

7.1.9. Sensitization of students and employees of the Institution to the constitutional obligations: values, rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens

Supporting Document

Criterion 7 – Institutional Values and Best Practices

Key Indicator - 7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

Human Values and Professional Ethics

7.1.9. Sensitization of students and employees of the Institution to the constitutional obligations: values, rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens

List of activities organized by Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh in session 2022-23 (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023) for inculcating values for being responsible citizens as reflected in the Constitution of India are given below:

Sr. No	Name of the Committee	Title of the Practice	Duration from	Duration to	Number of Participants (students)	Objectives
1.	Department of Political Science	‘Understanding Electoral Democracy in India’	5.09.2022	7.09.2023	100	To acquaint the participants broadly with the Election Process in India and the recent Electoral Reforms introduced.
2.	Character Building Committee in collaboration with Swachhta Committee of Arts	Sohard-Donating Woolen Clothes for the Underprivileged.	16.11.2022	19.11.2022	05	To promote the spirit of Social Inclusion
3.	Department of Political Science	Online Essay Writing Competition on the theme ‘India- Mother of Democracy’	26.11.2022	26.11.2022	11	To encourage the students to appreciate the motherland as one of the biggest democracy of the world.

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Sr. No	Name of the Committee	Title of the Practice	Duration from	Duration to	Number of Participants (students)	Objectives
4.	Department of Political Science in collaboration with electoral literacy club	Poster Making Competition on the theme 'Elections and Indian Democracy	26.11.2022	26.11.2022	10	To increase awareness among students about the value of elections in democracy.
5.	Electoral Literacy club	'Online Essay Writing Competition' on the theme of 'Nothing like Voting, I Vote for sure'	18.01.2023	23.01.2023	28	To encourage students to vote to strengthen the democracy.
6.	Electoral Literacy club	celebration of 'National Voter's Day'	25.01.2023	25.01.2023	85	To sensitize students towards the responsibilities of the voters in democracy.
7.	Electoral Literacy club	Quiz on the theme 'Democracy in India'	27.02.2023	27.02.2023	56	To check the perception of the youth about democracy.
8.	Electoral Literacy Club	'Online Essay Writing Competition' on the theme of 'Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure	January 25, 2023	January 25, 2023	113	To create awareness among the students about their electoral rights and duties.
9.	Department of Political Science	Online Essay Writing Competition on the theme 'Tradition of Local Self	24 th February 2023	24 th February 2023	07	To glorify the tradition of local self governance among the young minds

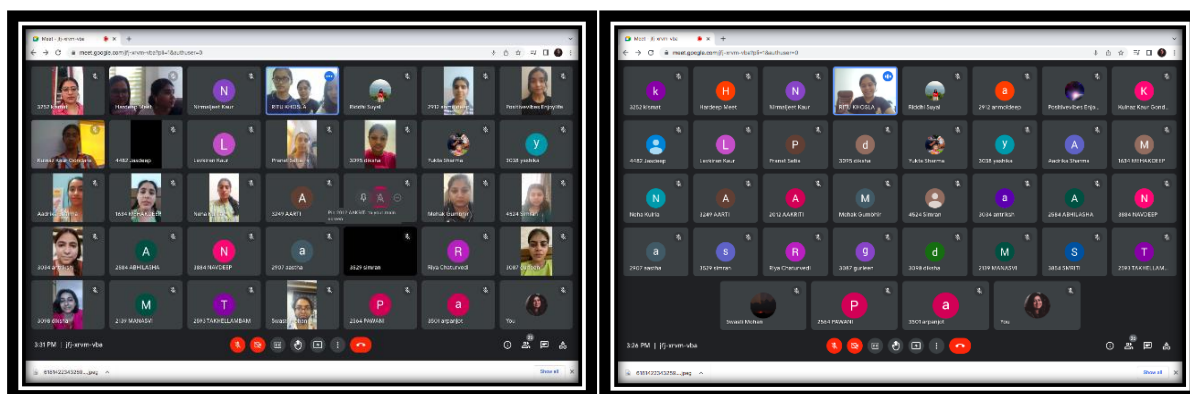
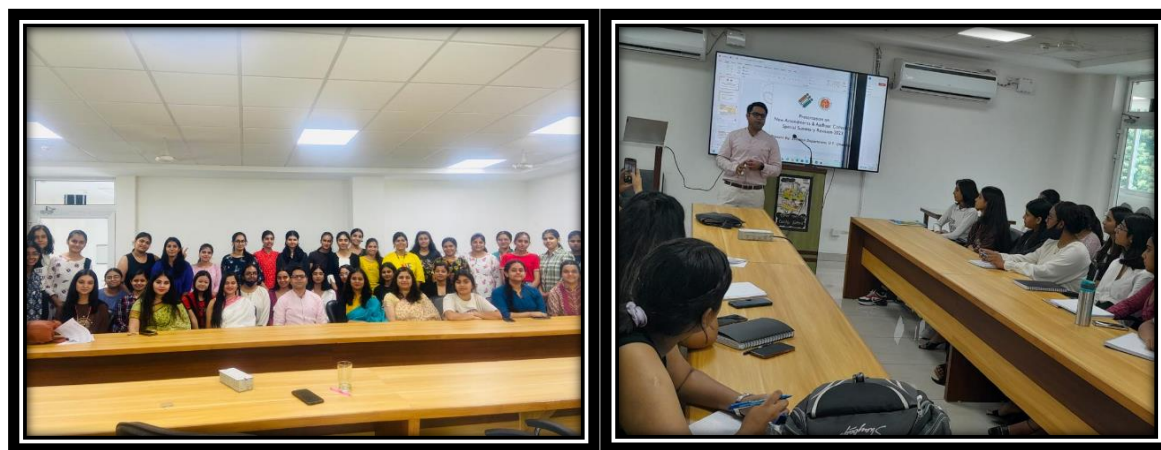
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Sr. No	Name of the Committee	Title of the Practice	Duration from	Duration to	Number of Participants (students)	Objectives
		Governance'				
10.	Electoral Literacy Club	Quiz on the theme 'Democracy in India'	February 27, 2023.	February 27, 2023.	56	To create awareness of democratic ethos and political history of India
11.	Department of Political Science	G 20 Youth International Seminar	4 th March, 2023	4 th March, 2023	22	To familiarize the students with the history and the main objectives of the G20.
12.	Electoral Literacy Club	Electoral Awareness Rally	March 20 2023	March 20 2023 March 20, 2023	42	To create awareness of importance of casting vote
13	Department of Political Science	Students' Talk on 'G20'	29 th March 2023	29 th March 2023	32	To deliberate on evolution, objectives, organizational structure' and the journey of India in G20 since its Presidency

A Three-day workshop from 5-7 September 2022 (under skilling initiatives) on the theme 'Understanding Electoral Democracy in India'. The workshop acquainted the participants broadly with the Election Process in India and the recent Electoral Reforms introduced. The first two days of workshop were held in an online mode and last day in offline mode.

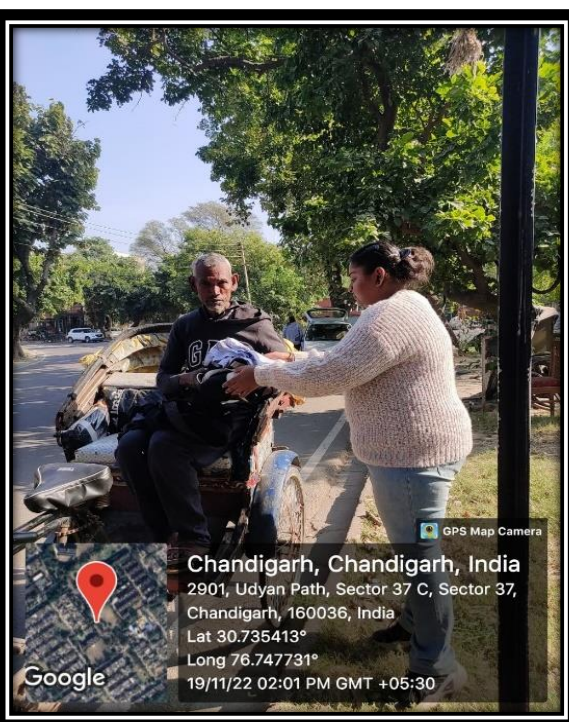
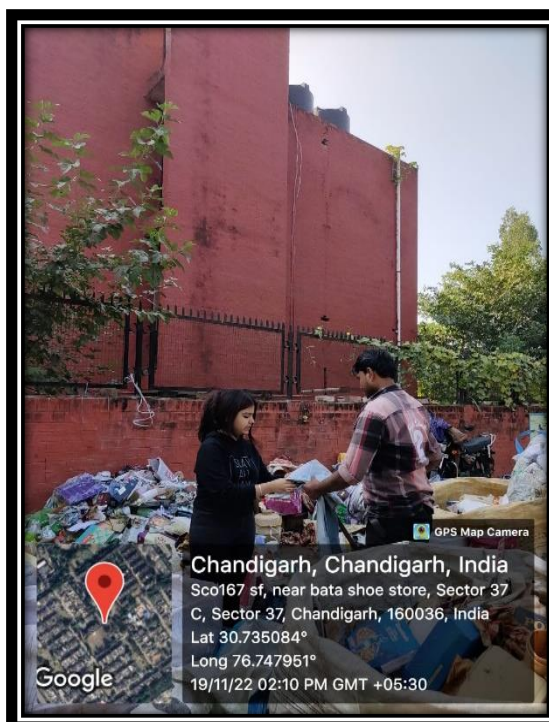
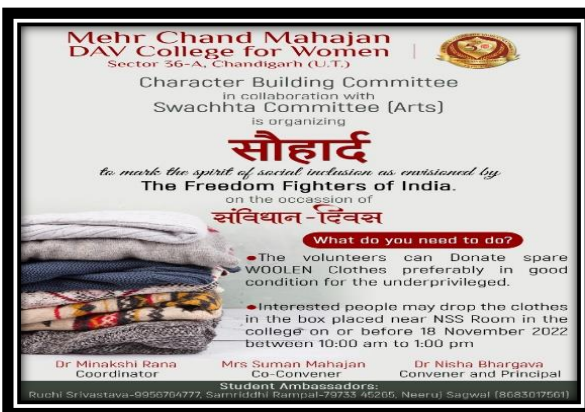
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The resource person for the first day was Ms. Richa. She elaborated the relationship between Elections and Democracy, kinds of elections and role of Election Commission. Resource Persons for the second day were Ms. Hardeep Kaur and Ms. Ashima Gupta. Ms. Hardeep Kaur discussed the Electoral process in India and explained the method of conducting elections for Parliament and State legislatures. Ms. Ashima focused upon Voting System and Voting Behaviour in context of India. Resource Person for the Third day was Dr. Suraj Thapa, Deputy Nodal Officer-ELC, Chandigarh and Asst. Professor in PGGC-11, Chandigarh. He made the participants aware about the latest reforms made in the Voter forms by the Election Commission of India.



The Character-Building Committee in collaboration with Swachhta Committee of Arts organized Sohard a woolen clothes a donation drive from 16th November to 19th November 2022. They collected Woolen Clothes from the volunteers in the college and distributed it to underprivileged on the occasion of Constitution Day to mark the spirit of social inclusion. They spread the message of love and compassion. The smiles on the faces were priceless.

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To mark the celebration of Constitution Day, Department of Political Science in collaboration with NSS Units of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh organized an event on 26th November where 'Preamble of the Indian Constitution' was read out among the students and staff of the college. The objective of this event was to reiterate the values and principles enshrined in the Indian constitution.



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Online Essay Writing Competition was also conducted by the Department of Political Science on the theme 'India- Mother of Democracy'. 11 students participated in the competition. Jaisika Saini of BA III, Diksha of BA II and Gurleen Kaur of BA II bagged First, Second and Third Positions respectively.

Department of Political Science in collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club conducted Poster Making Competition on the theme 'Elections and Indian Democracy'. 10 students participated in the competition. Ramandeep of BA II won First position; Janvi Goyal of BA I and Mansi of BA III bagged Second and Third positions respectively.



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Electoral Literacy club of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV college for women, Chandigarh conducted an 'Online Essay Writing Competition' on the theme of 'Nothing like Voting, I Vote for sure'. A total number of 28 students participated in the competition. Diksha from BA III was given the first prize, whereas, Jessica Saini and Pearl from BAIII were given the second and third prizes, respectively. Ashmeet from Bsc II and Amisha Goel from BAIII were given consolation prizes.

The winners were awarded with the cash prizes of Rs 1500, Rs 1000, Rs 500 for first, second and third, respectively and Rs 250 each for consolation. Participation certificates were given to all the participants. Electoral Literacy club of the college marked the celebration of 'National Voter's Day' on January 25, 2023. A Voter card registration booth was established where a number of queries were taken and 15 students were registered as voters. It was followed by a pledge, where 70 students and teachers pledge to vote with integrity, and the song 'main Bharat hoon', released by Election Commission of India, was played. The recording of the pledge and song was uploaded on social media website of the college.



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Electoral Literacy club of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh organised a Quiz on the theme 'Democracy in India' on February 27, 2023. A total of 56 students participated in the competition in a team of two. Two rounds were held in the competition. The questions were based on the democracy and political history of India and were given in the multiple-choice format. The team of Aakshima and Samarpreet of BA II won First position, Navneet and Divyanshi of BA II bagged Second position and Sumedha and Vanshika of BA I got Third position. Overall, it was a learning and enriching experience for the students.



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The club also created wall magazine 'Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure' to create awareness among the students about their electoral rights and duties. The visual dimension added a renewed enthusiasm among the students about their right to vote.



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Online Essay Writing Competition on the theme 'Tradition of Local Self Governance'

Online Essay Writing Competition was conducted by the Department of Political Science on the theme 'Tradition of Local Self Governance' on 24th February 2023. 7 students participated in the competition. First position was bagged by Jessica Saini of BA III, Second position by Angelina of BA I and Pawani of BA II

TRADITION OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

There is still a truth in the saying that India lives in her villages. Therefore, in the Indian context, true democracy can sustain itself and function effectively if democracy at the village level itself. This is because village communities have been the basic units wherein individual's happiness, freedom and independence were realized since ancient times. In the words of S. K. Dey, "If we were to rebuild India work must be started from the villages."

Local self-government means that residents in towns, villages and rural settlements are the people who elect local councils and their heads authorizing them to solve the important issues. It is a form of democratic governance where participation of even the bedrock level of society is encouraged and included. In December 1992, Parliament passed the 73rd and 74th amendments, which instituted panchayats and municipalities, respectively. These amendments mandated that State governments constitute panchayats (at the village, block and district levels) and municipalities (in the form of municipal corporations, municipal councils and nagar panchayats) in every region. They sought to institute a third-tier of governance in the federal framework through the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries to local governments. They are given recognition as well as protection.

The governing structure in India is made up of three tiers - the central government, the state government, and the local self-government. The local self-government is made up of democratically elected representatives of the local people. Two major forms of local self-government exist in India - one in the urban areas, that is, in cities and towns, local self-government is carried out by municipalities and corporations and the other in the rural areas, that is, in villages, Zila Parishad, block samitis, and panchayats carry out the functions of local self-government.

The local self government system is considered one of the major governance processes India has seen. It is a functional institution that governs most of the villages in India at foundational level. A few major committees played a vital role in the evolution of local self government in our country. It functions locally as it is not feasible for the state level government.

THE TRADITION OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

A young Indian girl residing in USA had plethora of opportunities in front of her. She could have easily lived a life of comfort and serenity. However, her heart wasn't at peace since she had visited her village Barkhedhi Abdullah, which despite being a 25-minute drive away from the capital city of Bhopal, was cut off from basic facilities in many ways. Today, this village has carved its own place on the map as an Adarsh Gram. All this could be made possible due to the efforts of a young woman Bhakti Sharma who after countless interactions with the villagers about the pathetic plight of the village stepped up to contest for the position of Sarpanch of the village. This is the beauty of democracy which is so accommodative that it makes possible for every layman to be 'the change'. The example of Bhakti Sharma shows how powerful and accessible the local self-governance system is in India. India celebrated the 30th anniversary of the local governance reforms in December 2022 which were implemented through 72nd and 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. In this context many questions may pop up in one's mind such as how did the idea of local self-governance evolve in India? What are the various challenges the local bodies face today? Do the local bodies require another set of reforms?

SELF GOVERNANCE: INDIA'S LEGACY

The quest of local self-governance is not something which emerged recently neither it is an alien concept to India. Local self-government at the village level had its origin in Ancient India. References to Gram Sanghas (village bodies) are found in the Manusmriti, Kautilya's Arthashastra (400 B.C.) and the Mahabharata. The Shanti Parva of Mahabharata refers to a Sabha named 'Sansad' also. This consisted of the common people and was, therefore, called the 'Jan Sansad'. Valmiki's Ramayana speaks of the Ganapada, which was a sort of federation of village republics. Only those persons could become the members who had the general welfare of the people in their hearts. Even in Rigveda terms such as 'sabha' 'samiti' 'gana' are mentioned which indicate existence of some sort of local self-governance.

However, these informal institutions were disrupted by frequent invasions from North-West and were almost vanished during medieval times. Villages were penetrated only for purposes of collection of revenue, never that much for administrative purposes. During colonial rule, the British, in order to effectively govern carried administrative reforms which included establishment of local self-governing institutions. However, the existence of these institutions was namesake. The British rulers for the first time thought of reversing the trend of feudalism in 1882 when the

Quiz on the theme 'Democracy in India'

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G 20 Youth International Seminar

A total 22 students of Department of Political Science attended Panjab University G 20 Youth International Seminar on 4th March, 2023. the students were familiarized with the history and the main objectives of the organization. In addition to this, they were also made aware of the future prospects of the organization and its relevance with reference to India.



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Students' Talk on 'G20'

To create awareness among students regarding G-20, the Department of Political Science of our College organized a student-initiated talk on 'G20' on 29th March 2023. The resource person of the event was Ms. Jessica Saini of BA III Political Science Honours. She deliberated on the evolution, objectives, organizational structure' and the journey of India in G20 since its Presidency. 32 students attended the event.



Electoral Awareness Rally

The Electoral Literacy Club organized an Electoral Awareness Rally in the college campus on March 20, 2023, at 11:00 am. A team of student volunteers went to each class to aware the students about their right to vote, as well as, gathered together in the celebration ground. A total of 42 students participated in the rally.

