



GENDER CHAMPIONSHIP CELL

**SRI AUROBINDO COLLEGE EVENING
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

ANNUAL REPORT OF GC CELL:

Activities conducted by the cell during the last year (June – February) and the planned activities for the coming period of March are mentioned in this report.

Dr. Vibha Batra (Convenor)

Mrs. Anisha Srivastava (Co-convenor)

Under the guidance of Gender Sensitisation Committee & Under the aegis of IQAC

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

(for the session 2020-21)

OFFICE BEARERS FOR SESSION 2020-21	
PATRON	<i>Dr. Kusum Lata</i>
CONVENOR	<i>Dr. Vibha Batra</i>
CO-CONVENOR	<i>Mrs Anisha Srivastava</i>
ALUMNI PANEL HEAD	<i>Saurabh Singh Parmar</i>
PRESIDENT	<i>Niraj Kejriwal</i>
VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Yatika Mehla</i>
GENERAL SECRETARY 1	<i>Divya Sharma</i>
GENERAL SECRETARY 2	<i>Shreyans Bothra</i>
JOINT SECRETARY	<i>Bijita Nayak</i>
HR MANAGER	<i>Aastha Singh</i>
PR MANAGER	<i>Prachi Priyadarshee</i>

PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATION (June 2020)

LGBTQI+ pride is the promotion of the self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, non-binary and transgender people as a social group of society. The month of June has been chosen as LGBTQI+ Pride Month, a time when several events are held around the world to raise awareness about people of the community.

All across the world, the LGBTQI+ community and allies work to provide visibility to this marginalized group and create awareness about providing a safe space for all human beings, regardless of gender!

'Love is love' is usually the theme of the events. Gender Championship Cell celebrated Pride Month with students across University of Delhi, in a virtual mode this time. We conducted many activities like one-word challenge, picture challenge, live sessions, etc. which were held over the entire month of June.

Many individuals from the LGBTQI+ community & also allies joined us through live sessions on our official Instagram handle to convey the message of dignity, authenticity and equality.

- On 5th June 2020, we were joined by Mr. Garvit Nagpal, in virtual mode with more than 200 individuals as participants.
- On 12th June 2020, we were in conversation with Shabnam Bewafa a.k.a Nitish Anand, one of India's Youngest Drag Queens, which was attended by more than 250 individuals.
- On 19th June 2020, Mr. Mohit, a social media influencer, gave a talk... attended by more than 400 individuals.
- On 26th June 2020, we were joined by Miss Harshita Nair who is a representative of the queer community, social influencer and a personal blogger, with 300 people in attendance.

The team spread the message of dignity, pride and equality among thousands of people in June 2020.

GOONJ – Untold Tales of Courage (Newsletter)

Gender Championship Cell of Sri Aurobindo College(E) proudly presented the first edition of it's Annual Newsletter "GOONJ-UNTOLD TALES OF COURAGE" in July 2020.

Here-in some courageous individuals shared from their life-experience about issues which are swept under the carpet in our society and people just look the other way. The underlying message points to the need to work for the change we want to see in the world. We as a collective, believe that a dialogue should be initiated to shatter the embedded stigmatization wherever it exists.

Further, we believe that oral testimonies have the power to challenge grand narratives of the larger section of the society, which unfortunately tend to privilege heteronormativity and shun those who go against the set binaries of gender. In the Indian context, the 'gender' trouble is not just limited to conformity but acquires a complex character due to the existence of multiple hierarchies like class, caste, creed, etc.

We see this exercise as a way of providing a platform to those voices which were hitherto neglected, crushed and marginalized. We believe that GOONJ will turn every unturned stone of your heart.

Here is the link to it:

<http://online.anyflip.com/bzfw/wyej/mobile/index.html>



PANKH – Azad Udaan (Blog Posts)

Gender Championship Cell launched "PANKH: Azad Udaan", a blog where we attempt to scrutinize unquestioned social norms, rituals and gender-stereotypes.

We are publishing our blogs at WordPress blogging website, which is the world's largest platform for blogging posts. We post a fresh blog every Monday.

Till date we published 21 blogs:

1. First Edition, "Guys don't wear make-up" is a study and question into the reasons behind the singular association of make-up with women and the exclusion of men. Here is the link to it: <https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/08/10/guys-dont-wear-makeup/>
2. Second Edition, "Homosexuality is not natural but Homophobia/Transphobia is? ", is an analysis of the general public mentality and the several factors that lead to lack of awareness and rigidity among people. Here is the link to it: <https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/08/17/homosexuality-is-not-natural-while-homophobia-transphobia-is/>
3. Third Edition, "Women solely responsible for household tasks", is a topic to raise the voice against the institution of patriarchy, which holds only women responsible for managing the household chores. Here is the link to it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/08/24/women-solely-responsible-for-household-chores/>

4. Fourth Edition, "Transgender rights are human rights?" It covers the systemic alienation of the trans-community and raises a voice against the society that discriminates and crucifies people for having the courage to be their true selves. Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/08/31/transgender-rights-are-human-rights/>

5. Fifth Edition, "Men will be Men : No freedom of expression", is an analysis of how society decides some vapid, baseless and feeble norms for being a "Man", falling apart from which, one's "Masculinity" becomes questionable. With our blog, we scrutinize and challenge these norms and examine how they harm men & women both. Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/09/06/men-will-be-men-no-freedom-of-expression/>

6. Sixth Edition, "The real and reel sides of section 377" which covers a simple yet hard to answer question - Judicial reform may create an enabling platform to come out, but does the social reality change in sync? Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/09/12/the-real-and-reel-sides-of-section-377/>

7. Seventh Edition, "Kanyadaan and not Putradaan, Justified?" It talks about the years old rituals that we continue to follow and how it affects our thinking. Isn't it objectification of women? Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/09/19/kanyadaan-and-not-putradaan-justified/>

8. Eighth Edition, "The financial condition of a husband has to be better than that of his wife", talks about the regressive traditions and stereotypes that still existing in our society and how deeply these affect us. Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/09/28/the-financial-conditions-of-a-husband-have-to-be-better-than-that-of-his-wife/>

9. Ninth Edition, "Sanitary pads must be covered and not talked about". we refute the taboos associated with the Menstruation- period which exist in our society and are jeopardizing women's menstrual health. Here is the link to it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/10/05/sanitary-pads-must-be-covered-and-not-talked-about/>

10. Tenth Edition, "Ek ladka toh ghar me hona hi chahiye". Why a family isn't complete without a son? This talks about the obsession that Indian society has with sons ingrained by the institution of patriarchy and how it affects all of us. Here is the link it:
<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/10/12/ek-ladka-toh-ghar-me-hona-hi-chahiye-why-a-family-isnt-complete-without-a-son/>

11. Eleventh Edition, "Bisexuals are exploring their gender", The blog examines the stereotypes associated with bisexual individuals and the disapproval they face not only from the heterosexual society but also from within the community. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/10/19/bisexuals-are-exploring-their-gender/>

12. Twelfth Edition, "Lesbians hate men." It depicts the stereotype that what lesbians think about men or do they really hate them? Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/10/26/lesbians-hate-men/>

13. Thirteenth Edition "Daughters can't lit the pyre, only sons can." The blog challenges the backward customs and beliefs prevalent in our society regarding the cremation of the parents. We have tried to undrape the veil from this practice and attempt to inform our readers with the reality and facts. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/11/02/daughters-cant-lit-the-pyre-only-sons-can-is-it-right/>

14. fourteenth Edition, "A girl should get married before 27", it talks about the embedded stereotypes and traditions that still exist in our society and how deeply it affects us all. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/11/09/a-girl-should-get-married-before-27/>

15. Fifteenth Edition, "Male protagonists dominate the genres of action and sports film." Why are men always supposed to be the action hero or dominating genre in any sports film and women are liked in romantic and melodramatic roles which are snidely called "chick flicks" or "tear-jerkers" ? Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/11/16/male-protagonists-dominate-the-genres-of-action-and-sport-films/>

16. Sixteenth Edition, "Sexual orientation of a person can show up or can be explored at any point of their life irrespective of their age." Generally people face difficulties to come-out with their real gender-identity at some point of their life. They feel shy and presume that society will not accept their true identity due to age and various other reasons. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2020/11/23/sexual-orientation-of-a-person-can-show-up-or-can-be-explored-at-any-point-of-their-life-irrespective-of-their-age/>

17. Seventeenth Edition, "Are women better than men or are they equal? The blog will make you question your mindset and will help you in understanding the various aspects & pillars of feminism. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2021/01/11/are-women-better-than-men-or-are-they-equal/>

18. Eighteenth Edition, "Impact of the Global Pandemic on Mental Health", is a study of the topic of mental health. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2021/01/18/impact-of-global-pandemic-on-the-mental-health/>

19. Nineteenth Edition, "Embrace Your Raw, Strange Magic", which talks about you being your greatest power and you deserve the love you give. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2021/01/25/embrace-your-raw-strange-magic/>

20. Twentieth Edition, "Can people belonging to LGBTQ+ community be identified by certain mannerism, clothing or physical character?" Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2021/02/01/can-people-belonging-to-lgbtq-community-be-identified-by-certain-mannerism-clothing-or-physical-character/>

21. Twenty first Edition. "Why do women change their surname after marriage?" When we talk of a married woman, apart from being someone's wife, daughter-in-law and a mother, we forget that she is a strong and independent person first. Her name is a part of who she is. Her name is backed by her career, her experience and her individuality. Here is the link it:

<https://pankhazadudaan.wordpress.com/2021/03/01/why-women-change-their-surname-after-marriage/>

We will keep posting fresh blogs every Monday with topics mentioned below:

- Should school debates include LGBTQ+ topics?
- Are women custodians of patriarchy?
- Marriage, a merrgence of two souls, not gender.
- Why talking about sex is still a taboo?

Project TALK (Mental Health Advocacy)

Project TALK; is started as a student-run initiative by GC CELL, which believes in peer-counselling and motivating people towards betterment. With a concern about the systemic increase in attempted-suicide among young adults, we work towards the larger goal of mental-health awareness and accessibility. It's the need of these times to remove the stigma around mental wellness. We work to raise awareness & acknowledgement of mental-health issues and facilitate intervention, where required. On-ground, we make this happen through a strong, research-oriented course of action. Our range of events, campaigns, and workshops all focus on the goal of emotional wellness. Our initiative is highly widespread and is available on many online forums such as Facebook and Instagram. The people associated with Project TALK; do not claim to have legally recognized qualifications or authority to be counsellors or therapists. We act as mentors, guides, and friends to those who choose to contact us.

Our course of initiative through Project TALK:

- ❖ Providing professional aid to those who require it by referring/connecting them to a certified professional in our contact.
- ❖ Acting as mentors, guides, friends for individuals in need of help.
- ❖ Hosting webinars with professionals on Topics related to Mental Health.

- ❖ Conducting audience engaging activities to spread and promote awareness.
- ❖ Adding informative posts/videos on our official handles to wipe out the stigma attached to Mental Health
- ❖ The Gender Championship Cell conducted a successful webinar on 04th October 2020, on the topic- “How to deal with Lock-down Anxiety?”, we were joined with our Special guest, Miss. Jasdeep Mago, (Co-founder, Neuropsychologist & Counselor at Invisible Illness India) which was attended by more than 100 individuals. And we received 4 and above rating feedback from 98% participants.

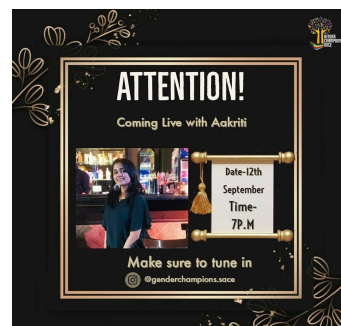
The Gender Championship Cell, SACE conducted a Webinar on 18th of October with Dr. Sanket .R. Mundada, a renowned Neuropsychiatrist, MBBS, DPM (Mumbai) under the Mental Health Advocacy program on the topic, 'Self Care : Good for you and your work'. Dr. Mundada delivered a very informative speech on Mental Health and Self care covering essential topics such as 'Mental health and Mental Ill-health'. He discussed the importance of Mental health and self-care especially amongst adults as considering the age group which suffers the most with mental health issues is the youth. He gave tips on how to balance between Mental, Social and Physical health as each one of these is equally important. More than 275 people joined the webinar and made it a success by giving 4+ ratings.



On 31st October 2020, Rashi Thakran : a mental health advocate, an activist, QPR instructor and WCCCI member joined us in the webinar on Psychological First Aid (PFA). She addressed the audience on Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), its effects and causes. She also discussed how PFA is a crucial intervention to improve mental ill-health conditions. Around 300+ people joined us in this fruitful webinar and we got 4+ rating from 100% attendees.

LIVE SESSIONS (LGBTQIA+ Awareness)

On 12th September 2020, we were joined with Miss Aakriti Kainthola, an 18-year-old girl from Delhi and a social media influencer. More than 300 people joined us in this session.



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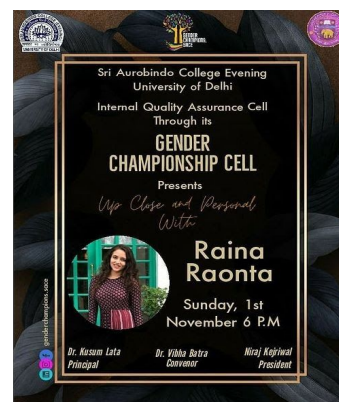
On 24th September 2020, Damini Sinha addressed the live session. She is a representative of the queer community who identifies as a trans-woman. She is a software engineer, an LGBTQ+ blogger, and activist. More than 250 people joined us in this session.

On 8th of October, Gender Championship Cell had a very productive Instagram live session with Ekata, (she/her) a final year Master's student of Social Sciences at IIT Gandhinagar. She identifies as a bisexual women and an intersectional queer feminist. She heads the gender and sexuality cell at her college. The session was very informative on the topics such as bisexuality, intersectionality and feminism. More than 331 viewers joined us during the session.



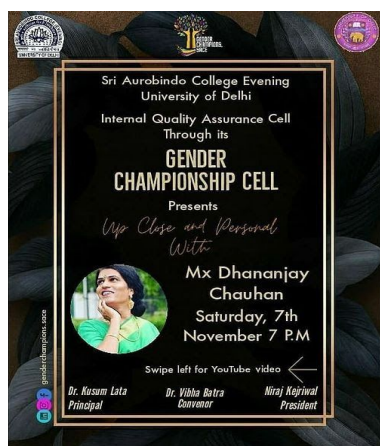
On 24th October, Gender Championship Cell of SACE had a fruitful live session with Raj Saxena who is an Assistant Professor and an equal rights activist. Being an asexual himself and because of his personal experiences, he thought it was necessary to ensure representation of his community to help more individuals like him. So in 2013, he founded 'Indian Asexuals' which is India's First initiative for the asexual community working online and offline both. 434 people got connected with us for the live session.

On 1 Nov 2020, Gender Championship Cell SACE had a very productive live session with Raina Raonata, who is a biomedical engineer by profession has ventured into the creative field after graduation, she has also worked with byjus for creating educational videos. She is also working with SheThepeople's community from last 2 years, and now she is responsible for growing the SheThepeople's community/social platforms by starting up feminist conversations. 620 viewers joined us in the session.



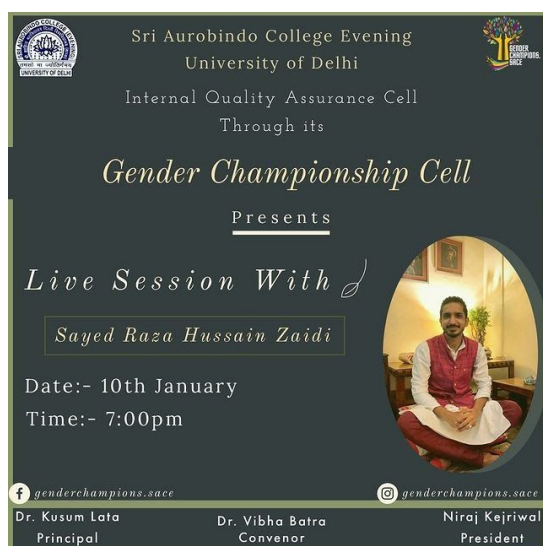
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On 7th November, Gender Championship Cell of SACE had an informative live session with Mx Dhananjay Chauhan, who is known as "The first transgender student" of Punjab University. She works for the importance of education and gender-identification and acceptance. Mx Dhananjay Chauhan, trans-woman and first Transgender student of Punjab University has not only challenged the norms of gender in a hyper-masculine setup. She has also reshaped the education system in the region of Punjab by opening the doors of Punjab University for Transgender people.

On 28th November, Gender Championship Cell had an enlightening live-session with Rahul Khemani, a consultant psychiatrist in practice for more than four years. He has completed his DNB in psychiatry from Tamil Nadu. He currently offers consultation at a clinic in Borivali, Mumbai. He has special interest in child mental health, de-addiction and psychotherapy. During the session, he talked about his personal experiences and explained why mental health is important for an individual and how to communicate with people having sensitive mental health. He explained what one should do when they are dealing with a mental-health challenge. He also discussed the process of invoking self-love and accepting ourselves as we are. An audience of 379 people made it a success.

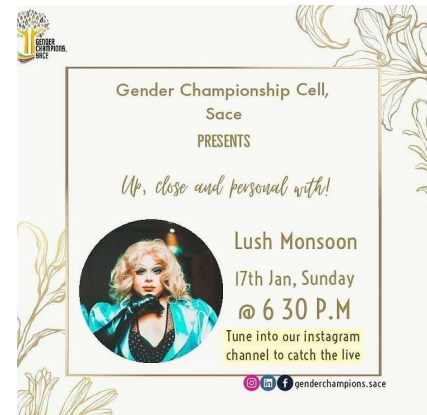


10 January 2021 was witness to a live session with Sayed Raza Hussain Zaidi who is a founding member of Aazaadi International with over 6 years of experience in working with Youth in the area of social entrepreneurship and sustainable development goals. He has extensive experience of trainings in gender-sex-sexuality and working with Queer Community, students, educational institutions, and individuals belonging to socially-excluded and marginalized sections of society (Female Sex-Workers and Trans-genders). He is also a Member of Awadh Queer Pride Committee. We were joined by 302 viewers for the session.

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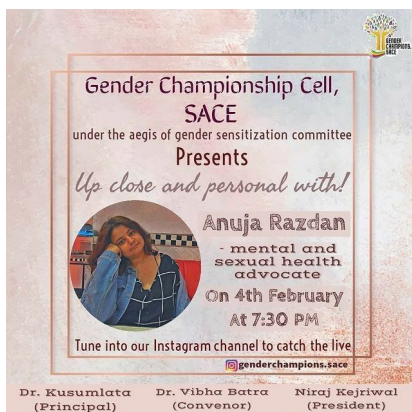
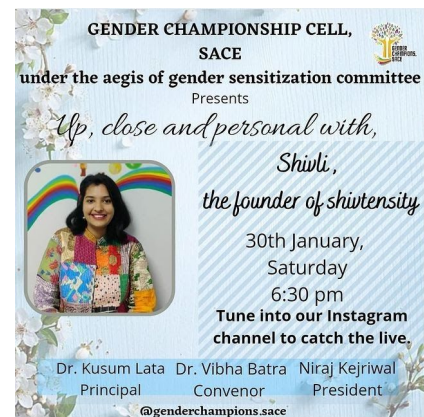
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On 17 JANUARY, 2021, Gender Championship Cell: conducted an insightful live session with Lush monsoon aka Ayushmaan, who is a drag performer by night and a lawyer by day. They have been featured in leading publications which include BBC, Harper's Bazaar and Vogue. In the session, they discussed what it is to be a drag-performer in a country like India. They also spoke about the importance of expressing and accepting one-self as well as how we as society can move forward to address the idea of masculinity and femininity. 350+ viewers joined us for the session.



On 24th JANUARY 2021, Gender Championship Cell curated a very lively and interactive session with HITEN NOONWAL, an exclusive Design Educator and Fashion Designer. They are also a multi-disciplinary designer and a gender-fluid performance artist. They have also worked with Ritu Kumar, Raw Mango and other designer brands. Hiten shared their journey of success in a very interesting detailed manner. They shared how one can use art to express one's emotions and personality. Also how one should accept oneself. The video reached out to 244 people.

On 30TH JANUARY 2021, Gender Championship Cell, had an amazing live session with Shivli who is the founder of shivtensity. She's a counselling psychologist, sexuality educator and a PhD scholar. She introduced us with the idea of a safe inclusive space. She discussed how she worked with anganwadi workers and the state Commission for child rights. More than 200 people joined us for the live session.



On 4 FEBRUARY, 2021, Gender Championship Cell, had a thought provoking live with Anuja Razdan, who identifies as queer cis-woman. She is a student as well as mental and sexual health advocate based in New Delhi, pursuing her Masters in Psychology from SPPU. During the session, she talked about her experiences with the pandemic and its dual effect on us. An audience of 250 people was present.

IGTV Videos (Under Project TALK)

- ❖ Gender Championship Cell, SACE uploaded another awareness video on 10 October, 2020 featuring Shweta Maheshwari on the topic related Grief and mental Health. She is a psychotherapist experienced in grief counselling. She trained and worked with the University of Edinburgh, UK, before moving her practice to New Delhi. This video reached 350+ audience.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CGKVNAHDghE/?igshid=ov1g6w03cn4u>
- ❖ On 20th October 2020, Gender Championship Cell, Sace shared an IGTV video of Dr. Bishnu Baishyal on the topic of Substance abuse. He shared the details of this topic including the effect on mental and physical health. This video gathered the audience of 369 people.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CGklbuuj3zA/?igshid=1q68bcs6jb257>
- ❖ Gender Championship Cell shared an IGTV video with Sonal Giani on 11 November 2020. Sonal Giani is a LGBTQIA+ Activist and Filmmaker. She is the owner of a clothing brand for LGBTQ community 'QFAMILY- Online Pride Store' and co-founder of @yaariyan_lgbtq & @umallglbt. The video was about coming out with your true identity as the title says "COMING OUT OF CLOSET". The video received an audience of 1166 people.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CHcOTnVj1dG/?igshid=njrgrwzjmqv>
- ❖ On 13th November 2020, we shared another IGTV video about Parenting plays an important role in a child's mental health because that's what the child imbibes mentally from their parents featuring Surbhi telling as a parent that IT's OKAY! to feel what they feel, IT's OKAY to fail but make them grow through the failure. This video got 1205 people's attention.
https://www.instagram.com/tv/CHh_ssaj8VO/?igshid=1pasjiaifli5
- ❖ On 26th November 2020, We had Sruthi Ravindran, a psychologist and a Millennial and Genz coach, explaining how important it is to choose the right therapist so that you can settle into a treatment that you can truly benefit from. This video gathered 237 people.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CICt5dRjAf4/?igshid=1sujrh59w7wpv>

Stories of LGBTQ+ community

- The first story is of Meghna Mehra, we got to know about her struggle with the society and discrimination for many years because she is an asexual woman. Her story emboldened us a lot. In spite of the prejudice, she didn't give-up. Therefore, She founded AIQA (All India Queer Association) in 2019 and is continuously working for the community. The story reached out to an audience of 488 people.
- The second story throws light upon the prejudice against Deepak Chohtel by his own Pg-mates because of his effeminate gestures. Deepak is a homosexual, he is pursuing graduation from Delhi University. He accepted himself completely and he is open to many

of his friends, and believes that gradually everything will get better. The story reached out to an audience of 953 people.

- After most, the inspiring story of another gay man named Sandeep, a resident of Haryana. Earlier, Sandeep was struggling with his identity, he convinced himself that may-be it's a phase and he thought that he shouldn't bother about this, but later after he realized that he is into men. He accepted himself and now he is in a relationship, living his life to the fullest. The stories reached as many as more than 1378 people.

KHANAK'21 (Celebrating Acceptance)

Khanak 2.0 celebrating acceptance was a two day event dated; 20th February and 21st February, which marked the presence of guests like Nitasa Biswas, Arouba Kabir, Riya Tickoo on the day 1 and Dr. Pragati Singh, Keval Harie, Raza Hussain Zaidi, Shaman Gupta, Gurleen Pannu, and Kashish Soni on day 2 respectively.

Promotions and efforts of Gender Championship Cell ensured 437 audience registrations for Khanak. With a maximum 200+ initial audience and more than hundred consistent audiences on both day 1 and day 2, no doubt audience engagement was bang on.



Khanak had some prestigious media partners like The Education Tree, DU Club, DU Media, DU Vibes, DU Express, Campus Bloggers and DU Thinks respectively.

The sponsors that made Khanak possible were Pari match which was given 350 sign-ups through our team, Digital Papa – which was given 200 followers and 50 shoutouts, Fun Fight – which was given 300 downloads by our team, which made Khanak a big success.

We got huge appreciation and positive feedback from attendees with 4+ ratings from 20% audience and 5 rating from 80% of audience.

LGBTQIA+ Terminology

Gender Championship Cell came up with an idea to make people more aware about the LGBTQ+ community by posting ABCD of LGBTQIA+. We post each alphabet on every wednesday and till now we have posted till D with the famous personality or public figure that relate with the term and one of their quotes.

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Planned Activities (for March)

- On every wednesday, we'll be posting LGBTQ+ terminology from E - Z on all our social media handles.
- We'll be conducting live sessions twice in the month of march.
- On every Friday, we will host a Q&A session on our instagram story about the LGBTQ+ alphabet we post on wednesday that week and will create more awareness through sharing the details about that specific term.