SRIJAN (2023-24)

Suicide Awareness Workshop Report

11th September 2023

10th September is considered to be the Suicide Awareness Day. Recognising the importance of this day, Srijan, society of Department of Psychology organised a Suicide Awareness Workshop in collaboration with Arahata, society of BA Program at Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi on 11th September 2023. The event took place in the Student Activity Centre at 1:00 pm. It was attended by a students from different courses including psychology hons, BA program (History, Political Science, English) and Maths Hons. The workshop was also attended by the faculty from the psychology department and the convenor of BA Program, Dr. R.K. Dwivedi. The workshop had an approximate attendance of about 120 students and faculty members.

Ms. Sonakshi Gandhi was invited as the guest speaker. She has approximately 10 years of experience in the field of clinical psychology and is the founder of The Mind Garden, mental health clinin. She holds an MPhil from IHABS, Delhi. The event began with Sukhnoor, the President of Srijan, providing an introduction and extending a warm welcome to the honoured guest, followed by Dr. Neera felicitating Ms. Gandhi with a plant.



The Teacher-in-charge of the Psychology department, Dr. Halley S. Thokchom's began with

an introduction to suicide and the need to discuss it. Ms. Sonakshi Gandhi thereafter initiated the workshop by providing some cautions/ warnings, along with a staggering fact: suicide being the second leading cause of death, with 15 million attempts annually. She urged a change in the perception of individuals suffering from suicidal thoughts, emphasising that "**People don't commit suicide; they die by it.**"

Ms. Sonakshi then delved into an intriguing clarification about the difference between selfharm and suicide. She highlighted the multifaceted nature of suicide and expressed systemic and social concerns regarding the lack of safety nets and inclusivity in society. The session transitioned into a simple quiz designed to illustrate existing stereotypes in society. Ms. Gandhi then explored possible solutions to the problem, urging proper identification of signs of suicide, access to professional help, and other measures. At the end of the sssion, helpline numbers were shared for those in need of professional assistance.



The session concluded with questions from the attendees providing answers to their queries. The entire event was underscored by the assertion that "one cannot pour from an empty cup," emphasising the importance of prioritising one's own wellbeing as well before one can help others. The session witnessed active participation from the faculty as well. Dr. R. K. Dwivedi delivered the vote of thanks to the speaker and shared a few words with the students, highlighting the escalating issue of the commercialisation of help.

The entire event epitomised an enlightened future for society with the valuable expectation of reducing suicide statistics. Through the collective efforts of the Srijan and Arahata team along with the faculty, the event became a small effort in the direction of destigmatising suicide and developing sensitivity.



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