

B.Tech Humanities (CIC) Students synergize with Delhi Police!

Vow to Speak with Hands & Learn Sign Language

Nearly 2000 Police personnel of varied rank and file were addressed by a team of students accompanied by their mentors from B.Tech Humanities, Cluster Innovation Centre of the University of Delhi on 31st Oct. & 1st Nov. 2013, at Wazirabad Police Training School and Delhi Police Training College at Jaroda Kalan, Najafgarh, respectively. Enthusiastic and highly disciplined crowds seated in long rows attended the two Orientation Programs on “The Need for the Police Redressal of Grievances of Deaf Women and the Use of Sign Language”. Mr. Robin Hibu, Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police introduced the team of students doing the project at CIC; he invoked the responsibility of the police recruits in khakhi towards the safety and security of the citizens that included those who face different kinds of challenges of disabilities. Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, the program coordinator of B.Tech. Humanities, CIC, University of Delhi, emphasized the need for greater recognition and status of Indian Sign Language (ISL) in the society. ISL, she pointed out, should be officially recognized as a scheduled language and incorporated in the Indian academic curriculum as in other countries such as Kenya, Cambodia, Australia, US, England. She commented on how by creating synergy with the police personnel and other organisations such as the National Association of Deaf, Noida Deaf Society etc, the students of B.Tech Humanities could carry their project forward in the direction of “The redressal of grievances of the Deaf Women”. The students’ team (Akhila, Aditi, Harsimran and Jitendra) then made a presentation of their project on the theme introduced by Dr. Kumar. They provided a detailed picture (with statistics) of problems faced by the deaf women and reported on how they were trying to make an intervention in the matter with the guidance of their mentors, Ms. Priya Bhatnagar and Dr. Hina Nandrajog. Representatives of the National Association of the Deaf and the Noida Deaf Society, Ms. Ruma Roka and Mr A.S Narayanan were present at the two Orientation programmes to share their concerns with the help of an interpreter of sign language. Also, a short skit was performed by the deaf members of the organizations to demonstrate the fate of a deaf woman whose grievance is not adequately understood by the police due to their inability to interpret sign language.

The orientation concluded with the remarks by the Joint Commissioner of Police, Mr. Robin Hibu who commended the students of the University of Delhi for having undertaken a project which reached out to a real need amongst the police for the learning of sign language...a matter neglected by the society in general. Acknowledging the urgent need to learn sign language, he suggested that it be included in the syllabus for the training of police officials of all ranks. He was assured by the team from Cluster Innovation Centre that a module for this purpose will be prepared and given to the Police. He also requested Dr. Paul Kumar and her team to provide a list of interpreters of sign language who could be contacted when needed by the police.

The enthusiastic response of the Police has tremendously boosted the morale of the team working on this project.