



Gargi College
Annual Report
1978-79

Chief Guest : Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder
M.A., LL.B., D.Phil.
Minister of Education, Social Welfare & Culture
College Day, Thursday, March 1, 1979

Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the students, Members of the Staff and Karamcharis, it is my privilege to welcome the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture to our 12th Annual Day Celebrations. We are very grateful to you, Sir, that inspite of your heavy preoccupations, you have agreed to be our Chief Guest today.

Dr. P. C. Chunder, a student of Presidency College and University College of Law, Calcutta, has a distinguished career to his credit. He has been a Lecturer at Calcutta, Burdwan and Jadavpur Universities; Solicitor at the High Court of Calcutta; Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. Before joining as Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture in March 1977 he has had varied experience as President, West Bengal Congress Committee; Member, Working Committee, Indian National Congress; Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, West Bengal; Minister, Finance, Judicial & Legislative Departments, West Bengal.

It is most remarkable that inspite of his being actively engaged as a public figure, he has been able to keep his literary interests alive. A distinguished authority in dramatics, he has written and produced standard works on the subject. He has himself participated in dozens of dramatic performances on stage and the All India Radio. His dramas are now being filmed and also translated into various other languages. Some of his reputed works are :—

Kautilya on Love and Morals (English) Sons of Mystery (English), Job Charnocker Bibi, Srinkhalita, Lebedeffer Rangini (Bengali Historical Novels), Pahari Sandhya, Swapna Bhangha, Tumio Putul (Bengali Social Novels), Saharatali, Amlamadhur Prajapati, Ajab Desh (Bengali Dramas); and various other novels, essays, short stories and articles published in Journals and periodicals.

Our College, named after the Vedic Scholar Gargi, was started in 1967 by the Delhi Administration. It is today one of the prestigious colleges of the University of Delhi. We started with 200 students and 16 teachers and today we have 1200 Students and 82 Teachers on our rolls. Starting from Just B.A. (Pass) and B. Sc. (General) Courses, today we have B.A. (Hons.) in English, Political Science, History, Hindi and Sanskrit; B. Sc. (Hons.) in Botany and Zoology. We have applied for B.A. (Hons.) in Economics and Psychology; M.A. in Political Science, History and Hindi, which we hope to get sanctioned in the near future.

Our results during the year under review have been excellent. Miss P. Padmini, B.Sc. (Hons.) Botany 1st Year stood 1st in the University and Miss Archana and Miss Sunita Ajwani, both of B.Sc. (Hons.) (Botany) IIIrd Year secured IIIrd and IVth positions respectively. Our results in Botany Hons. are 85% with 35 first Divisions, Zoology Hons. 93% with 24 First Divisions, B.Sc. (General) Group 'B' with Physics 98% with 35 First Divisions, B.Sc. (General) Group 'B' without Physics 85% with 25 First Divisions. B.Com. (Pass) 82% with 12 First Divisions. B.A. (Pass) is 60%; Sanskrit Hons. 90% with 8 First Divisions; Political Science Hons. 78%; History Hons. 76%; Hindi Hons. 79% and English Hons. 84%.

Our Science results are a tremendous achievement both for Students and Teachers. In the Arts Courses, our students have not been able to secure high positions in the University. But if the yardstick of a good institution is its output compared to input, our achievement is in reality greater as compared to that of many other Institutions. Despite our admitting students securing 50% marks or lower in school, it goes to our credit that they pass out of this college with a good second class and first classes too.

Ours is not an elite Institution, operating from ivory towers. The majority of our students come from the economically weaker strata of society and in many cases it is the first generation of women who have come out of their sheltered homes to get formal education. Even if they just get through their examinations, and pass on the torch of literacy to other members of their families or neighbourhood and share some economic responsibility, our efforts would not have been in vain. Sometimes, we as teachers, have felt disappointed over their academic and cultural achievements, but when one takes into consideration their socio-economic background, one feels elated at having contributed quite some

effort for their betterment. We are, in fact, doing a great social service and contributing tremendously to the cause of women's education and uplift.

To help them gain occupational and economic confidence, we have recently started a Self-Employment-Cum-Vocational Training Programme. As a test case, we conducted a Free Food Preservation Course to which an overwhelming response was received. Our own student, Miss Madhu Dhir, has been conducting Beautician Courses. In collaboration with the South Campus and Social Welfare Board, we are opening the following courses after the examinations are over :—

Secretarial Courses; Journalism, Pottery Painting, Batik and Oil Painting; Fabric Painting; Cutting and Stitching; Machine Knitting and Interior Decoration.

Nearly 50 girls are already working in the various branches under the New Scheme in the Library, the College Office and Accounts Section and as Sales Girls in Gargi Stores thereby gaining experience in varied fields. This will provide them not only the much needed financial help but also teach them dignity of labour. We will give them Work Experience Certificates also.

We have opened GARGI STORES, managed entirely by the Students. The Store is meant not only to provide commodities at reasonable rates to the students but to serve as a counter where they can exhibit and sell their own handicrafts etc. and become self-sufficient too. We are keeping a Register of out-going NEEDY students and will try to provide them jobs by contacting outside employers. Already various offers have been received. I am very confident that we will be successful in this ambitious project, thereby pioneering an Employment Scheme. Poverty is not a crime but to remain dormant and accept the unjust social norms is a crime as well as a sin. I have seen with agony how, for three years, these girls quietly come and go away, without leaving any trace behind, except on the College Registers. But if, we teachers, are able to leave even a small imprint on the development of their personality and make them aware of their stagnation, we will have the satisfaction of having done our job.

The present academic year started on a crucial note. Our founder Principal, Mrs. I. Thakurdas, having retired on the 12th September, 1978

and no regular appointment having been made, this transitional period looked full of uncertainties and anxieties in the beginning. During the last eleven years, our Institution has made tremendous all-round advancement under her leadership. She not only protected us through the most difficult periods but also acted as a friend and guide. We felt a big vacuum created due to her retirement. But soon we realised the great challenge before us. The majority of the members of the staff were already associated with administration in responsible capacities and have rendered dedicated service to the Institution since its inception. Today, I can proudly say that we have collectively carried on the work smoothly for nearly six months, rather taken a leap forward, a tribute to the team spirit. Rarely does one come across such a deep sense of belonging, participation and dedication amongst the members of the staff.

Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. (Mrs.) V. B. Rastogi (Department of Zoology) and Dr. (Mrs.) C. K. Khurana (Department of Chemistry) for getting their doctorates and Mrs. Renu Maira (Department of History) for getting M. Phil. Miss S. Bhanumati (Department of Chemistry) has submitted her Ph. D. thesis to the University of Delhi.

Dr. (Mrs.) A. Chintamani (Department of Botany) published a Research Paper in the Indian Journal of Experimental Biology. Dr. Lalita Sehgal presented a Research Paper at 66th session of Indian Science Congress Association held at Hyderabad. Miss S. Bhanumati has made five publications in Journals of international repute. Two of the papers were presented at the Annual Convention of Chemistry and at the Indian Science Congress held at Waltair and Hyderabad respectively. Dr. (Miss) A. R. Goswami (Department of Sanskrit) presented a Research Paper at the All India Oriental Conference held at Poona. The paper on 'Narada' was highly commended by the President of the Conference. Mrs. Renu Sethi (Department of Political Science) and Miss M. Jain (Department of History) have been writing for weeklies and periodicals. Dr. V. B. Rastogi (Department of Zoology) attended a workshop for preparation of books for non-formal education organised by the NCERT. Dr. (Mrs.) C. K. Khurana (Department of Chemistry) directed Summer Institute for Class II under 10+2+3 pattern. Miss Sushma Chopra (Department of Economics) attended the Research Methodology Course in March 1978 organised

by I.C.S.S.R. at Ahmedabad. Miss Kiran Chugh attended the Faculty Improvement Programme organised by the South Delhi Campus. We propose to hold a Seminar on the 'Indian Scene Today' in the 3rd Week of March.

The following teachers are actively doing research for Ph. D. from the University of Delhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru University on the topics mentioned against their names :—

1. Mrs. Jogesh Chadha, Concept of the Hero in American
(Department in English) Drama.
2. Mrs. Renu Sethi, Women in Lok Sabha.
(Department of Pol. Sc.)
3. Mrs. Santosh Luthra, Prem Chand Aur Kal-Chetna Aur
(Department in Hindi) Abhi Vaikti.
4. Mrs. K. Malhotra,
(Department of Psychology)
5. Mrs. R. Guha, Land Revenue and Government
(Department of History) Policy towards Land Lord and
Tenant in Bengal
6. Mrs. R. Maira, The Black Muslims in America. A
(Department in History) Study of the roll of Elijah Moham-
med and Wallace D. Mohammed.
7. Miss Manju Shree Pd. Agrarian Problems and the Cong-
(Department in History) ress Attitude towards them in the
U.P. 1931-39.
8. Miss V. Ramaswamy, The Weaving Communities in
(Department of History) South India.

Mrs. Ravinder S. Singh (Department of English), Mrs. Manju Avinashi (Department of Chemistry), Mrs. Amrit Pritam (Department of Zoology) have been awarded Teacher-Fellowship by the University of Delhi. Miss Indu Tucker (Department of Chemistry) has been awarded Post Doctoral Fellowship, by the University of Regina, Canada.

During the year under review, 2143 new volumes were added to the Library. The total number of volumes as it stood on 1.1.79 is 29818

(27067 in the main collection, 1166 in the text book collection and 1586 in the Book Bank Collection). Out of this 592 books have been written off from the total collection.

We are receiving Rs. 15,000/- as Recurring Grant from the U.G.C. Besides we collect Rs. 40/- per annum as Library and Reading Room fee from the students. A Special Grant of Rs. 14,500/- was received for improvement of instructional facilities. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 3,000/- was received from the U.G.C. to purchase books in English. A special grant of Rs. 60,000/- was received for furniture. The Total expenditure during the year has been Rs. 60,034/- on books and journals, Rs. 60,000/- on furniture and Rs. 20,501/- on binding equipment and other items of Library accessories.

As many as 96,685 Volumes have been loaned out to borrowers as against 94,875 in 1977-78. Besides 1350 books were loaned out to deserving candidates for the whole term from the Book Bank Collection. This excludes the use of loose issue of periodicals, reference books, Reserve Section books, books kept in the Reading Room and the Open Stack of the Library. 65,188 members visited the Library during the year under review. About 200 new volumes are processed every fortnight and put in the New Arrivals Rack on the 15th and the 30th of each month. New Arrivals are displaced for two weeks, and can be consulted during working hours. Twenty five or so girls working in the Library under the Self-Employment-Scheme have shown quite an improvement in the general presentation, arrangement of books, availability and cleanliness. Students are managing the Property Counter also.

The Library has been furnished for about 150 students and 40 teachers. The new furniture fixed in the Library, during the present academic year, has made the Reading Room the most attractive place in the College. The Library Issuing Counter has been donated by our beloved teacher, Prof. Frank Thakurdas, whose love for books and the world of learning is well known. There could be no better gift than this for the efficiency of the Library Staff. For the first time in the history of the Institution, Teachers have a separate wing in the Library. They can now comfortably sit in their Reading Room and concentrate on their projects.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Librarian, Mrs. K. Anand, her Staff; Convenor and Members of the Library Committee for having furnished and brought about changes in the Reading Room.

It is heartening to note that our Library has books not only for undergraduate students but some provisions have already been made for post-graduate courses. Some of the Standard Research works are also available. Our Reference Section is equipped with remarkable selections of Encyclopaedias, great works, original collections and subjects of general interest.

The Governing Body of the College was reconstituted and on its first meeting held on the 7th November, 1978, it unanimously elected Mr. Kuldip Nayar as its Chairman, and Mr. Inder Mohan Sehgal as Treasurer. The Governing Body consists of the following members :—

1. Shri Kuldip Nayar	Chairman
2. Shri Inder Mohan Sehgal	Treasurer
3. Mrs. Kailash Rekhi	Member (Delhi Admn.)
4. Mrs. Archana Kumar	—do—
5. Shri Jittender Kapoor	—do—
6. Smt. Shella Ghatate	—do—
7. Shri Om Prakash Shastri	—do—
8. Shri Inder Narain	—do—
9. Shri Swarup Chand Rajan	—do—
10. Shri S. N. Tiwari	--do--
11. Prof. K. N. Saxena	University Rep:
12. Dr. Yudhishter	—do—
13. Mrs. Kanchan Manaktala	Teacher's Rep.
14. Mrs. Indu Kapoor	—do—

Miss. M.J. Sumitra, President, Students' Union.

The foundation of our building was laid down on March 1, 1973 by Field Marshal Manekshaw. We have a separate Science Block, huge, spacious and modern laboratories with attached Teachers' Research Rooms, Administrative Block and three storeyed Arts Block housing the Library, the Canteen, the Girls Common Room and Teaching Rooms. Development work and electric installations in the Arts Wing are still not complete because of financial difficulties. We are making efforts to get the grant released from the Delhi Administration. Since the development

work may take some time, this year we had to get the sports grounds cleared. The students keen desire to participate in sports could no longer allow us to wait for the formalities.

Efforts are being made to get extra land allotted for a Girls' Hostel and Staff Quarters. Mrs. Kailash Rekhi, Member, Governing Body, has promised to pursue the matter personally with the DDA authorities. We are experiencing extreme difficulty due to the lack of an Auditorium. Every year, we have to spend a huge amount on Shamianas and other make shift arrangements. Our students and Teachers, today, have an exciting news from our Chairman that he is making efforts to get a donation for the auditorium.

I acknowledge my gratitude to the Chairman, the Treasurer and other members of the Governing Body for taking a keen interest in the affairs of the College. I could not have carried over the heavy burden of the office without the guidance and wise counsel of Mr. Kuldeep Nayar, a well known figure of our times. The encouragement and confidence that he gave me has helped to tide over the initial difficulties. His liberal humanitarian approach, efficient manner of functioning, polite but firm way of handling things makes working with him a matter of great pleasure.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Members of the Staff, Karamcharis, and students Union for their overwhelming cooperation extended to me during this transitional period. Miss Shashikala Mutatkar, Students' Advisor, deserves a special mention in this respect. I have no hesitation in acknowledging that whosoever is the Head of our Institution, it is the Staff and Students who will determine its destiny for the times to come.

Dated 1.3.79

Mrs. Ranjit Bhalla
Acting Principal