

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Irrespective of various crises that human life is subjected to in the present times, life has to move on with its distinctively creative modes of thinking and ways of living into the possible 'new normal'. Crisis often inspires us to make use of our resources optimally and pushes us to come out with out-of-the-box solutions to the existent and unprecedented issues of life. I feel proud, as the Chairman of the Governing Body, to see Maitreyi College taking lead in attempting to move beyond the limitations that covid-19 pandemic has imposed. Everyone concerned - teachers, students, parents, supporting staff and alumni – deserve special appreciation for their support and active participation in this endeavor. I sincerely applaud Dr Haritma Chopra, principal of the college, for her efforts in keeping the college at the forefront of new developments.



I am glad that the Internal Complaints Committee with continuous efforts, is bringing out a new issue of the e-magazine which stands out for quality and varied themes on gender discrimination. The magazine portrays the spectrum of gender bias with all its shades and complexities that exist in the contemporary world. Institutions are responsible for developing ethics, values and proper behavior on their premises, which in turn would train the individuals to 'live and let live' be it the physical or the virtual world. I am pleased that Maitreyi college not only advocates and nourishes such an environment and culture, but also deliberates on the related issues and concepts through Samvedana. I am sure, by creating a good platform for debates on Gender bias, the magazine has established its own place in the academic realm through its earlier issues.

I congratulate the editorial team and the Principal for their untiring efforts in brining awareness on the issues of gender discrimination to the stakeholders of educational institutions at large.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Reader

At the onset, I wish and pray for the wellbeing of you and your loved ones.

As the world is presently grappling with the pandemic COVID, many of our known might be facing multiple challenges on medical, emotional, and economic fronts. While this difficult time has brought anxiety and uncertainty, our positivity, resilience, and tenacity will help us emerge the victor.



The human instinct to survive and fight back all challenges and difficulties finds roots in human history and is also evident in the present times. Past few months would have provided you all with reasons and opportunity to introspect and evaluate actions which should change at the personal, institutional, and social level. During these days, we have repeatedly heard of the “new normal”, the term most often used to highlight that the world post-COVID would be different than earlier times. While this year will remain etched in memories for decades to come, it is incumbent on us to govern how it is remembered, as just a period of economic and cultural distress, or also as a phase which marked the beginning of landmark societal, cultural and environmental transformations- it is up to us to define this “new normal”.

Every adversity has enabled society to evolve and craft lessons for the times to follow. Amongst the few highlights of these difficult times is the resolve to come together of our doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, law enforcement, and innumerable other corona warriors, independent of any discrimination of caste, gender, or belief, to fight the common enemy - coronavirus. Better hygiene and social-etiquette imbibed in the form of social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPEs) may become a way of life for all. Our comfort with technology and the use of various online platforms to ensure seamless continuity of our normal operations is a testimony of our flexibility and adaptability. The self-healing act of Mother Nature, which has provided us with fresh air to breathe, cleaner rivers and clear blue sky and starry nights, a sight which many of the millennial kids would have never experienced earlier.

The current times have brought to the fore the realization of togetherness, inculcating higher sensitivity towards people around us, making our contribution towards building an all-inclusive society that upholds the rights of all citizens to live with dignity, self-esteem and in harmony with our environment. May we imbibe the art to appreciate and reciprocate kind deeds in our personality and make our world a great place.

This issue of “Samvedna” is a compilation of the articles woven around these attributes- a step towards redefining our society.

Enjoy Reading! And Stay Safe!

Dr. Haritama Chopra

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Indian society has been a victim of strong perceptions and stereotypes. As for men, unwritten norms have been that they should wear only certain colours, in marriage they should be taller, wealthier, older than their wives, should not to express their emotions too publicly... It has been awkward and a topic of gossiping to majority people if men did household chores or looked after children. For women, the norms have been suffocating. They were to play certain 'safe' games- kabaddi, boxing, weight lifting were unthinkable, talk decent, not to laugh loud, remain submissive... A girl who proposed first to her male friend was considered 'loose' and was sure to be dropped eventually; wife was expected to remain passive or else was considered abnormal. The word that defined 'good' woman was 'sacrifice' who never claimed power and an independent existence.

These stereotypes can be seen crumbling down over the last couple of decades. Currently, women are asserting and demanding equal say in all the matters that concern them. What brought this change is not a simple evolution. One major factor that has contributed to this change is their financial independence and education of their parents. Additionally, in this era of information boom, girls know their rights and are much more progressive in their disposition.

However, there is one stereotype that still needs to be broken! As always, there is a clamour from all quarters, though not very explicitly always, that women should make their own efforts to remain safe by not going out late or not wearing certain clothes... *It is now time men take the charge of making our society safe.* It is high time they shed their fake modernity and come to the terms that they are the ones who need to change their mindset. Importantly, they have to learn to share power with women and acknowledge their constructive role in the society. A lip service alone will not do as they are already doing it. They now need to openly and genuinely condemn bad behaviour by men and with support of legislature and judicial system make our society best in the world for all.

Dr. Prachi Bagla
Chief Editor

The views expressed in the write ups are those of the authors concerned.
The editors are not responsible for them.