

# **Report of Aids Awareness Committee (2020-21)**



**Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV  
College for Women**

**Sector-36, Chandigarh**

**[www.mcmdavcwchd.edu.in](http://www.mcmdavcwchd.edu.in)**

## Report of Aids Awareness Committee 2020- 2021

### Activity: 7th April, 2021- Lecture on Transgender

The HIV/AIDS Awareness Committee in collaboration with The Equal Opportunity Cell of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised an online awareness programme on 'Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation' on 7th April, 2021, as per the instructions of Department of Higher Education, Chandigarh.

**Objective:** The aim of the programme was to educate the students about the concept of gender identity and to motivate them to work towards a more inclusive society with acceptance for all irrespective of sexual orientation. Over 700 students and faculty members participated in the programme, making it a huge success.

**Relevance:** The resource person for the programme was Ms. Amrita Sarkar, Advisor (Transgender Wellbeing and Advocacy), India HIV/AIDS Alliance. Ms. Sarkar talked about the need to not only generate awareness in the society regarding gender identity but also create a society which accepts and embraces diversity.

**Practice:** Recollecting her own life experiences as a transgender, Ms. Sarkar apprised the participants about the discrimination faced by people with alternative gender identities. She applauded the steps of the Government of India in the direction of ensuring equal rights for all types of gender identities and also reiterated that much needs to be done yet. She expressed hope that people would become more aware of the related issues and work together towards a truly inclusive society where people will not judge one another on the basis of his or her sexual orientation.

**Outcome:** At the end of the session, students came up with various questions and the resource person answered the questions to the satisfaction of everyone. An overwhelming number of participants more than 100 gave excellent feedback of the session and appreciated the resource person's interactive and simple way of putting things across.

## 6) Report of Aids Awareness Committee/Red Ribbon Club 2021- 2022

**Activity:** Aids Awareness Committee/Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with NSS organized an Awareness session on World AIDS Day on 1st December, 2021 in the college campus.

### Objectives:

To create awareness and educate people about the misconceptions and taboos related to HIV/AIDS among the people

To enhance earlier referral to prevention, care, treatment and support for persons identified as HIV positive.

To end inequalities caused due to the taboos prevalent around AIDS.

**The Context:** World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic. AIDS - *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome* is a viral infection that interferes with the body's ability to fight infections. It is the most advanced stage of infection caused by HIV. The virus can be transmitted through contact with infected blood, semen or vaginal fluid. This deadly disease also carries along with it many myths, which can cause physical and mental toll on the patient and hence need to be addressed in order to provide proper care and solution to the people suffering from AIDS. The stigma about this disease needs to be eradicated, and the only way to do that is by spreading more awareness. This year, the theme of the day was '*End inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics.*'

**The Practice:** To commemorate the day, Red Ribbon Club/AIDS Awareness Committee in collaboration with NSS Units of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Sector 36-A Chandigarh organized an awareness programme in the college premises. During the event, NSS Volunteers organized *awareness cum interactive session* where through their hand-made posters; they disseminated information about HIV, AIDS, causes, symptoms of the disease and initiatives taken up by the Government of India to curb this deadly disease. They exposed various myths in relation to the disease while explaining the actual truth of those myths. In addition, they discussed several taboos regarding AIDS and helped to promote a healthy mind-set amongst college youth.

**Evidence of Success:** NSS volunteers, through this interactive session were able to spread awareness regarding HIV/AIDS in the society. 38 students participated in this activity.



