

Report 2013-14

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The year 2013 proved to be a year of immense learning for *Shining Network* - the youth empowering and value creating society. Continuing forward its theme of building a culture of peace, the team made field visits to *Ma Dham*-the empowerment centre for the widows of Vrindavan, *Gharonda*, the senior citizens home in South Delhi and *Rahat Ghar*, the centre for children affected by war and violence in Srinagar, Kashmir.

To commemorate each event, Shining Network released bookmarks and made audio visual presentations. For the last four years, one team member of Shining Network has been making it to Tata Institute of Social Sciences for post-graduation which is an honour for Kamala Nehru College. In 2013, Samiksha Tadoria, the student convener got admission in TISS.

Shining Network collaborated with *Guild of Service* of Dr Mohini Giri and three student members along with the faculty convener of Shining Network undertook their field visit to Srinagar during the period of curfew from 12th-17th March 2013. Interactions with the people in the violence affected areas encouraged the team to take up the cause of peace building efforts in a concrete manner by organizing exchange program involving the youth affected in the violence struck areas of the country. A short term course on “Youth Initiative and Peace Building Effort” is under construction. A proper report of the visit as presented to the Guild was published in their annual report.

On 1st October 2013, a workshop on “*Expressions as life skill*” was conducted by the renowned theatre artist Ms Averi Chaurey. On 21st October 2013, the eminent development economist, Professor Jean Dreze was invited for an interactive exchange on ‘*Development, Public Action and India's Great Escape*’ based on his co-authored book *An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions*. Another workshop on ‘*Conflict Resolution and Peace Building for Youth Leaders*’ was organised in collaboration with WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace which is an initiative of the Foundation of Universal Responsibility of His Holiness Dalai Lama) on 30th October 2013,

On 26th and 27th January 2014, the team *Shining Network* was out on a '*Weekend of Collaborative Learning*' to villages Sunrakh and Ramthal in Vrindavan, under the guidance of Guild for Service, for an academic understanding of 'Empowerment of Widows and their Coalitions', a project by the Guild and UN Women. On 4th February 2014, an interactive session on '*Regional, Cultural and Communal Sensitivity: Our Responsibility*' was arranged wherein Professor Rizwan Quiser (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Milia Islamia) was the speaker. A visual presentation titled '*Change*' was screened and the session concluded in a unique way with the '*Celebration of Diversity with Delectable Chutneys*' of various states that had been prepared by the team members.