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Antardhvani 2014: resonating within Lady Irwin College

Antardhvani 2014 was the second such occasion planned by the University to showcase curricular and co-curricular activities of various colleges and their innovative projects. Lady Irwin College participated actively and enthusiastically to share their teaching, research and extension pedagogies.

Irwinites participated with great passion in the whole gamut of events to display their talent and expertise. They took pride in representing their College and being its ambassadors to the Delhi University fraternity. It gave an opportunity to them to see and develop a sense of belonging to the University and engage with student on-campus and off-campus and specially belonging to those colleges whom they have been curious to know.

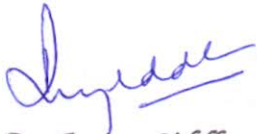
This year at Antardhvani, Irwinites presented "good teaching practices" in our College which included "interactive floor games and *Adal-Badal-Ka-Mel* (Flip and Turn)" and "Talking Literacy Primers, Comics and Photobooks" (with Multiple Print Reader technology) and puzzles as techniques to engage with community and as effective community penetrating techniques. These methods and media help students to understand contemporary development issues like reproductive health, gender discrimination, violence, etc. and identify strategies to address them at the grassroots level. This pedagogy builds a strong community connect while students develop a theoretical understanding of these issues in classroom situations. Students are encouraged to analyse development issues from an interdisciplinary perspective and develop the acumen to converge theory with practice for extending knowledge and good practices from the 'lab-to-the-land'. Further, these methods of teaching and learning can be used for eliciting information from communities for any project work.

Our English Department used several themes which students have reported as "outstanding", "makes real sense in life" in their feedback forms on Foundation Courses. Learning English was received with greater enthusiasm and with greater connect to real life by the first year students. They made films, skits, critiqued text, conducted interviews and wrote poetry on contemporary developmental issues of the country. This process offered them an opportunity for self expression and developed their life skills.

Innovative projects on sustainable technologies, solar energy, food and nutrition, e-waste management were well received by visitors at Antardhvani. Feedback by visitors for these projects was very constructive and encouraging.

Experiential learning, as envisaged in Foundation Courses, has been the forte of Lady Irwin College. The College houses a Nursery School (Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre) for last 55 years. This school enunciated early childhood care and education (ECCE) in the country for the first time almost half a decade ago. The students use scientific techniques of observation, play and storytelling that aids their theoretical understanding of the growing Indian child, especially, with special needs. This template of teaching and research has been appreciated worldwide encouraging several international academic linkages.

I feel delighted that the University has appreciated our endeavours and awarded Lady Irwin College with first prize for Good Practices in teaching, research and innovation at Antardhvani 2014. We at Lady Irwin College look forward to participating in Antardhvani.



Dr. Anupa Siddhu

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