



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

2019

KALYAN

THE ANNUAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE

*There is no single force as powerful as
one determined to love*



AD DEI GLORIAM



KALYAN - 2019



Editors' Note

The Social Service League has had a wide range of activities throughout its calendar ranging from the evening classes for children of karamcharis, service to the differently abled, donation camps, medical camps, annual events like the Rudra Dinner and New Year Party to outreach initiatives such as the skip-a-meal programme and Vidya Jyoti, a primary education project at a nearby under-resourced community. This has made SSL one of the most active and busiest societies in college. Yet, there is no dearth for new initiative and vision for a common cause, the embodiment of our motto - 'Service Above Self'.

This past year, some of the new initiatives included were Vox Populi (a social platform for opportunities to intern and volunteer at socially committed organisations) held in collaboration with the Planning Forum and Campus Placement Cell, a workshop on social inclusion of people with mental disabilities and Antarchakshu, a sensitization programme around the world of the differently abled.

Besides these, various disaster relief drives were held in response to immediate needs taken up by members of the society. Our hope is that the coming years will be even more fruitful, in what we do and how well we do it.

SSL is also deeply personal and at the end of the day, it is undoubtedly one of the happiest and most wholesome spaces that we have been part of. In the course of this journey, we have had the opportunity to meet, work with and learn from a large pool of wonderful people. Our time with SSL has been too short for we always yearn for more, yet most eventful as we realised that in giving back, we were able to gain much more.

The annual journal of SSL – Kalyan is our humble attempt to express gratitude to all the people who made the Social Service League the space that it is. We have tried to include the essence of the society in this journal and in that, we share the experiences of various people who have contributed parts of their lives to our collective cause. Through various write-ups, we are also bringing to light and setting a record of all that we have done in the past academic year.

As coordinators of the Public Relations and Kalyan vertical, it was our dream to bring out this journal after some years of its absence. We must say that we are extremely pleased while writing this note, as it is the last piece of our dream coming true. A gentle warning before you turn the pages – this journal is the culmination of a very happy effort by a lot of happy people to make happier hearts. Do read on.

Thank you

Beth, Peter & Jainu

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About the Society

Social Service League (SSL) is the service wing of St. Stephen's College, New Delhi. Aiming to provide support to the underprivileged sections of the society, it holds on to the motto, 'Service above Self'. This is the largest and oldest society of college, with every student as its member. Founded in 1912 by W.F. Ireland and C.H.C.Sharp, the society is segmented and organized into various verticals like Parivartan, Vidyajyoti, Evening Classes, Pragya Chakshu, Donation Camps, Orphanage Visits, Kalyan, New Year Party and Rudra Dinner covering a large palette of fields where the motive of service is extended.

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Social Service League is about people who care about the forgotten and neglected little things of everyday life. It's about togetherness, compassion and love. Our little acts of care start simply and without many airs around them. And gradually, without even realising it, we become part of a big change.

Derived from a Sanskrit word, Kalyan means something auspicious or blessed. Through the journal, we tried bringing up a beautiful composition of experiences and feelings giving glimpses of every moment the society felt blessed. Sailing on selfless service since 1912, we believe that there is no single force as powerful as one determined to love.




I am very happy to write this short note for one of the oldest and most active societies in College – the Social Service League. I congratulate the editors and the office bearers of the Society, across all verticals who have made the Social Service League an important part of the life and education at St Stephen's College.

The substance and reputation of College rests on two metaphorical pillars: excellence and service. No matter where, all Stephanians are expected to put in their best and excel in every good work that they do. This is most exemplified in the academic work that our Junior Members do throughout the year in their classes; but it is also demonstrated through their activities in the Societies. Societies are of various hues in College – some are departmental societies, some other societies are based on inherent talents and seek to showcase the abilities of its members but the Social Service League is unique in the sense that this society both excels AND serves.




The Principal's Address

*I am aware of the many activities that the SSL does and I am happy that this Journal will bring together, for posterity, the good work done by the members of the SSL.
I wish Kalyan all success. To each member of the Society I wish that the work you have done here bring you happiness and joy and especially the awareness that true education lies in freely sharing one's abilities and knowledge with those who may not have them/afford them, but who after receiving these, in turn, may discover their own talents.*



With all good wishes,

*Prof John Varghese
Principal*





A word from the President

Social Service League: The Soul of St. Stephen's College

I am delighted to write a few words about the Social Service League (SSL) of the College in Kalyan, the annual journal of the Society. As all of us are aware, the SSL is perhaps the largest and the oldest Society in College, founded in 1912 by two visionary educators, W. F. Ireland and C. H. C Sharp. It was established with a view to promote a culture of compassion among the junior members of the College. Since its inception, the SSL continues to inform the spirit of what the Stephanians call "Stephania" which is an imaginary communion among the closely knit members of this educational community.

I have been giving guidance to this Society since 2013 and it is my pleasure to acknowledge that the SSL has grown much in its vision and goals in the past few years. Besides retaining all the activities which mark the tradition of commitment to service in College like the evening classes and assisting the differently abled junior members,



the Society has initiated a few outreach activities in the past five years. I am happy to witness the commitment with which the volunteers have adopted the GTB Nagar village where we began with a primary education programme and later extended to a community development programme. I am certain that the Society will uphold its motto, "Service above the Self" in all its activities in future as well. I wish to thank my colleague, Jaideep Pandey for giving remarkable leadership to the Executive Council in the last two academic years. I also take this opportunity to thank all the third year core team, second year coordinators and the all the volunteers who have exemplified the spirit of the SSL through all their effort and hardwork in the last academic year. Finally, my special congratulations to the Kalyan team and best wishes to the new council for the following academic year! Ad Dei Gloriam!

*Dr. Renish Geevarghese Abraham,
Bursar of the college*



The Social Service League continued to go from strength to strength in the academic year 2018-19. It further honed its long standing components, through the verticals of Evening Classes, Drishtikon and its various donation camps, including a Blood Donation Camp, donation drives for clothes, and multiple Skip-a-meals.

The junior members pursued multiple ways of engaging which the larger community within which they sought to locate their own privilege as well as intellectual and physical labour. On the one hand, this was directed in terms of concerted efforts to engage with the karamcharis of St. Stephen's College, which was both a way for students to channelize their own privilege for multi-faceted assistance programmes, as well as a way to recognize the College as indelibly marked by the labour of those who are often invisibilized from its precincts. On the other hand, the Social Service League saw itself responding to exigencies beyond the location of the College. Thus, vigorous responses and relief work to national calamities such as the Kerala and Nagaland Floods and to local calamities such as that of the Safdarjung area in Delhi, were undertaken and deftly executed. Further, through the expansion of

Staff Advisor's Note

the Vidyajyoti vertical, the junior members attempted to see beyond primary education, but also to move further towards community development with those marginalized members of a small community at GTB Nagar.

As the staff advisor to this society, I owe gratitude to the President, Dr. Renish G. Abraham for his exemplary guidance and leadership, as well as to the College Administration for facilitating and accommodating the drive of students to expand the horizon of the activities of the Social Service League. However, the biggest credit of the ever-continuing growth of the SSL is due to the vigor and enthusiasm of its student body. In their desire to locate larger fields of action, sharper interrogation of their own privilege, and decentralizing society activities to include more innovative ways of engaging with society. For my own self, I would only hope to contribute more actively, and match up with the energy of the junior members who are a part of these large and small set of changes.

Jaideep Pandey
Staff Advisor



On Drishtikon

It was one late one evening and I was feeling rather worried and stressed, when the phone rang, it was one of our visually challenged students. He asked me how I was and I, as is usual, answered that I was Ok. He immediately answered that he was coming home and kept the phone down. I wondered why he had kept the phone down and why he had called me. He was staying at the other end of Delhi and sometime later he came over. The moment he saw me he said that he was worried, as the tone of my voice indicated that I was worried and anxious. I was absolutely surprised that he had seen through my state of anxiety and then travelled through the length of Delhi to help me. One couldn't help but feel that this sort of sensitivity was very rare among the sighted. Thus, came the feeling that there should at least be an attempt to recognize the special skills and abilities of the visually challenged. However even before that was the need for inclusivity.

We felt that all units of the college should have a sense of belonging and this could only stem from a feeling of inclusivity. For this it was necessary that there would also be programs that would effectively include everyone, if anyone was



marginalized and underprivileged, he or she needed to be included too. It was true that nothing succeeds like success, therefore a forum, where those who were visually challenged could actively take part and get due recognition for their skills and abilities was needed. A feeling of being deserving is much more powerful than a feeling of being sympathized.

Thus, was born Drishtikone, it aimed at nurturing a nurturing a sense of belonging and participation among the visually challenged. Further, it improved the perceptions about the visually challenged among the sighted. The 'Blind Relief Association', also pitched in whole heartedly and many of the other colleges also joined in. In fact gradually Drishtikone became a source of joy and comfort to many.

I hope that Drishtikone would encourage everyone to have a good feeling of oneself. A feeling of self-worth, especially among the specially enabled.

Jacob Cherian
Registrar of societies

PARIVARTAN

The tiny attempts to make a smile on some faces and to have a contented heart.

Parivartan has conducted seven skip a meals (distribution of mess food, voluntarily skipped by the resident junior members). We have also distributed food at the Safdarjung demolition area along with atta packets, apart from our usual service near Kashmiri gate.

The council is happy to actualise the dream of previous councils in conducting a small scale workshop, Antarchakshu® the flagship event of the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) on the 26th and 27th of October 2018.



*A beautiful transformation...
Have a heart, Lend a hand,
Stand out and make a difference*



Along with Drishtikon- 2019 we have also organised 'Sukriti' - an art and craft exhibition by the specially abled students.

On 27th February 2019, in collaboration with St. Stephen's hospital, we have also conducted a medical camp for the non teaching staff of the college.

Working in SSL was one of the best things that happened in the first year of my college life. SSL helped me to remain active in college activities throughout the year and also taught me many things like the value of food, blood, interaction with differently abled people etc. Parivartan was the vertical that I loved the most and worked the most.

I still remember my first distribution of food for Skip A Meal at Kashmere Gate. The people there, made me realise the value and need of food. I also loved the Antarchakshu session conducted by Xavier's Resource Centre. The session helped me to experience the world of visually challenged people. Escorting the differently abled people in Drishtikon and donating blood were also new things that I did in college and Social Service League was a great platform for that. Altogether, being a part of the SSL and working for it was a great experience.



*- Adarsh P Mathew
1st B.Sc.(H) Physics*

Working for the most wholesome society in college, precisely lifting those chairs and tables, hanging the decor, serving food, escorting people, teaching kids and giving away gifts, most of us (first years) were able to find a family. Be it donating blood for BLOOD DONATION CAMP, packing food for SKIP A MEAL, sorting gifts for NEW YEAR PARTY, security works for RUDRA DINNER, waiting for participants at the bus stop during

DRISHTIKON, wrapping the SUKRITI paintings, the blindfolded games during ANTARCHAKSHU, registration desk works for MEDICAL CAMP, improving the quality of each poster, going to GTB Nagar as a part of VIDYAJYOTI to see some happy smiles and working with NGOs during VOX POPULI, I met a bunch of happy, dedicated, organised and hard-working set of people, whose only aim is to serve people. Being emotionally attached to Parivarthan a bit more, the distribution sessions at Jamna Bazar made me realize the amount of privilege that I'm bestowed with. The long queues in hot sun or cold winter days for food is a sight that'll never get erased from my mind. When the kids there call you by name, I really can't get happier. No matter how hard you work, at the end of the day some smiles of satisfaction takes away all the efforts and induces an urge to involve yourself in SSL more and more, everyday.

*- Aleena Paul Mavelly
1st B.A. Programme*



Out of the cocoon

All those days when I was doing the tiny pleasant tasks for SSL, I never knew I was opening the door to an year of beautiful transformation. Working in SSL as a second year coordinator of Parivartan, is no doubt, a great experience worth sharing. I have already incorporated skip a meal to my schedule no matter whether I am coordinating it or not. I would like to see skip a meal as a silent prayer at an age when I have stopped uttering prestructured words routinely and calling them 'prayers'.

"Together we made Antarchakshu colourful!"



Antarchakshu, (the sensitisation workshop about the world of differently abled) was tagged as an unrealised dream of SSL family. Since it was never conducted before, we had to figure out what has to be done as we were doing it. And special thanks to

Ayana Krishna for constantly

supporting us throughout the journey. Together with my SSL fam, we were able to do it despite the uncertainties we had to combat with.

"I always knew there is something more than the winter sun"

'Sukriti' - the art and craft exhibition during Drishtikon, was simple, yet my personal favourite one. All of the exhibits were greatly appreciated, out of which, one titled happiness, still lives inside me. And there I treasured a great artist as my friend.

Medical camp, collection drives, Drishtikon, Rudra Dinner, New Year Party the list is so long. I never thought of restricting this space to my experiences with the vertical Parivartan. Every other event had something to learn and memories to cherish. And space constraints are preventing me from detailing each.

And to talk about the people I have met during the journey, I never knew world can be so good outside my cocoon. Coincidence or not, Krishna Sir (one of the resource person at XRCVC) sent us Kelly Moran's 'The tiny caterpillar and the big tree' as a new year wish. People might find it childish, but not for me. And similarly, there goes the story of meeting many other beautiful souls and all of them are a great value addition to the person in me.

Concluding, I got a great family to work with, a lot of friends whom I would have never met if it wasn't for SSL. And I'm so sure that would have been a terrible loss.

*- Evelin Treesa Jose
IInd BA.Economics(H)*



This year, which was the fifth for our fast-blossoming primary education vertical Vidyajyoti, was an extremely eventful, and enriching one. A team of dedicated volunteers works closely with more than 30 children in the under-resourced settlements of GTB Nagar—our objective is not just to teach these kids subjects like English, Maths etc. but also to engage with and understand the limitations and deprivations of the socio-cultural contexts within which they are growing up. To truly connect with a child, it is essential to understand the circumstances that are shaping his/her fledgling consciousness, and to secure his/her trust. For this reason, we make it a point to reach out to their families. Like every year, Annual Day was Vidyajyoti's big event where kids from age 3 to 18 displayed their talents fabulously; the children, helped by the volunteers,



Building Hope :-

*The Candles within have the rays
of hope... We spread them and
light their lives...*





worked relentlessly to put up fantastic dance, musical, and theatrical performances that filled their teachers with awe, and their families with pride and joy. We are continuing to teach the kids at this point in the semester, and two of our children are currently sitting for their Class 12 board exams! We hope you will wish them and our project lots of luck!



When I joined SSL three years ago, I had not anticipated the impact this society would have on my life and its role in my growth as a person. In my first year, among the SSL activities I participated in, I was most active in Vidyajyoti. I had almost missed the opportunity to be a part of VJ if it wasn't for my friend, Bethamehi. On my first day of VJ, I along with a few volunteers and a coordinator took e-ricks to GTB Nagar. I was in an unfamiliar place, surrounded by unfamiliar people but the children and aunties welcomed me so warmly. It was only in my second year when I started working as a

coordinator, did I realise the magnitude of SSL. I had been blessed with a

wonderful group of people to work with, without whom SSL wouldn't be the same for me. Today SSL stands on the pillars built off the ideas and hard work of all the coordinators and volunteers from the past decades.

I joined SSL, thinking it was a noble cause and I would be contributing to society. Little did I know back then how much I would gain from my experiences in SSL. I learnt many things like organising events, community development etc. but most importantly, SSL has been responsible for some of my happiest and most cherished memories of college.



Elizabeth Saji
III B.A. History (Hon.)

From being disappointed in myself for not attending the SSL orientation in my first year to working with the society for two full years, it has been an eventful ride. From being immensely proud when Khushi and Sanya did their math problems without mistakes and them making me tea to make me comfortable, the society made me realise how important it is to serve others. Being a part of SSL meant being capable of organising events, being a pro in verticals like logistics, refreshments, foyer painting etc. For me, SSL always helped me in questioning my conscience and making me realise how important it is to be socially committed. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that was given to me .

*Shilpa J Alappatt
II B.Sc Maths (Hons.)*

I don't exactly know how to write my memories associated with Social Service League without opening a huge bag of feels. I don't really do feel so I'm not gonna say much. If I went back in time and met pre-college me, I wouldn't identify myself, because of how much I've grown, and SSL is an important factor of this personal growth. What sets it apart from other societies, is that the "work" in SSL isn't work per se. It's an experience in itself. Whether it's organising a huge Blood Donation Camp or even a small Vidyajyoti Saturday event, I have learnt something new each time, and grown a little in baby steps. SSL gave me a lot of firsts: first time donating blood, first time dancing on a stage in front of 150+ people, first time decorating the college, first time rallying, first time



first time showing up at a professor's house announced on a Saturday (no he wasn't very happy with it), and a lot of other firsts. Vidyajyoti, the vertical I coordinated, has not just been an experience, but is now a really important part of who I am. If you ask me what would my best memory of Vidyajyoti be, I wouldn't be able to answer you, since each day "working" for Vidyajyoti has been of my best memories of the college.

*- Rajat Chandra Mishra
II B.Sc. Physics (Hons.)*



Working as a coordinator for Vidyajyoti was an extraordinary experience to say the least, and it definitely shaped my second year in ways I could never have anticipated. In first year, as a volunteer, you get to teach the kids and interact with them. Sometimes you have bad days but the good days make up for the lows, and eventually an irrevocable connection with the project and the people begins to occupy a special place in your heart. But when you're a coordinator, you get to truly understand the community which inevitably leads you to reflect on the larger purpose of a project like Vidyajyoti. So many of the women in this community have numerous health issues, and scarce finances to seek treatment. Frustrated due to a severe lack of job opportunities, the men become alcoholics and abusers.

It is an endless cycle of violence and as a coordinator, I came to understand the proportions of the problems that constantly plague these children and impede their holistic growth and development. Having understood these things with some more clarity now, we are planning to make community development an essential part of the vertical. I hope this kind of engagement with everyone at GTB Nagar (as opposed to just the kids) will go a long way in fixing some of these daily issues that they face, and making them feel like they can reach out to us for help and support whenever they need it. I am also very grateful to SSL as a whole for supporting these major structural changes that had to be undertaken. My association with VJ is not ending anytime soon so I'm not going to say that I'll miss the kids and the folks at GTB. I'm too deeply invested now to say goodbye. Here's looking forward to another fantastic year for Vidyajyoti and SSL.



*- Adreeta Chakraborty
II BA.English (Hons.)*

PRAGYACHAKSHU

Pragyachakshu witnessed a fruitful year that included newer events and more collaboration. We began the year by holding Freshers for all the newly joined differently-abled students, in collaboration with the Enabling Unit. It was followed by a visit to the National Museum of History. Both the events were successful and we had many enthusiastic volunteers and participants. In the second semester, we began the preparations for Drishtikon early in January. Being the 10th anniversary of Drishtikon, we were successful in adding a new event, bringing in deaf participants for the first time and inviting more universities like Ambedkar, JNU and IGNOU.



Seeing through our hearts,
guiding one another and going
beyond our limits...



Drishtikon was a huge success and around 200 participants came from across Delhi. Alongside all the events, Pragyachakshu also provided scribes for the written exams of the visually challenged students as required throughout the year.

We have a culture of asking the seniors out as our "Fresher's date" for the fresher's function. But, the person I asked told me, "Only if you come for Pragyachakshu's orientation...then I will say a yes to you for the date". Since then, there has been no looking back.

Family, a word with which I associate the Social Service League. Teaching Shubham, my evening class kid who was patient enough to hear me out for two years, and Ankita who gave me the longest hugs, was a wonderful experience. Then, writing my first history paper in the Hindi language for Yashwant bhaiya as a Pragyachakshu volunteer taught me to help in the smallest way possible. Not just the students and the PC family, my exec

council members(2017-2018) played a major role in building my personality. Their unconditional love and constant support (and GBMs) will be cherished forever. I can never end without mentioning "Drishtikon", the first event which I organised and the one

I will be emotionally attached to forever. The team spirit that I have learnt by working with Roshni, Sukriti, Alwin and Yashly di(we the family- our WhatsApp group's title) will hold on to forever. Around 20-30 kids hugging you together and singing random Bollywood songs during picnics and many other memories to cherish. Lastly, I will never forget how the President of this society has helped us by sometimes going out of his way.



The two staff members, Jaideep Sir and Renish Sir has added to this palette of memories I will cherish forever.

-Srishti Singh

IIIrd BSc. Chemistry (Hons)

There is a wholeness one feels when College comes together as the Social Service League.

This sense of belonging and happiness to committing to a cause through SSL made my best days in College. SSL gives me the joy of leaving others happy and myself, grateful. Counting the number of amazing friends and experiences I have had would mean unpacking almost every single day in College.

In SSL, the people you work for and who you work with never cease to inspire and this is true especially for Pragya Chakshu. Every single time I am reminded by them that all you have got to do is, give your heart into what you are doing.

- Malavika Liz George

IIInd BAEnglish (Hons)

“Pragya Chakshu “ – Pragya means 'insight' , prowess, intelligence, and Chakshu means 'Eyes' . To me the term suggests an insight into lives with great faculty of wisdom and knowledge. SSL is like a small family full of happy and responsible people. Being a member of the council, I learned a lot. There is a sense of responsibility among all the people in SSL. It's an open space for everyone and their ideas. SSL is for everyone. My experience with Pragyachakshu and Drishtikon has been fulfilling and satisfying. I felt like it was my responsibility to do my best not just for pragyachakshu but for every other event of SSL. It has been a learning experience for me.

- Deepika Jeenwal

IIInd BA English (Hons)



My journey with SSL started in my first year by tutoring two fourth grade girls as part of SSL's Evening Classes initiative. That was quite a grounding experience for me and the bond that I made with one of my students grew out to be a special one. Over time I also began working for the Pragma Chakshu vertical. Pragma Chakshu introduced me to VC students and over time I had grown to admire their positivity, talent and witty sense of humour. I was glad that through means of Pragma Chakshu I was able to make a difference somehow even if it involved me sitting for long hours and writing endless

sheets in Hindi, something that I wasn't really good. My memories as Second year coordinator of Pragma Chakshu



majorly constitutes of uncountable post-dinner meetings that I used to have with my fellow PC coordinators; Alwin, Roshni and Srishti all of which that used to take place in library corridor during peak hours of

winters. We would wrap ourselves in shawls and with our teeth chattering due to cold, we would come up with ideas to host Drishtikon. All these meeting paid well when we were able to pull off Drishtikon successfully. SSL is an amazing society to work with because you can use your own talent and uniqueness into impacting and making a difference in lives of others. Over years I got to witness some commendable acts of kindness and social service in forms that I might not have imagined.

The amount of love and appreciation that karamcharees shower on you after you have successfully hosted an event for them makes it all worth it.

*- Sukriti Sharon Lall
IIIrd BA Economics (Hons)*

THE DANCER IN DRISHTIKON

Initially, I was a little surprised to know of the dance category for the differently-abled. The questions in my mind- how do they maneuver the space, how do they learn the steps, how do they correct themselves?... all of these questions vanished as I watched the very first performance.

Dancing to the tune of Aaja Nacchle, the girl was graceful and my eyes watered. I thought of the blessings I had: the freedom to know the space around and manipulate steps in a moment, the confidence of moving falling, the independence of improvising steps without anyone's help and the physical confidence in terms of stage which I never knew existed before watching her dance.

I could feel her energy and I could see she was no slave to any constraint while dancing. Either she had mastered the dance pretty well or her intuition was strong. Nevertheless, I was touched. I didn't sympathise, nor did I belittle her efforts. It was just pure awe; awe of realization and beholding something that transcended daily happenings.

*- Sandra Prakash
IIInd BA English (Hons.)*



Donation Camps vertical had a year in tune with the values of service and smiles! In the beginning of the academic year old books and notebooks were recycled, in collaboration with 'Jagruti', and made into 100 fresh notebooks that were donated to 'Go-India' NGO for the education of slum children. The biggest event of the year was the Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with AIIMS and Blood Connect, which marked an unprecedented success of 250 donors. An Organ Donation Awareness session was also introduced for the first time with aid from Safdarjung Hospital and NOTTO.



*We give a part of ourselves...
But with much love*


DONATION CAMPS



I DONATED BLOOD

Further, donation drives were carried out and a great amount of collected clothes and other utilities were donated to 'Jamghat', an NGO working for homeless street children. With various ups and downs, multiple challenges and new adventures, the year all in all was a successful endeavour - upholding the spirit of humanity and support!





Social Service League attracted me during its orientation in my first year. Blood Donation Camp brought me closer to the society as I took on the coordinator role for Donation Camps for two years. The space has moulded me into a better person, leader and taught me sensitivity, compassion and humility. As I look back to my college days down the lane, SSL will always be that transformative experience. I have made valuable friends, been inspired by people here and nurtured meaningful relationships through the society. The learnings are immense and had a profound impact on what I have become today. I shall be ever grateful.

*-Madhurima
IIIrd BA.Programme*



Social Service League is made of a bunch of people who love each other and share their happiness to the world. It's a family that sticks by your side all the time and being part of it was indeed an amazing time for me. Being member of the Council and coordinating Donation Camps was a valuable opportunity and I learnt a lot from it. It wasn't just the responsibility I had, but the happiness when someone shares their experience and joy because of SSL had given them. It gives you utmost satisfaction. BDC and donation drives were successful initiatives, so were all the other events of the society where I could do my best and acquire the most valuable lessons from them as well.

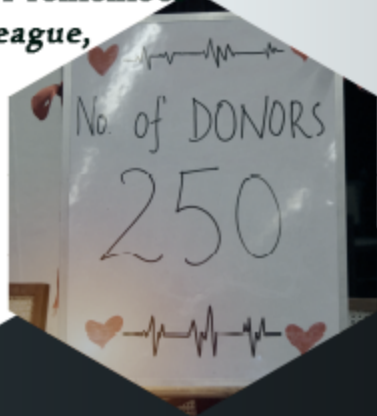
-Paul Alias

IIInd B.Sc.Maths (Hons.)

An entire year of college has gone by, and I am richer by a plethora of memories and experiences. I remember the first event that introduced me to 'the' League, the Blood Donation Camp organised at the college. The sheer number of people working for the event surprised me and I found myself asking, what was it that was mobilizing so many people to work for one college event? But then, SSL opened my eyes to see that selfless devotion towards others was what bound people together. People working continuously for hours without fail in the heat and humidity, the passion with which I was explained the problem of shortage of blood in India and the subsequent importance of blood donation, the laughter and camaraderie and a deep sense of responsibility for the donors and their well-being, made me realise what social service actually was, surprisingly - for the first time in my life.

This was the beginning of a beautiful journey. I joined the Evening Classes shortly after, and found that I could revel in the smiles of those little children. The joyride continued with the New Year Party and the Rudra Dinner, where I could not fail to remember my own family amongst so many others' of the karam-charis, the memory of a nostalgia that I will never forget. One just cannot stop learning while working in the Social Service League, be it the workshop of Aant-archakshu or personally interacting with participants of Drishtikon, that how many people exist everyday wishing for a ray of hope and how we can be that ray, by inculcating that one small everyday habit of 'service above self'. Ad Dei Gloriam.

-Pragati Prabha
Ist BA.History(Hons.)



EVENING CLASSES

Evening Classes is one of the primary education wings of the Social Service League. Students, through Evening Classes, volunteer for after-hours teaching of the children of the non-teaching staff of College. Children of all age groups attend the classes, you can hear the little ones run pitter-patter down the main corridor every day at 5:00 p.m.

The children become an integral part of the lives of every one of our volunteers. They give back to the students who teach them in every way they can, by drawing cards for birthdays and teacher's day and by dancing and singing their hearts out at the Rudra Dinner performances every year.



Love, learning and a lot of running after kids in the lawns. Evening Classes, a support system that work both ways



By helping children who may not be able to access tuitions to aide school learning, we facilitate a more engaged and comfortable way of education through Evening Classes.

Remember, 5:00 p.m., Room B.
Don't be late, your student is waiting!

The tiny teacher in me

Social Service League is that society which helped me realise that the little things one does are sometimes the most satisfying of all. Evening classes was the first activity I was part of after coming to college and it was so much fun. Five 'O' clock, everyday meant learning, teaching and running around with Anjali. With evening classes, I realised that I had a small teacher in me. Initially, language was a problem but later both of us started laughing over my mistakes and from then on, she easily understood my broken Hindi.

I am not a great teacher but every evening with Anjali was really fun. Evening classes helped me get



along with many kids living nearby. It feels great when they call out 'didi' and come running. It was also a place to bond with my co-teachers to whom otherwise I wouldn't have talked much.

Every day was a learning opportunity and it was a great experience to be with many kids. It also felt nice to see the bond the kids had with the present co-ordinators. Literally all of us felt like being part of this one big family. Sometimes teaching Hindi stories was demanding but I believe I enjoyed so much despite it. All of us came together, mostly in Rooms A and B and found this learning and teaching space which gave us so much happiness.

*-Elizabeth Eapen
Ist BA.History(Hons.)*

Social Service League would perhaps be one of the best things that has happened to me. Being able to contribute and continue working for it in my own little ways in the three years of College has truly been an amazing experience. Working wholeheartedly for a common cause of service, the entire team of SSL, despite being a big one (or should I say because it's a big one) gives me a homely feeling. SSL was the first society I joined in College. As a first year, juggling between academics and co-curriculars, SSL became a place of contentment and relief. I started off by volunteering for a while for Evening Classes (EC) and then jumping off to VidyaJyoti (VJ) and later volunteering for almost all big and small projects of SSL. Second year was very different. I got to learn the money matters of SSL and the intensive background work that goes into executing projects. And third year had its own challenges. I got to head a vertical for which I don't remember taking any initiatives as such in my first two years- Evening Classes. Now if I think about it, EC does hold a special place in my heart because of the unique quality of acceptance and pure heartedness that this vertical embodies. All those related to EC were kind enough to make me feel like a familiar presence. I am definitely going to miss the EC picnic and after-picnic, tea-time peek a boo and Community Art collab and surely the EC fam! Through SSL I was able to meet and interact with many beautiful souls. I wish SSL continues to inspire many young people.

*- Sooraj Chavan
IIIrd B.Sc Maths(Hons.)*



SSL has defined my college life in a way that nothing else will ever be able to.

There was a time in first year, when all my friends had found one particular society to which they decided to dedicate the rest of their college life, and I remember going up to a friend and saying "I'm not interested in any academic societies, and I'm not talented enough to be a part of a performing arts society. When will I find My Society?" Without any hesitation, she said, "Haven't you already? It's SSL, duh!"

If I was to trace back to the moment when I realised that SSL meant a lot more to me than just an extra curricular activity, this

would be it. As an overly eager first year volunteer or a slightly more

responsible second year coordinator, working for SSL has my happiest time of the day for as long as I can remember. For me, the cure to any bad day is spending some time with my EC bachchas, as they attack me with hugs and drag me to the lawns to play Catch with them.



Every single member of SSL is so wholesome, every single event of SSL is so heartwarming. In the last two years, SSL has given me a chance to bring a small difference in the lives of people, it has given me such precious memories, and it has given me an opportunity to be a part of the most beautiful council I could've ever asked for. Without doubt, SSL is my happiest place.

- Sharanya

IInd B.Sc Programme

My college life would be totally incomplete, sans SSL. I still remember the day I attended the society orientation and trust me, the people and their ideas fell so in line with me. I began signing up for Evening Classes and gradually it spread into other verticals: Parivartan, Rudra Dinner, Pragyachakshu and Drishtikon. From being a teacher for the tiny-tots to being a writer and an escort for the differently-abled ones has been such a fulfilling experience. SSL is probably the only society for which I look after working all my college life and thereafter.

*-Shubham Belwal,
Ist B.Sc Maths(Hons.)*

My time in Evening Classes has been therapeutic, it's been the happiest and purest part of every day in college. This space has no negativity and the kids showed me that there is always reason to look beyond today. Helping them learn and hearing about all they wanted to do helped me think beyond current life in college, where one does tend to get disillusioned and overwhelmed. I can't thank them enough for giving me so much happiness, and quite a few bruises from when one confidently agreed to drop me to the gate on the back of her cycle. I never thought I'd still be able to be around kids when in college, and Evening Classes gave me that, gave me some of the closest friends (ages do vary) and some of the best times I've had here.

*-Aiyana Abraham
IInd English (Hons.)*



After the coordinators visited different orphanages and old age homes, they decided upon one for the odd semester. We aim to gain some perspective on our lives through these visits and are never disappointed by how much we have gained. This time we had the Sabha, the multi-lingual theatre society, perform a small act for the children in the orphanage. The Music Society made the session more joyful with songs that everyone could join in. We even had a Community Art painting with the children. These moments of bonding with them is something that we really cherished.

The non-teaching staff are a major part of our college lives. They make our home away from home complete. For the New Year Party, we got gifts for children and the families, arranged food and got everything ready for them to have a special and relaxed New Year evening, along with students and teachers. We had some fun games for them which brought out the children in them.

Rudra dinner is an event where senior members and junior members cook dinner for the non-teaching staff and serve them.



*Everything becomes worth it
when their faces light up*

VISITS
RUDRA DINNER
NEW YEAR PARTY



We also had performances by Evening Classes students during Rudra Dinner. The third years enjoyed their time in the kitchen that they got to give back to the hands that serve them daily. From cutting the vegetables to making 'not so' round Puris, the experience was indeed very wholesome. Now, when we walk around in campus the smiles of recognition that we see on their faces completes our days.

New Year Party was always and will always be about the happiness you see on the faces of the non-teaching staff at the end of the day. It was one of the main events which gave us an opportunity to know the people that serve us daily in College. Talking to them, asking them about their families and trying to give them an amazing evening was an honour. Getting chairs to the lawns in under half an hour, playing games and distributing gifts was all part of the joy we shared.

Rudra Dinner is essentially about the happiness with which the karamcharis leave after having the Dinner. A set of cultural programmes await them in the College Hall post-Dinner by their kids.

The most amazing part about Rudra Dinner for us was the Second Year Council dance. Having the whole Council dance for the first and last time gave us a lot of memories worth cherishing.



Orphanage Visit was another good experience for us this time.

Many came for it and spent quality time with the kids there. The community art session turned out to be the most fun thing we did with them. The Music Society also did an amazing job in engaging with all the kids during their performance.

- Mebin Francis
llnd B.Sc. Programme

*Let me tonight look back across the span
Twixt dawn and dark, and to my conscience say-
Because of some good deed to beast or man-
The world is better that I lived today*

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Looking back at the one year of being closely associated with The Social Service League I am sure that it has taught me numerous lessons. Lessons that can only be learnt when you are out there, working with self-motivated individuals towards the same cause and taking responsibility to do the small part assigned to you sincerely. The importance of teamwork and the efficiency that can be achieved through pre-planned and clear division of work are important takeaways from my experience working with the SSL. Apart from this it is probably the immense satisfaction that each of us had, at the end of donation camps for having made our small contributions in our small capacities; at the end of Evening class and Vidyajyothi for having put in selfless efforts to teach students the little we know; at the end of Parivartan for sacrificing our one meal for a person who probably gets only that meal that day; at the end of Rudra dinner and New year party for making the families of all the karamcharis, who work hard for us mostly everyday of their lives, smile and enjoy; is what that makes most of us stick to the Social Service League

*-Teres Sajeew
1st B.A. Programme*



SSL is a space of learning and growing. Through each event we learn a whole avenue of things which teaches us the true meaning of service.

New year party and Rudra dinner are two events that are conducted for the karamcharis of the college. Running around for data collection, contacting caterers, getting them gifts and making sure that the invites in Hindi are grammatically correct... all become worth it when we see the faces of the karamcharis on the day. We'll never be able to repay them for years of dedicated service in our college, but even the smallest of things we can do make their eyes light up.



Each year SSL also conducts orphanage Visits. We had to go to multiple orphanages before actually deciding on one and each visit we undertook was a different experience in itself. The people we met there, their outlook to life and enthusiasm were refreshing. The dedication of the caregivers made us realise that the more we value life and the blessings given to us, the more will we be able to give others and make our surroundings as happy, positive and wholesome as we would want it to be.

But most of all SSL has given me a beautiful family. A family that I will have to let go eventually, but whom I will look forward to meet in the future.

-Elsa Ignatius
llnd BA.Ecnomics(Hons.)

Working for NYP and RD helped me learn more about our supporting staff. Collecting the data about their families was pretty much mundane work but it helped to connect us and for me, to know more about these persons on a relational level. After conducting the event, some of them became familiar to me and it made my everyday life in college much more beautiful. From getting greetings from the security bhaiya at the gate to Sonu bhaiya in the Cafe, it's a joy to know them.

*- Maani Samson
IInd B.A. Programme*



SSL ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Events

22 July 2018: Social Service League Orientation.

The society and its activities were introduced to the newly admitted junior members.

7 August 2018: Book recycling drive.

Old books and notebooks, collected from the students were recycled, in collaboration with Jagriti, and made into 100 fresh notebooks that were donated to Go-India NGO for the education of slum children.

10 August 2018: Pragma Chakshu freshers.

The Social Service League held freshers for all the newly joined differently-abled students, in collaboration with the Enabling Unit. The newly admitted differently abled students along with the Social Service League and Enabling Unit volunteers had a fun interaction session with games and exhibition of talents.

24 August 2018: Blood Donation Camp.

The blood donation camp was conducted in collaboration with AIIMS, New Delhi and Blood Connect, which marked an unprecedented success of 250 donors.

27 August to 1 September 2018: Kerala flood relief drive.

Materials were collected from students and staff of the college and was given to the collection centre at Delhi, which was later shipped to Kerala to aid the Flood affected state.

16 September 2018: Pragma Chakshu picnic.

25 students which included the differently abled students of our college went on a picnic to the National history museum where we had a very enriching and informative experience.

5 October 2018: Vox Populi I.

The event was conducted in collaboration with the Planning Forum. 10 NGO's introduced themselves to the students of the college.

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6 October 2018: Orphanage visit.

Around 60 students from the college went to visit the DMRC Children's home, Tiz Hazari.

8 October 2018: Organ donation awareness drive.

The organ donation awareness session was introduced for the first time with the aid from Safdarjung hospital and NOTTO.

26 and 27 October 2018: Antarchakshu.

The flagship event of the Xavier's resource centre for the visually challenged (XRCVC) was conducted on a small scale in our college. The event saw extensive participation from people within and outside college.

28 November 2018: Donation drive

Collected clothes and utilities were donated to Jamghat, an NGO working with homeless street children.

9 January 2019: New Year Party.

The New Year party is an event where the SSL gives a platform for the whole college community to celebrate New Year with the Non-teaching staff of the college. Gifts were distributed for children and the families, and they had a special and relaxed New Year evening, along with students and teachers.

2 February 2019: Vidyajyoti Annual Day 2019.

Vidyajyoti's big event where kids from age 3 to 18 displayed their talents fabulously; the children, helped by the volunteers, put up fantastic dance, musical, and theatrical performances that filled their teachers with awe, and their families with pride and joy.

5 and 6 February 2019: Drishtikon.

Drishtikon is a one of a kind intercollege competition for the differently abled. During this 10th anniversary of Drishtikon, we were successful in bringing deaf participants for the first time and inviting more universities like Ambedkar, JNU and IGNOU. Drishtikon was a huge success with around 200 participants. Along with Drishtikon- 2019 the SSL organised 'Sukriti' - an art and craft exhibition by the differently abled students.

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4 to 9 February 2019: Safdarjung settlement relief drive.

Materials were collected from college and were distributed to the people of the Safdarjung who were displaced from their homes.

12 February 2019: Rudra Dinner.

Rudra dinner is an event where senior members and junior members cook dinner for the non-teaching staff and serve them. We also have cultural performances by the kids of the non-teaching staff. The fun in the Mess Hall while preparing food for them and serving them is a wholesome experience for the college community.

17 February 2019: Evening classes Picnic.

30 kids of the evening classes and 18 volunteers went on a happy little picnic to visit the National science museum and then spend time in the lawns of the India Gate.

27 February 2019: Medical Camp

Social service league in collaboration with St. Stephen's hospital conducted a medical camp for the non-teaching staff of the college and the members of the GTB community.

29 March 2019: Mental disabilities workshop.

The Social Service League organised a workshop on the topic 'Inclusion - the way of valued social roles'. It was an interactive session led by Smt. Geeta Mondol, Founder and director of Ashish foundation of the differently abled.

5 April 2019: Vox Populi II.

The second edition of Vox Populi was a bigger and better edition of the first one. The event was in collaboration with the planning forum and the Campus placement cell of the college. 15 NGO's were given a platform to interact with the students of the college and interested students were able to volunteer for the respective NGO's.

SSL ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Year Long Projects

VidyaJyoti

Vidyajyoti is a project of the Social Service League where a team of dedicated volunteers works closely with more than 30 children in the under-resourced settlements of GTB Nagar—our objective is not just to teach these kids subjects like English, Maths etc. but also to engage with and understand the limitations and deprivations of the socio-cultural contexts within which they are growing up. This year, which was the fifth for this fast-blossoming primary education vertical, was an extremely eventful, and enriching one.

Parivartan - Skip a Meal

Parivartan - Skip a meal is a project where the resident junior members of the college voluntarily skip one meal and donate it to the needy. The food collected from the mess is then packed and distributed by the volunteers. Parivartan - Skip a meal was conducted seven times this year.

Pragya Chakshu

This vertical of the social service league works closely with the differently abled students of the college. The volunteers take care of all the needs of the differently abled students of the college. Pragya Chakshu also provided scribes for the written exams of the visually challenged students as required, throughout the year.

Evening Classes

Evening Classes is one of the primary education wings of the Social Service League. Students, through Evening Classes, volunteer for after-hours teaching of the children of the non-teaching staff of College. They give back to the students who teach them in every way they can, by drawing cards for birthdays and teacher's day and by dancing and singing their hearts out at the Rudra Dinner performances every year. By helping children who may not be able to access tuitions to aide school learning, we facilitate a more engaged and comfortable way of education through Evening Classes.

SSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2018-2019

Core Committee

Parivartan

Avinash T (III BA Programme)

Pragyachakshu , Drishtikon, PR & Kalyan

Bethamehi Joy Syiem (III History)

Vidyajyoti

Elizabeth Saji (III History)

New Year Party, Rudra Dinner & Visits

Gaurav G Nayak (III BA Programme)

Donation Camps

Madhurima (III BA Programme)

Evening Classes, Finance

Sooraj Chavan (III Mathematics)

Second Year Coordinators:

Donation Camps

Aarzo Jolly (II B.A English)

Paul Alias (II B.Sc. Mathematics)

Rahul Tom Thekkel (II B.Sc. Mathematics)

Evening Classes

Aiyana Abraham (II B.A English)

Anniela Sherpa (II B.A Programme)

Sharanya (II B.Sc. Programme)

Finance

Shilpa J Alappatt (II B.Sc. Mathematics)

SSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2018-2019

New Year Party, Rudra Dinner & Visits

Elsa Ignatius (II B.A Economics)
Maani Samson (II B.A Programme)
Mebin Francis (II B.Sc. Programme)

Parivartan

Eby Thomas (II B.Sc. Physics)
Evelin Treasa Jose (II B.A Economics)
Mathew Tom (II B.Sc.Chemistry)

Pragya Chakshu & Drishtikon

Ajay R Raj (II B.A English)
Deepika Jeenwal (II B.A English)
Malavika Liz George (II B.A English)
Sandra Prakash (II B.A English)

Public Relations & Kalyan

Jainu T Kuromvila (II B.Sc. Physics)
Peter J Pulikkunnel (II B.Sc. Physics)

Vidyajyoti

Adreeta Chakraborty (II B.A English)
Muskan Bakhshi (II B.A History)
Nikhil George Vakkan (II B.Sc. Mathematics)
Rajat Chandra Mishra (II B.Sc.Physics)

SSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2019-2020

Core Committee

New Year Party, Rudra Dinner, Medical Camp

Aiyana Abraham (III English)

Pragyachakshu , Drishtikon

Mathew Tom (III Chemistry)

Donation Camps, Public Relations & Outreach

Mebin Francis (III Bsc Programme)

Vidyajyoti

Nikhil George Vakkan (III Mathematics)

Parivartan, Finance

Rahul Tom Thekkel (III Mathematics)

Evening Classes, Kalyan

Sharanya (III BSc Programme)

Second Year Coordinators

Donation Camps

Adarsh P Mathew (B.Sc. Physics II)

Pragati Prabha (B.A. History II)

Teres Sajeev Vattoly (B.A. Programme II)

Evening Classes

Dilkhush (B.Sc. Programme II)

Nawang Chhoetso (B.Sc. Mathematics II)

Shubham Belwal (B.Sc. Mathematics II)

Finance

Arya Mathew (B.Sc. Mathematics II)

SSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2019-2020

New Year Party and Rudra Dinner

Jesvin Joseph (B.Sc. Chemistry II)
Nevin Kuruvilla Thomas (B.Sc. Physics II)
Sharlet Teresa Shaji (B.Sc. Physics II)

Parivartan

Aleena Paul Mavelly (B.A. Programme II)
Ashly Anna Jaison (B.A. Economics II)
Emal Mathew (B.Sc. Chemistry II)

Pragyachakshu

Akanksha Mishra (B.Sc. Programme II)
Anisha Annie Alex (B.A. History II)
Ann Mary Biju (B.A. English II)
Naomi Singh (B.Sc. Mathematics II)

Public Relations & Outreach, Kalyan

Elizabeth Eapen (B.A. History II)
Mariette Lawrence (B.Sc. Mathematics II)

Vidyajyoti

Annly Anna Kurian (B.A. Programme II)
Evita Rodrigues (B.A. Programme II)
Nidhi Singh (B.A. Programme II)
Nikhita Damiyan (B.A. Economics II)
Shilpa Sarah Joseph (B.A. Economics II)



Hey all, given below are the links and details of the social media platform of the social service league. Please do visits them and do follow for the updates.



www.facebook.com/sslstephens



www.instagram.com/social_service_league/

Smriti :-

Once you join SSL fam, you are always a member no matter how many years pass by, Smriti - a beautiful collection of memories narrated by our own older members.

Some days will never fade away!

The older and sweeter are they.

Smriti



For more details, queries and collaborations

Visit

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Maria Reji
Rahul Tom
Nidhin P Shaju
Divya Mathew



Special Thanks



Through the looking glass



Social Service League Executive Council 2018-19



Farewell to previous year council (2017-18)



Social Service League Family



From blood donation camp 2018

Feedback Form



Please do scan this QR Code to comment /suggest some valuable inputs for the society as well as the humble piece of art.

Thank you...





*Social Service League
St. Stephen's College, Dlehi*