAVA

As I sit by the corner of the street

Smiling little faces, do I meet

Playing in blissful oblivion

What deprivation of education has done!

They found a school off the shore

No teachers, benches and books tore

Their heart weeps, Can't I ask for more?

But all they get is lives' sore.

Their childhood cries in penury

The root of education they cannot see

Education, just a phrase

With not wary or watchful gaze.

No freedom, no time,

No fun, no rhyme.

Realities, can my dreams be?

One among them asks me.

I find it strange,

To say, things will change.

And then a line strikes my head,

Very beautifully this is what it said.

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

Then a girl, with hair naturally curled,

Brings me to reality and filled with self-pity

I find my conscience guilty.

Their life awaits spring in the winter,

"I want to study," rolled back her tear.

It's easy to be carping doing nothing
That "Oh god, nothing is happening."
But when you invoke the inner soul
Education emerges as the enlightening goal.

Less than angelic, admirable or sure,

But doing what you can is the only cure.

Yes, reality her dreams will be

Yes, reality our dreams will be.



Prose Prerna Volume 6

POISON FOR THE MIND

- Spriha Chowdhury

Have you ever reconsidered stepping out for a chore because a cat crossed your path? If yes. You have been receptive to the society's belief of superstitions and have upheld the status quo. Have you ever knocked on wood when you let fate-tempting words slip out? Touchwood, should it not work again. If you have, chances are you did it out of blind faith, without thinking, just out of habit. Blind faith means complete acceptance of something without any proof or reason. We know this. But we still do it.

There are still mysteries of nature unknown to human kind. The lack of scientific knowledge gives rise to ignorance and ignorance is the major cause of superstition. Superstition has become the legacy of ancient civilization, getting passed down for generations altogether.

India, for one, can be called a hub of superstition, with traditions and cultures ensuring they bring along with them superstitions too. We believe in a number of omens, perform a number of ceremonies to achieve their ends, and live in constant fear of ghosts and evil spirits. However, these beliefs are not only followed by the illiterates but also well educated and advanced Indians. But the spread of education has, undoubtedly, acted as a deterrent against superstitions. Indian superstitions are not always baseless. Some Indian superstitions are based on common sense and reasoning. The grown-ups should not crossover a child as it would check his growth. This superstition is an embodiment of wisdom. If the grown-ups cross over the child, they might injure it. The food for the baby should be covered with a cloth or towel. This is a warning against the baby being given exposed food with the possible bacterial infection. All these were the attempts of the ancient sagas to teach science to people in a popular way.

Ignorance breeds superstitions. Hence they tend to disappear with an increase in literacy. Once people begin to understand the right relation of things and the real cause of phenomenon, they cease to be superstitious. But some of them are so deeply rooted in our systems that no amount of knowledge or reasoning can erase it. That is why superstition exists even in the most advanced communities and go on to become a part of folklore and culture of the communities.



Prerna Volume 6 Poetry

AND IT HAPPENED

- MADHURIMA KHOSLA

And it happened

The fearful day arrived

With all its splendor and glory

Heralding a new life.

With his last ephemeral breath

He opens the church door,

And taking her arms

They put their first step on the floor.

Watching the blushing bride enter

Everyone get up from their seats

But he stands beside her

Her best friend, her best man

Or so he had thought,

From now on, there's someone else

Who forever will be the best

Who for her will be her everything.

As they make their way

In small measured steps,

Towards the holy altar

He tightly squeezes her hand

Cherishing their last moment of togetherness.

"Can this be real?" he asks himself

"For her to leave me for another man?"

"What are his credentials?"

"What are his beliefs?"

"Will he care for her better than me?"

And his eyes remain subdued,

As he passes her hand to the groom.

She no longer needs him now

She's the sailor of her own boat.

With vivid and sparkling eyes

She now stands firmly

Ready for the marriage vows.

With teary eyes and heavy sighs

He bids her a silent goodbye.

Still unsure at heart

Of the vast vacant future

That lies ahead.

"You are now man and wife"

The Bishop finally announces

Closing the only chapter of his life.

With great wisdom and strength

He finally lets her go.

He is still numb in mind

And teary in the eyes

Happy yet sad

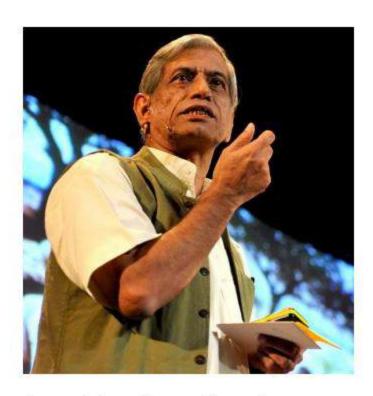
He is the father of the bride...



Prose Prerna Volume 6

ANUPAM MISHRA - A MEMOIR





"The wars of the twenty first century will be fought over water.", famously remarked by Ismail Serageldin, the comment brings forth the hapless condition of our water resources. Natural resources, often regarded or managed as "Commons" are threatened by unscrupulous enclosure and by state intervention. To mark an end to the extensive use of our scarce water resources, Anupam Mishra, the head of the environmental cell of the Gandhi Peace Foundation stepped in.

An acclaimed journalist and water conservationist, he awakened the youth to the ancient ingenuity of water harvesting. His environmental concerns gained ground after his first address on the Chipko Movement through the noted 'Chipko Movement-Uttarakhand women's bid to save forest wealth', published in 1978. Born and brought up in Madhya Pradesh, he exercised an excellent listening ability. Presenting thoughts with utmost simplicity rather than blowing his own trumpet of ideology made him different.

A true Gandhian by thoughts, he played an essential role in addressing the water issues of India. He visited the remotest parts of the country to pursue his mission of water conservation. His uniqueness lay in appreciating the local and regional ways of rain water harvesting and conservation of water bodies.

Anupam Mishra's biggest inspiration was his father Bhavani Prasad Mishra, a Gandhian poet and a litterateur. He propagated the ideology that man doesn't need money to protect the environment. All that is essential is to awaken the people how to live up to it.

The multidimensional personality of Anupam Mishra has its roots somewhere in his education at Delhi University. He was an excellent communicator, an unassuming humbled person who had a remarkable clarity on the state of water resources and rivers in India.



Prerna Volume 6 Prose

A recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award, Amar Shaheed Chandrasekhar Azad National Award and many others, Mishra was the editor of the bi-monthly 'Gandhi Marg,' published by the Gandhi Peace Foundation.

While India mourned the death of this legendary hero on 19th December, 2016, we at NSS SRCC believe that the best way to pay tribute to him is to recognize his body of work and consider his ancient and traditional way of rain water harvesting and water conservation rather than blindly giving in to the modern methods of technology. His physicality may have ended, but, he will continue to enrich India with his proficient ideas on environmental concerns. A big salute to his tremendous efforts!



Poetry Prerna Volume 6

FAMILY OF FOUR

- TANVI PANDITA

She stumbled across the way to her room.

A stick in her one hand,
And a life full of doom.

Tattered clothes told her story,
This wasn't what she imagined,
A life of glory?

A stick to support,

Had become a part of her.

The pain in her knees,

Had found it's way to her heart.

She was fading everyday.

like the winter's moon.

Yet, every morning she looked forward to a new start.

Her eyes were becoming foggy,

Her wrinkled face morose.

Losing her might with the passing days,

Her heart ached at the cause.

She longed to meet her children,

Spend some time.

But she was left alone,

Not even worth a dime.

She gulped the sorrow in.

The separation had cut her to the core.

As she kept reminiscing,

A family of four.

I saw her falling everyday, little by little,
But there was nothing that I could afford.
The physical pain she did handle well,
But her inner pain made her travel
To the final abode.





Prerna Volume 6 Prose

NOT ALL KNOW WHAT IT IS

- ANKITA PARIKH

Now and again the issue of red light areas in our country as well as the living conditions of sexual workers in our society has been brought to light, but, not much has been done to improve the existing scenario. The word prostitution has been highlighted always in a negative sense which the society looks down upon. But, we always just see one side of a coin. Kidnappings, sex rackets, illegal trading of girls and women and a lot more. These are some of the most vicious potions in our society that are resulting in this ultimate decay.

We have tried protests, strikes, cases and what not to make a change in this system, but, somewhere it seems impossible because the society disrespects women or people involved in this profession. Until and unless those people can get a right to voice their opinion, this system won't change. The need of the hour can be legalization of prostitution in India. Some might think, that it is sheer nonsense idea. On one hand we are talking about stopping it and on the other here about legalizing it. But, there is always a chain of events that takes place.

Once it is legalized, it becomes a registered business. Any person involved in this business, if harassed or put to danger can easily file a suit against the offender without any fear as it will be legally accepted. Also, being legalized means somewhere the people who are the main customers of this business can be compelled to pay taxes. Imposition of higher taxes on these services can reduce the demand for it, because after a point of time money definitely becomes dear before leisure. So, eventually this system of prostitution can be evaded. Although, not completely but to some extent, we will be able to reduce it and that too without degrading someone's reputation and dignity.

Though the wave of empowering women has been quite effective, but, still there are certain categories of women who aren't getting enough support to live a respectable life. Sex workers are one such category. No doubt there are organizations working for their betterment, but, until they get a lawful place in the society, their existence will be a curse to them.

Poetry Prerna Volume 6

A CALL FROM PHYSIS

- ADITI AGRAWAL

Where did all the trees go?

He finds himself stranded

In a desert, that was his hideaway.

He reminisces a kingdom,

Rich with lush green and colors all around,

Tempted people with intentions not all sound.

These people, they ripped everything apart

Cut down the forests,

Poured cement on the trails,

That once led the way to the wonderland

Is now secluded among rubble and sand.

The rivers went haywire

And as water swallowed the earth,

Lives lost, properties damaged.

No one culpable,

Nobody ready to bring a change.

As the glaciers continued to weep

He saw his whole world drown under his feet.

Baffled, petrified and struck with terror,

As he awakens from an eye-opening nightmare,

He sees the transcript in his hands that read,

Climate Change – A myth or a threat?





Prerna Volume 6 Micro Tales

JUST A MINUTE TALES

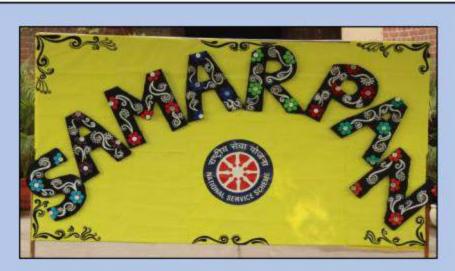
- SAMYA MITTAL

- A school kid bumped into an office worker. Both envied the weight on each other's shoulder
- The boy at the coffee stall glanced at the moon.
 - His only escape to space was the foaming galaxy forming in his coffee.
- * "When I leave, you will realize my importance" she told her parents during every argument. Years later, staring at a family picture, she realized how wrong she was.
- Her fingers move skillfully while sewing the wound.
 - Guitar practice every morning helped the young doctor.
- A hundred and fifty faces during the week, Two faces during the weekend.
 The professor shifted seamlessly into the mother.

- Finally finished her essay titled 'Energy Wastage and Global Warming'. Forgot to switch off the air conditioner before leaving for school.
- * "When did you take the biggest decision of your life?" asked the journalist. "When I took the taxi to the investor meeting instead of the examination hall", the CEO/entrepreneur replied.
- Dear people-who-left-us-here, We wait for your birthdays and special occasions more than you. Yours, The Old Age Home
- The custody battle raged for years.
 She turned 18;
 Today, their time was up.
- Dear India,
 It is a mystery how you embrace it all.
 Maybe ignorance is your bliss too.

Photo Essay Prerna Volume 6

SAMARPAN



NSS SRCC celebrated its annual fest SAMARPAN on 10th & 11th February with a view to promote selfless seva.



NSS SRCC Programme
Officer Dr. Abhay Jain,
Guest Speakers, Dr.
Govind Singh and Rashi
Anand lighting the lamp
at the opening ceremony.



NSS volunteers after performing their flash mob at the co-op area, on 10th February, on the theme of teenage stress.



The fest began with the opening ceremony in the Seminar Room followed by a speaker session attended by Dr. Govind Singh (founder of NGO Delhi Greens) & Rashi Anand (founder of NGO Lakshyam).



The fest saw participation to events like Social B-plan, Case Study Solving, Finding File and online photography competition, from colleges across Delhi.



Prerna Volume 6 Photo Essay



"CONVERGENCE" – an annual convention of all the NSS units across different colleges involved 2 rounds, a field trip to Connaught Place on Day 1 followed by a presentation of one of their on going Projects on Day 2.



One of the highlight events of SAMARPAN is the KIDO Fest, which involves fun activities for the students from the literacy wings of NSS units in various colleges.



Minute To Win-It games stalls at the co-op area saw great participation and enjoyment on both the days.



Officials of HPCL, title sponsors for Samarpan, along with participants of drawing competition organized by them at KIDO Fest.



Chief Guest for the closing ceremony, Smt.
Shantha Sinha, giving away certificates to the winners of various competitions.



Photo Essay Prerna Volume 6

PROJECT VISHWAS - HOPE PAVES THE WAY



Packets filled with the determination and hard work of 3 years, carrying the hope, that constant endeavors can actually turn around many lives.



Ideated in 2014, the production under the plan started this year under the name **SWAYAM**, due to the constant perseverance of the project directors and project head.



Turmeric, Red Chilli and Coriander Powder have been produced so far.



In association with NGO Saksham,
Project Vishwas aims at self
sufficiency of specially abled, by
engaging them in the production of
spices, and further providing
assistance in the marketing and sales
of the final produce.



Our NSS unit is presently focusing on the marketing front, by tapping PGs and Tiffin Centers and had put stalls in the annual fests of SRCC (CROSSROADS) and of IIT Delhi (KAIZEN), with the aim to boost sales.



Prerna Volume 6 Photo Essay

PROJECT SANSKAR - TOWARDS QUALITY EDUCATION



Project Sanskar, the literacy of NSS SRCC, with a vision and mission to provide quality education widened its approach by adding different aspects to their teaching. Origami workshop by the creative wing gave the kids a chance to explore their creative streak.



We encourage our kids to participate in various events so as to get an exposure of competing with our kids of their age. This also helps us to analyze the gaps in our efforts.



Every Saturday, outdoor activities are conducted to provide them with a much needed break and also instill in them team spirit.



5 days long computer classes helped us to introduce the to basic MS office applications and keep them upto date with modern teaching.

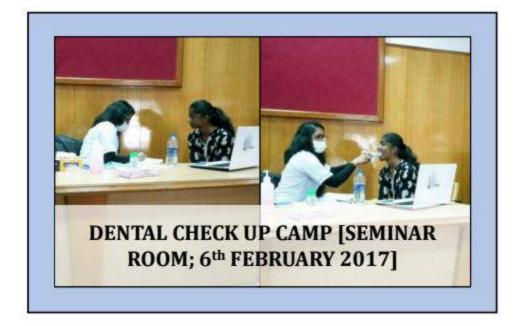


The kids were taken on a visit to the science museum. The trip was planned to given them a fun learning experience to break the monotony of classes.

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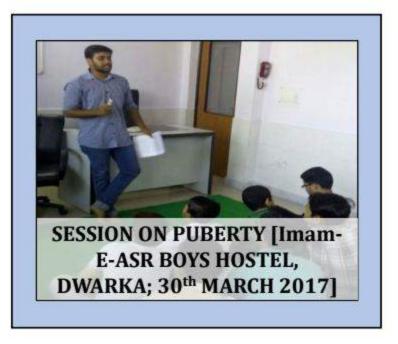
Photo Essay Prerna Volume 6

NSS ARCHIVES (FEB - MAR - APR 2017)















Prerna Volume 6 Micro Tales

JUST A MINUTE TALES

- MADHURIMA KHOSLA

- I never knew dad loved football. Mom's love for English songs was oblivious to me. Today we all chatted over dinner. Today, the WiFi didn't work.
- She wears the oxygen mask. He chokes. Her heartbeat dances on ECG monitor. He pants. The dance is over. She's quiet. He's dead.
- While he was here, I took him for granted. Now that he's gone I stand in an eternal wait, to make amends. "Time, will you never come back?"
- It had been 2 years. She still looked miserable. "He left me for someone else." "Who?"
 "God."
- 600 friends on Facebook. 300 followers on Instagram and 500 on Twitter. She celebrated her birthday, with herself.
- * "I love you. We'll always be together."
 2 years later she meant to be faithful but her mom intervened.
 She gave away her dearest teddy.

- Jamal & Sunita fell in love. Marriage was opposed. Jamal converted to Jai. Little did he know Sunita was now Sakina. Love lost again.
- Mind intended to be loyal but heart won the battle and was tempted away. She went and ate the chocolate cake.
 - "Diet plan wasn't even effective."
- * "How are you my girl?" Uncle asks keeping a lecherous hand on her shoulder. Not knowing the girl in her had died 10 years ago.
- Sunita grimaced as she took first bite of the noodles served in the hostel. "Ma's tindas were way more delicious." she thought.
- It was the end of the world. She felt cheated. Tears welled up as she again looked at the weighing scale, its needle refusing to budge.
- I thought the rain made her happy. For she would experience every shower. Little did I know that it only made her tears unobtrusive.

Interviews Prema Volume 6

DHRUV LAKRA

INTERVIEWED BY - GOURI GARG

Founded by **Dhruv Lakra** in January 2009, **Mirakle Couriers** is a National Award winning courier agency that employs low-income deaf adults. Dhruv Lakra who combined his education and experience, in both the business and social sectors to come up with this for-profit social enterprise, spent time exploring the deaf culture and learning Indian Sign Language. He focused on a courier business because it requires a lot of visual skills but no verbal communication. Mirakle Couriers have won several awards including the 2009 Hellen Keller award and the 2010 National Award for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities. We got in touch with the founder himself. Here is an excerpt from our little chat with this visionary.

Q1. What inspired you to start this social venture Mirakle Couriers?

I wanted to bring some change in the society. Making the less privileged self sustainable has been my goal. The urge to be more socially responsible has

made this miracle (Mirakle Couriers) happen.

Q2. How does Mirakle Couriers reach out to its prospective employees? How easy or difficult is it to convince these people to join your enterprise?

We work with a lot of NGOs and we also work with the government. These institutions maintain a record of people with different



kinds of disabilities. We approached them through these channels and convinced them to work with us. Honestly, it is easy to work with them; the main challenge is to convince the families. They are a little worried about sending their kids, because of being over protective about

them it is natural. This is a little daunting sometimes otherwise it is completely easy going.

Q3. What kind of training do these employees have to undergo, given that they have a disability and how welcoming are they towards such a change?

Every person who joins our enterprise is given



Prerna Volume 6 Interviews

an on the job training. Once the individual is ready to join the office, they accompany a delivery boy for ten days to get used to the work ethics. We call that person a 'shadower' or a shadow of the delivery boy. After those ten days, the employee is ready to deliver couriers independently. We adopt this training methodology and it has completely worked for everyone who has joined our organisation so far.

Q4. Do you see any change in the way your employees analyse their life? Are they more confident now and ready to face the society in a better way?

Yes! There is a significant change in every person who has worked with us. It starts with the belief of being financially independent and having a full time job and then it goes on to affect other aspects of life. Having a job own making decent savings brings a spur of confidence in any individual. This idea makes them believe that they are not nobody and they can do wonders with their life.

Q5.Did you ever foresee that your venture would reach this level; being appreciated for the work nationwide?

Well! I never started with this intent. I did my best. If it happened so beautifully then it had to happen this way. My intent was not to gain popularity or appreciation. It was clearly about making these people independent. Appreciation has never ever been my goal or my intent.

Q6. Are you satisfied with the scope of the organisation or do you plan to expand it to other cities?

Absolutely! We are working on it already. We have to increase the scope, broaden our network and help more disabled people to become financially independent. We are targeting metropolitan cities like Delhi and Kolkata. Bangalore is also under the pipeline. It is a lifelong journey for the people involved so we are working really hard on this and we hope we achieve this as soon as possible.

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RASHI ANAND

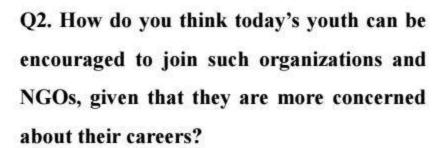
INTERVIEWED BY - GOURI GARG

Rashi Anand is an Indian women social activist who is engaged in taking measures to uplift the underprivileged people. In 2005 she founded the NGO Lakshyam, in association with her mother, to promote children welfare, education, health and empowerment of women. The young social entrepreneur came as a guest speaker at the annual fest of NSS SRCC, SAMARPAN and got candid with one of our editorial members, Gouri Garg. Here are few excerpts from the conversation.

Q1. Was it your mother who inspired you? Or was it some particular incident that made you realize your sense of responsibility towards the society?

My mother was actually part of a different NGO – Lakshya.

I founded Lakshyam later. But yes, she has been my complete, sole inspiration throughout.



I think it comes through the family and that it has to be taught throughout. My mother was a social activist, so she used to take me around to places where people possessed nothing. It was then I realized that we are the privileged



ones and we should do something for the less privileged. I was part of the NSS unit in my school. So I think school and college days also play an important role there.

Q3. How difficult is it to get the kids and women to join your team?

It can get really difficult. I started my work with kids begging at the traffic signals. We wanted to teach them for at least 2 hours. But when I approached their parents, they insisted that we pay them Rs. 200 for every 2 hours of teaching to make up for the money their children could have earned. I was just 21 then and I didn't know how to manage it. I then shifted my efforts to a slum area, a "Basti" in Vasant Kunj where I worked for 3 years. After gaining proper experience there I know now how to manage it well. So, we again started the



Prerna Volume 6 Interviews

efforts with kids working at traffic signals. We now have programs to empower them, so we teach them, give them vocational training and their products are sold through us. So, they study and also learn skills.

Q4. You have an events management company and you have worked with Being Human organization too. Please tell us more about that.

Lakshyam doesn't have government funding till date. I am from event management background so we do fund raising events every year. We had a fashion show last December. We involve a lot of celebrities, fashion designers as well socialites to walk the ramp. Last year we had Anupam Kher, Rohit Roy, Mugdha Godse to walk the ramp. So we don't have models but we rope in powerful men and women. That's a deal we crack. If you are walking the ramp you need to sponsor the education of a child for the next 3 years. For them sponsoring the education of a child is not a big deal and in return they get a media platform.

Q5. Do you plan to expand the scope of your NGOs?

Right now we are covering about 17 states and we plan to sustain our present centres for next 5 years. The women empowerment and child development is the form of 5 centres and other programmes like "toy libraries" i.e about 13 libraries. So the focus is to make them self sufficient and then think about expansion.

Q5. I completely loved the idea of toy libraries? Please tell more about it.

It is one of our programs, which involves building libraries across the country and we generally promote toys and books, but, we often get clothes, shoes and other stuff too for as donations. We earlier faced some difficulty in transportation of the toys and books but we now have Safexpress as our channel partner. They really liked the idea and they are now distributing the toys and books throughout India.

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Q7. Any plans to collaborate with colleges?

We are working with more than 10 colleges right now including Ramjas, IMD Ghaziabad, Gargi, IIT Delhi, IIT Rourkee, through their NSS teams or through their Enactus teams. The volunteers come to teach and also do vocational training programs.

Q8. Lastly, how did it feel to receive "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award at such an early stage?

Well! Yeah it felt great. Later on BBC covered a story and recently too WION, that is again a global channel, covered the actual conditions in and around Delhi where we are working.



Prerna Volume 6 Interviews

DR. GOVIND SINGH

INTERVIEWED BY - ANIRUDH GOEL

Dr. Govind Singh is an academician and environmental activist based in Delhi. Associated with the Indraprastha College for Women as Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, he is the cofounder and Director (Honorary) of Delhi Greens NGO. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of The Delhi Greens (DG) Blog, an information portal for green news, events and activities in Delhi NCR. The Blog won the Indian Bloggers Award 2013 under the Social/Environment Blog Category. Here is an excerpt from our little chat with the visionary himself.

Q1. We all admire your work for environment protection and encouraging future generations to be a part of it. When did it all start and what led you here?

I was pursuing masters in environmental studies. One fine day, me and my friends observed

that the trees in our college had been marked and upon enquiry we learnt that some trees had to be felled for building a stadium for commonwealth games and they were making an inventory of the same. We were attached to the trees, they had been there our entire college life and thus we decided to stand against it. We started a campaign which led to the Delhi Green Blog and tried to save those 1000 trees. Even the marking of the trees was unscientific by scrubbing the bark of the trees. We realized this was wrong.



We tried to reason as to why we do this. Here are trees that help us and why can't we build infrastructure around them? Then some of us decided to take this up a notch and started Delhi Greens.

Q2. Being a professor at IP College, you must be in regular touch with today's youth. What do you think are their views on environmental preservation?

They are very keen to work towards protecting the environment, but, they have so many other things to focus upon like their career. Some students try to find a balance and we cannot expect them to dedicate their 100% towards the environment. Compared to earlier times, environmental degradation has risen and so

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people have realized that protecting the environment is not just for fashion but it's essential to live in healthier surroundings. Thus, we just need to encourage them towards this cause.

Q3. What made you switch to IP College from Cluster Innovation Centre?

Environmental studies as a subject was launched in DU in 2014 and I joined CIC in 2013 to teach environmental management. 2014 was a historic year in the field of environmental education as our Honorable Supreme Court had passed a law that every college must compulsory put this as a subject in one semester. DU picked it up in 2014 and I wanted to be a part of it. I switched to IP college since it was the first college to have a department of Environmental Studies and I had to be a part of this history.

Q4. What was the idea behind starting Delhi Greens? Please also tell us more about your role in the NGO.

As of now I am working as a Director of Delhi Greens on a voluntary basis and I am also the Editor-in-Chief of the Delhi Greens Blog. However, we have taken the decision that we want to shift the core functioning of the blog to the students and we have already received 6 dozen applications. However, the decisions for students will be huge, like, we want to share the space with big companies doing wonders in this field and at the same time with a citizen who is growing trees and is happy about it. Thus we'll be supervising them to handle such decisions and learn from us.

Q5. Your journey as an Environmentalist has come a long way! Delhi Greens Blog, your initiative of youth climate movement across the country and 3 successful Summits in the series of Delhi Youth Summit are some of the jewels in your illustrious career. Any particular instance you would like to share with us?

There are many! We host Delhi Youth Summit on Climate Change which happens at Teen Murti Bhawan, Chacha Nehru's house. The last we hosted was in 2009 and a lot of young children signed up. On the last day of registration an old man, must be 95 years old, came up and wanted to attend the summit. We were taken aback but we didn't want to say no to him. So, we gave him the registration form,

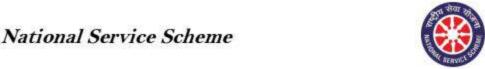


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hoping he'll realize that it's not meant for him. But he sat down for almost an hour and filled the form. It was a 2 days long event and he came for both the days. He was just observing and didn't participate. On the last day, we asked if anybody had anything to speak and two young children came up, shared their views about the event and environment and at last the old man's hand went up. We were a little scared of what he'll say. He came up to the stage and first congratulated us for such an amazing event. After that, he told us the about the reason for his attending this event, "A few days back, on Diwali I bought a bunch of crackers for my two grandchildren. However, they refused to burst the crackers and I got angry and gave them two tight slaps. However, they still resisted and one of them went to the washroom, got a bucket of water and poured them on the crackers, rendering them useless. I was astonished. Then someone told me that the children were taught not to burn crackers. I wanted to know the reason, since, I was never taught this and hence, came here to understand. I have now realized that I was wrong and they were right." It was really moving, an old man admitting his mistake.

Q6. Could you please elaborate on "Project Urban Ecotour"? What was the idea behind it?

The Yamuna flood plain had been opened up for construction of commonwealth village and we were worried as to where the flood water will go. Thus, we decided to start a campaign. We were joined by Mr. Rajinder Singh who is also known as the water man of India. He decided to sit and protest and we promised to get supporters. For almost a month we raised awareness, put up posters, but, on the day of the event only 20 people turned up for the protest. To reason out, we did a survey and found that about 80% of Delhiites considered some other place as their even after living in Delhi for 20 or 30 years. We realized that Delhi doesn't have many stakeholders and that connection was not there. This led to Project Urban EcoTour which is for the people living in Delhi to make them CITIZENS of Delhi. We started taking people on tours in DTC buses, showed them places where the water they drank came from and thus tried to convert them into stakeholders. Since then, we have had dozens of such trips.



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PROF. SHANTHA SINHA

INTERVIEWED BY - ANKITA PARIKH & ANIRUDH GOEL

Prof. Shantha Sinha is an anti-child labor activist of international reputation and the founder of Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation, popularly known as MV Foundation (which is named in memory of her grandfather Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiah). She is a recipient of the 4th highest Indian civilian honor Padma Shri and also headed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights for two consecutive terms (3 years each). NSS SRCC was honored to have her presence at the closing ceremony of its annual fest SAMARPAN, as the chief guest. Here are few excerpts from our conversation with her, later after the ceremony.

Q1. We have heard a lot about your outstanding contribution to Child Development. So what has been your source of inspiration?

It began like an academic exercise. I was teaching a course of rural development. For that, I

was required to know what was happening in the villages. When I visited a few, I realized that it was the children who were the weakest and the most neglected. So I felt that one will have to connect all laws, policies and programs to the children. That's how I began my work.

Q2. You've named MV Foundation after your grandfather. So is he also a part of your inspiration?



My grandfather was an educationist and a nationalist who had fought in the freedom struggle. He also received a Padma Bhushan. After he passed away, his children wanted to have a trust in his memory and that's how this began. I was the first secretary trustee of this

foundation and what I do is to take forward the ideals that he stood for, in his beloved memories.

Q3. You started this venture in 1990's. Do you feel that the scenario today makes it easier to start such a movement now?

It was difficult then and I believe that it even more difficult now. There are both advantages and disadvantages. At that time, there were not



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many policies and laws in place. There was no 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences' Act, no 'Juvenile Justice' Act, no 'Child Marriage' Act. So we had to fight this all before we got government's investment in children. The advantage now is that you have all these laws and policies. But then, at that time, there was a greater atmosphere to do field work, social mobilization, to go around the villages. But now it has become much more professionalized. Only if you are trained and qualified, you feel that confident to do a thing like this. So the spontaneity is somewhat missing.

Q4. What has been the scope of MV foundation? Also what kind of challenges do you face in running such an organization?

Currently, we are supporting 1 million children. We have withdrawn 10 lac children from work and put them into school and followed up with them till the time they completed their Class 10th. There has always been problem of funds, but, it has never deterred us from doing our work. We have a voluntary workforce of around 80000 people, who work doing their spare time and we have

created this huge army of child defenders in our project area. It is like coming together of people from different backgrounds for protecting children, keeping aside their caste differences. This is what we have created.

Q5. The observation says that a child's literacy is better in case the mother is educated. So what do you feel that the society can possibly do to promote the women empowerment and education so that they can take care of their children?

Women have always found it difficult to access any of their rights and I believe, there has to be an environment where women are given respect. The current government is coming up with programs like Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao, but, some where it has to go deeper and translate into concrete actions. It is important to include the men as well. It is not a movement for the women, of the women or by the women, but, it is a movement for the entire society. In support of women, we should have more exercising agencies, with defined existing norms that motivate them to continue in their fight.

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Q6. You have been awarded and recognized all over the world ma'am. Your public service is indeed commendable. What do you feel when you look back at all the success you have gained and all the initiatives you've undertaken?

I have never been asked this question before.

Well! I draw a lot of strength from the past,
but, I keep on looking towards the future. I
have to agree that it has been a very rewarding
experience. A lot can be learnt from the
strength of the youth who have participated in
the movement, from children themselves, from

poor parents and from the community and I find that if you repost trust in them, they will go ahead of you.

Q7. Lastly, any address for today's youth?

I personally feel that the youth has innumerable choices and opportunities today; more than what we had when we were young. So, they look at things with greater positivity and that I feel is a very significant factor in creating a mood in the country that things will happen and things will change. I am actually glad for the youth of the country today.



Prerna Volume 6 Micro Tales

JUST A MINUTE TALES

"If the price of your dignity is death, I am ready to make coffin my home".

Vowed the soldier to his motherland.

* "Lets meet and plan" changed into "Lets plan and meet". Realization of losing childhood was the worst feeling ever.

- MANSI MITTAL

- The boy died of hunger outside the temple.
 Inside the drain was all milky.
- The carpenter finished making the bed for the princess. He then slept peacefully with a block of wood under his head.

- Anisha Isharwalia

- If "Okay" was our forever, we would be the best couple. Thought the housewife, abiding by the orders of her husband.
- I kept my doors locked and my heart blocked. But somehow he crept in every time.

- Priya Agarwal

She was a book stuck on the same page. For her, the next chapter seemed a bad omen until the storm she resented flipped the page and revealed the rainbow.

- SHIWANI

As a child, always wondered about how he would enjoy life once he was 18 years old. As an adult, realized he grew old all at once.

- GURLEEN KOUR

. He lied.

She cheated.

After all, it was supposed to be a "Happy Marriage".

Bridal Dress.

Worn once.

Still red...

...stained.

- "Mom loves me more than you!!"
 - "No! Mom loves me more than you!!"
 - "Moooommm!!!"
 - "Who do you love more? Me or her?
 - "Eh? Neither of you!"

- HARISH KUMAR



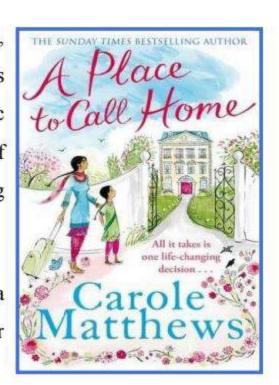
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A PLACE TO CALL HOME

- Urja Raheja

As the society seems bound by the shackles of domestic violence, physical assault and male chauvinism, Carole Matthews addresses these pressing issues in the subtlest way. Commingled with a romantic drama and emotional upheaval, she points out to the darker phase of society enlightening the audience of new beginnings, of discovering love and of finding.... a place to call "Home".

The beginning of the story finds the protagonist Ayesha married to a violent monster of a man, who desires to control her moves. A year after a vicious assault, that was witnessed by her young daughter



Sabina, Ayesha decides to slip out of Suresh's (her husband) clutches to innervate her mute daughter, leaving behind a life of abuse and agony. Boarding a coach to London, she lands up in an affluent house of an ex-pop star Hayden, after being helped out by the hostel lady. Ayesha is granted her fresh start in this new place which has been opened only to two other people – Crystal, a gentlemen's club dancer and Joy, an older, stubborn yet soft-hearted woman. As different as these unlikely housemates may be, it proves to be the perfect environment for both Ayesha and Sabina to thrive in. Somehow over time, they become a bit of a disjointed family and develop a love interest in the group that really does make the audience grip their seats. The story portrays how each character required a fresh start in life. Ayesha and Sabina redevelop their lost hopes. Hayden too finds a way to rediscover his lost pleasure through the sweet smiles of Sabina. Friendship and blossoming romance balances the darker elements and unlike common cases of domestic abuse, the story plays out in a heartening and poignant way.

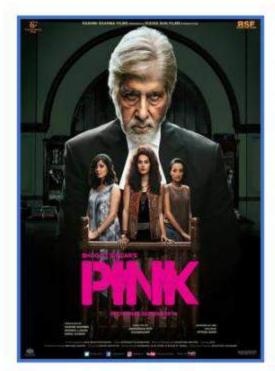
This is a tale of lost souls who help each other only to realize that, 'family' does not pertain only to those who are related, but, incorporates the people who touch our hearts and go out of their way to support us. Crystal gives views on victim liberation and the importance of addressing issues of violence which exist even today. Carole desires that one fine day every woman would discover a place that she would be able to call, with all her heart, "Home".



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PINK - MOVIE

- ANIRUDH GOEL



It's taken Indian cinema countless years to produce a movie so powerful as Pink. Right from the script to acting, everything justifies the idea of movie making. While its true that court cases cannot be won by mere emotional arguments as in the case of Pink, but, a message so simple yet powerful as portrayed in the movie, overshadows the absurdness of courtroom drama.

The film starts with three terrified girls rushing home in a panic, while at the same time, a group of four young men are seen heading towards the hospital, one of them severely injured. It doesn't take a Bollywood

fan much time to figure out the obvious. The two groups had been partying together and the boy had been hit by one of the girls. As the plot unravels, the viewers get an insight into the lives of the characters. The female protagonists - Minal an event manager, Falak working in a corporate set-up, and Andrea who is from North-East.

The male antagonists - The influential and egoistic Rajveer (whose pride had been challenged with Minal hitting him hard as he misbehaved with her) and his sidekicks Vijay, Dumpy and Vishwa. What follows next is a typical cat and mouse game with the boys using all in their power and connections to scare and humiliate the girls. The girls face rape, humiliation, death threats, assault and even a court case with no one to go to until lawyer Deepak Sehgall (Amitabh Bachan) steps in. A peculiar figure, Mr. Deepak has problems of his own, such as suffering from bipolar disease, having a sick wife who eventually passes away and as the story progresses, it puts more light on his background.

The courtroom drama continues with Mr. Deepak banking only on emotional arguments and logical reasoning. The movie though initially slow picks up pace as the courtroom drama begins and has some really poignant dialogues and powerful performances. It does well to break the innumerable stereotypes associated with men and women, and does so with a lot of courage and conviction. The movie ends on a predictable note (if not conventional, considering the reality of court cases in Indian), while trying to make us comfortable with certain truths unacceptable to the society.

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P.O.W - BANDI YUDDH KE

- SAMYA MITTAL

A show like 'P.O.W. - Bandi Yuddh Ke' has the potential to break stereotypes on Indian Television and rule the charts. Two prisoners of war, Imaan Khan and Sartaj Singh escape from captivity to return to their families. However, there is more to their miraculous escape than what meets the eye. Will their wives/families be able to reconcile with them? Or are the scars of captivity too deep?

<u>Plot:</u> The political thriller is based on Israeli drama called Hatufim (Prisoners of War), the original series on which the show American series Homeland is also based. The story revolves around two soldiers - Naib Subedar Sartaj Singh (Purab Kohli) and Squadron Leader Imaan Khan (Satyadeep Mishra) - who go missing after the 1999 Kargil War. But 17 years later, they manage to escape from a



Pakistani jail and return to their families in India. The show highlights that their loved ones who are held captive by their emotions of hope, uncertainty and longing are the real prisoners of war. The exciting twist in the rather emotional plotline is brought forward by retired Major Vikram Singh speculating about the motive behind the return of the two men. Singh thinks that both Sartaj and Imaan have been 'turned' by the Pakistani government. He also thinks that they didn't escape, but were allowed to leave Pakistan. It is also shown that the two are holding back something, a secret that unravels slowly.

Woman Empowerment: The female protagonists of the show reflect the brand-new thought of the channel, breaking away from stereotypical female characterization. Both Nazneen Khan (Sandhya Mridul) and Harleen (Amrita Puri) are strong female characters who know that they are much more



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than just somebody's wife. This is not to say that they don't have the highest regard for their husbands' professions, but they are fighters, and despite the circumstances, are trying their best so as to lead a normal life. Sartaj Singh's wife, Harleen, who belongs to a typical middle-class family, takes on the role of 'man of the house' and lends a helping hand to her father-in-law's business, while still pining for her husband who had immediately left for war after they had tied the knot. Nazneen, who hails from a well-connected and affluent family is an urban independent single mother on the verge of embarking on a new relationship with Imaan's brother Salim, only on the insistence of her teenage son and daughter. The dilemma of a woman in such a situation, who is stuck between her past and future, is well put by the show when she compares herself to a pendulum.

VERDICT: The show, directed by Nikhil Advani, has to be credited for bringing on Indian Television something that's never been done before. It is an attempt to connect with the young audiences who are not interested in soapy dramas emerging out of the kitchen. Given the great content, performances and gripping drama, the show might lose out on viewership because of its unconventional time slot (11 -11:30 pm). Despite this P.O.W-Bandi Yuddh Ke is a treat for everyone who craves for engaging and sensible drama on TV. The gripping narrative stirs you emotionally and keeps you glued to what will happen next. This one is not to be missed!



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PAULO COELHO

- NITIN LALWANI

A man is known by his work and Paulo Coelho has carved his niche in fictional literature. He brings out the subtle topics in the most lucent ways.

His much-celebrated work- **The Alchemist**, is indeed in contrast to the real-life, but, at the same time has continued to inspire many lives around the world on how to never give up on their dreams. The book reveals the story of a shepherd who finds his treasure in the pyramids of Egypt against all odds because his instinct got him moving. It makes us appreciate the relevance of 'Personal Legends', the spirit of companionship and the very existence of omens- good & bad. It makes the reader recall if he is a part of the rat race of today or really in line with fulfillment of his actualizations.

In his book Eleven Minutes he
Removing all the prosthetics
spotlight a lot of issues
and the meaning of true
much closer to his reality is
Die. While majority fails to
dance in it. Veronica, belonging

suicide because of the dearth of love

keeps a prostitute as the protagonist.

associated with it, he brings to including sexual exploitation love. Close to his heart and his novel **Veronica Decides to** appreciate the rain, some learn to to that majority decided to commit and failure to appreciate the true meaning

of life. Awaiting her death in Villete, she at last discovers her passion for music, falls in love and indeed recovers. He swirls the plot in **Brida**- introducing witchcraft and spiritual transformation of the girl discovering her own self over materialism. In **The Spy** he tells the story of Mata Hari- an independent woman who dares to defy convention but pays the ultimate price.

Through these and many more masterpieces, Coelho talks of issues which are neither taught in academics nor discussed in the society openly. Often the issues – death, love, prostitution, fantasy - are rambled and shoed away, but, his books are a brilliant effort to bring to life all that seems gloomy with beautiful philosophy and less cacophony. His works are highly recommended to every sort of reader – one who is looking for an inspiration to chase his/her dreams, one who is tired of the world's hypocrisy and even for the one who is happily looking for some fiction!!!

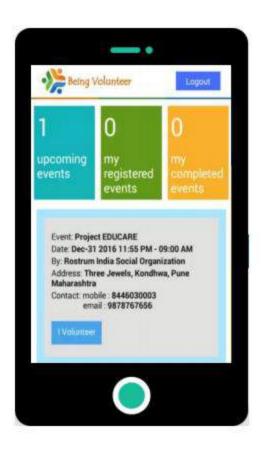


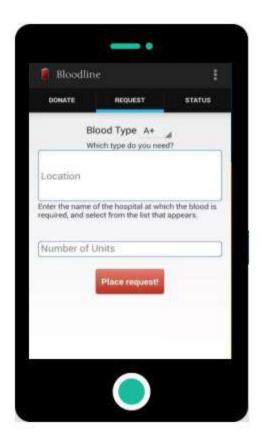
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MOBILE APPS

- Saiteja Chandrika

Being Volunteer – The app brings the online volunteer network on your Smartphone. By downloading this app, anyone who is interested in volunteering can see which nearby organizations could use his/her help. Not only on the basis of time, but, one also can categorise ones results by distance and type of event. Favourite kind of volunteer activities can be saved so as to help find the best fit work. Thousands of volunteers have already been followed up and connected with opportunities they care about. If one is not sure of an organization; the app lists reviews by other volunteers who visited the organization. Volunteers and NGO's can publish their own events and can make reach to thousands of interested volunteers using this app.



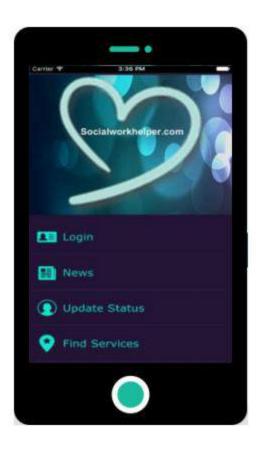


Bloodline - Our country has a blood deficit of between 30% and 35% every year. The problem is not insufficient number of donors but finding a willing donor at the right time. Five student member team of IIT madras developed a mobile app "BLOODLINE" and a website, to match people who need blood with those who willing to give it. Once a request is placed for blood, the app runs on algorithms to match potential donors based on location and blood group and notifies them. The registration for the app is free and it has tie ups with health care facilities and major blood banks. In 10 days of launch there were 340 web registrations and 323 app downloads. The project has won recognition in and out of the country. It was also one among the six finalists in the transform urban India competition of the Indian institute of human settlements.

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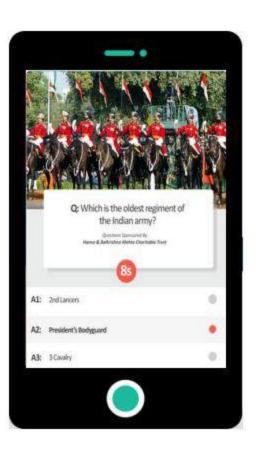
MOBILE APPS

- Saiteja Chandrika



Social Work Helper - No one is exempt from experiencing a crisis; it may be a natural disaster or a family emergency. "Social Work Helper" makes it easier for people and social workers to find resources faster using mobile technology. So, when a crisis happens you don't need the added anxiety to figure out where to begin from. The app is a progressive media platform integrated with twitter and Facebook which makes it user friendly to login and share things. Users can have access to other directories to help locate low cost drug prescription, affordable day care, senior services, support groups, mental health treatment, food banks and much more. Free to use for both, the android and iOS users, its simplicity is regarded as the most appreciable feature.

Awarathon – It has chosen a novel way to raise money and spread knowledge at the same time. This quiz based gaming is the initiative of Madath foundation, a Not-for-profit organization, to spread awareness and to raise money for worthy causes. Available for free on Google Play store, the app awards a rupee for every correct answer. There are many social causes to take a quiz on and each cause is supported by an NGO working in that particular field. The social cause may be women empowerment, underprivileged children, people with disabilities and so on. Once you reach a certain amount, say 10 it's your choice either to redeem or donate it to a cause. The NGO'S associated with the app are Teach for India, National society for equal opportunity for the handicapped (NASEOH), World for all and Kalyandas sports foundation. The app has garnered praise for its idea of making people aware of many facts while enabling them to do something better for the society.





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JUST A MINUTE TALES

- NAVYA KHURANA

* "How is the PG?"

"Really nice Ma."

"The food?"

"Great"

"I miss you Ma."

Perhaps, the only truth he spoke that night.

I always thought Mummy loved my brother more than me...One day, they both took out their magical savings for my education abroad.

Well, surprises don't last a lifetime. But this one did.

The wedding day.

The groom's family demanded dowry.

Angered by refusal, they giggled.

The 15 year old bride giggled.

Now, she can attend school's Annual Day.

❖ When I was your age, I did all work on my own. – A mom at Duty

But the 14year old girl in her giggled at the funniest joke she had ever made.

A medical student.

Left the biology notebook at the art gallery.

Its last pages unveiled an artist to the world.

Got my first job by plan of luck.

• We went for a date, all dressed up and classy.

Seeing the menu prices, we looked at each other. Count of three, we ran away.

Embracing embarrassments, we had love at first sight.

New Year's Eve.

No plans.

TV, Popcorn and Pizza.

But, it was the best as he did what hadn't done the whole year

Spend time with himself.

- Sunita grimaced as she took first bite of the noodles served in the hostel. "Ma's tindas were way more delicious." she thought
- She always thought the shooting star was a dying little spirit. Perhaps, it wasn't dying. It was the only one to make it to the other end.

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JUST A MINUTE TALES

- NITIN LALWANI

- * "May you get all the riches of the world", blessed the mother to the toddler. Years later, with hands full of money, his heart hollowed missing his well-wisher.
- The black cat crossed their path. He got promoted. She was fired. Baffled they sat!
- One was hungry. The other was sad.
 He finally sold a balloon after two days.
 One stomach satiated; other heart rejoiced!
- The man in formals entered the park. Sitting alone on the swing with cotton candy in hand, he realized why the child in the heart must not die!
- Hands held. Eyes met. Standing under the same umbrella!
 She wished for a candid.
 Lighting flashed!
 Coincidence?
- In the end we are all just the stories we tell. Justified Snapchat, Hike, Instagram and WhatsApp!

- He held syringe in his hand and stethoscope around his neck.
 She lay still on her death bed.
 Memories flashed reliving their memories of playing 'doctor-doctor'!
- * "Why are all these letters non- sequential?" asked the mother looking at the keyboard. Her only English prowess was the alphabets she ever learnt!
- 'Stop hiding this idiot's mistakes', shouted dad.
 The mother was indeed good at concealing, bringing the veil to her bruised face.
- All her life she gathered ego and hatred. Little did she know she was collecting a currency that only trapped her in the vicious circle of this debt.
- Memories flashed when he saw the shirt his brother warned him to wear.
 Miles apart, the innocent cheating earned him 100 bucks!



❖ NAVYA KHURANA - PROJECT VISHWAS, DIRECTOR

The journey of Project Vishwas as well as NSS SRCC has been an enriching experience. The entrepreneur in me got its first startup through it and my work has given me happiness and satisfaction beyond measure. I have met some of the most hardworking people, whom I am privileged to call my friends and shall share a lifetime bond with. NSS has added more to my life, than what I have given to it. Hence, in spite of the fact that the end is around the corner, NSS is not going to leave my heart anytime sooner. (I am sure it will be there for lifetime).



❖ ALISHA RATHOR - PROJECT VISHWAS, DIRECTOR

I really doubt if these words will be able to express my love and respect for NSS SRCC. I have been the part of this amazing family through out these three years and the journey has been extraordinary. The success of Project Vishwas has been my most precious achievements. At the end it feels like all the efforts, hard work and pain, me and my entire team underwent, has resulted in a valuable output. NSS has always been and will continue to be very close to me.



❖ Adarsh Kariwal – Project Vishwas, Head

My journey as an NSS executive has been a remarkable experience. The most important lesson that I have learnt is to never lose hope and keep on trying. NSS is not a society but a big family where we all care for each other and the bonds we share are special and precious. Being a part of NSS I learned that the biggest contribution you can make to the society is not just by your actions but also by inspiring others to contribute to the society and if I inspire even one person I consider my journey successful.





❖ BIPUL VERMA - PROJECT SANSKAAR, HEAD

'Padhega India tbhi toh Badhega India!' Through Project Sanskaar, NSS has given me the opportunity to do my bit in creating future leaders. The NSS journey has been full of challenges but an enthusiastic cabinet and a dedicated set of volunteers makes all challenges seem small. The journey has brought me closer to the reality and made me realize that teaching kids is indeed a difficult task, but at the same time it has been a great learning experience. It has in all, left memories to be cherished forever.



❖ Anubhuti Gupta – Women Empowerment Wing, Head

My takeaways from NSS are listless- it enhanced my confidence, made me believe in change, taught me team spirit and above all gave me some beautiful memories for a lifetime. While conducting the Menstrual Hygiene Workshops for the underprivileged girls, the joy and content to satisfy their innocent inquisitiveness is beyond words. Working for NSS is an altogether different experience, because here you get to see the change at the ground level. I was fortunate to be a part of this change directly which made me realise that the onus to build a better future lies on us.



❖ AISHWARYA THAKUR - ENVIRONMENT WING, HEAD

NSS SRCC gave me a platform to contribute my bit towards the sustenance of environment. The past two years have been an eye-opener as I realized that, to sensitize people and to work at a smaller level is indeed challenging. It has been a roller coaster ride, but, the constant support from the cabinet and the active involvement of the juniors made me sail through smoothly. My journey has left me with great learning experiences and beautiful memories, all to be preserved for a lifetime, while turning me into a more confident and responsible individual.



❖ Nikita Gupta - Social Health Wing, Head

NSS is not just a social service body for me. Being its part for around 2 years now, it has provided me with ample opportunities to learn and grow, not just alone but with everyone together. As an executive member, the year has brought in loads of sweet memories and rich experience. From the social work, hustling here and there with the meetings, to the seniors' support and care and juniors' love and dedication, NSS has given enough that can keep me in GOOD HEALTH throughout.



❖ SWATI GOYAL - SOCIAL SUPPORT WING, HEAD

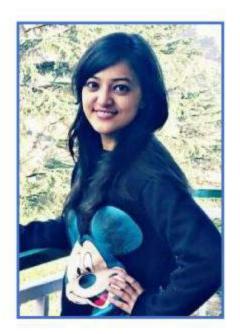
I have been a part of NSS during all 3 years of my college life and I totally agree to the fact that it is the best platform to reach out to the society at large and spread happiness, awareness and education among all. The small things, be it recording books for blind, working as a scribe, teaching small kids or making creative things for social cause, everything have given me pleasure and happiness beyond words. NSS has made my college life best and it has stayed and will always stay close to my heart.



❖ NAVEEN JAIN - SAVE YOUTH WING, HEAD

Words fail to describe the kind of experience I have gained by working as the Save Youth Activity Head at NSS SRCC. The urge to serve the society had always been in my heart and NSS gave me the perfect opportunity. The experience of sensitizing the youth on the bad effects of alcohol, cigarettes etc. organizing street plays, flash mobs for various issues like depression, road safety etc. went amazingly well. I would like to thank my NSS family for giving me such beautiful memories to cherish.





* Kritika Negi - Sponsorship Wing, Head

NSS SRCC has given me an indelible experience. At NSS we are working not just for a 3 day fest, but engage in plethora of activities throughout the year, for the innumerable lives that we try to leave an impact on. Being the Sponsorship Head at NSS has been a matter of great responsibility and with the constant help of fellow cabinet members, I can finally say that the efforts bore brilliant results. NSS SRCC is like a Big Indian joint family and I feel so fortunate to have been a member of it.



❖ NISHA YADAV - CREATIVE WING, HEAD

One of the best things to happen to me in college is my association with NSS. First as a volunteer and then as a cabinet member, NSS has helped me to contribute my part to the society. The beautiful experience of teaching Sanskaar kids, moments shared with the cabinet which is more like a family to me, memories built while doing the creative work are something that I will never forget. NSS has given me countless memories and the satisfaction that I have done something for the society.





