

# Mahatma Gandhi 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebrations

Organised by

National service Scheme (NSS)

Dravidian University

## Report of the activities organised on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebrations

"It is our social responsibility as citizens of India to help fulfil Gandhiji's vision of Clean India, by his 150th birth anniversary in 2019."

**- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.**

Taking the call from the central government to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, Dravidian University Fraternity celebrated, the anniversary in a befitting manner. National service scheme (NSS) of Dravidian University took the lead in organising various events listed under the activities to be celebrated as mentioned by the Government of India, in the circular sent to the university. The motto of NSS being "Not me but you", helped to take these activities as challenge, reflecting the essence of Democratic living. The following events have been conducted by NSS as part of the celebrations.

**Tree plantation:** Tree-planting is the process of transplanting tree seedlings, generally for forestry, land reclamation, or landscaping purpose. Tree plantation is the solution to face various environmental problems and also maintenance of ecological balance of the nature. Trees contribute to their environment over long periods of time by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. Nearly 100 saplings were brought from forest department and plantation programme was conducted in front and around Harappa bhavan in the university campus. Students and faculty from all the departments of the university actively participated in planting trees. Plants like Bauhinia , Mahoghany ,magnolia champaka and terminalia were chosen considering various advantages of the plants.

### **Water conservation:**

Rain water harvesting pits were dug in the campus as a part of water conservation. Some twenty NSS students took the job of digging the pits as challenge and finished the activity with the help of tools necessary for digging pits provided by engineering section.

Water conservation includes all the policies, strategies and activities to sustainably manage the natural resource of fresh water, to protect the hydrosphere, and to meet the current and future human demand. Rain water harvesting pits is a strategy to replenish groundwater by recharging the underground aquifers.

This activity involves the principle such as responsibility to save water and also dignity of labour. With this programme along with water conservation, the principles involved behind were also achieved.

### **Restoration of rain water harvesting pits:**

This activity of restoring the already existing rainwater harvesting pits is also a part of water conservation. The university administration, with an intention to recharge and conserve water has established water harvesting pits some three years back. These pits were occupied with weeds and grass and water been utilized for the growth of these, which is very much deviating from the intention of ground water recharge.

So, students with the spirit of restoring the pits removed all the waste greenery by entering into the pits. The students removed two tractors full loads of waste grass. Instead of burning inside the pit, to avoid leaching of ashes into ground water, students collected waste from the pit and brought it up till the tractor and it was a risky task, which was done successfully with the spirit to conserving water.

### **Cleanliness Drive:**

Cleanliness drive is a wonderful opportunity for people's participation and is a major avenue to raise awareness on the importance of cleanliness in one's neighbourhood. So, the students and faculty of Dravidian University reached the nearby village, Yamaganipalli and cleaned the roads of the village with broom sticks and picked the plastics been thrown away and disposed the waste by safe methods.

This campaign promoted the values of cleanliness, discipline and respect for Environment among the villagers. This activity also educated and sensitized the students about the importance of a healthy, socially responsible, economically dynamic and progressive nation.

### **Agricultural Activities:**

Empowering agricultural knowledge to the farmers was the main intention of this activity. As a part of this activity the students and faculty visited the nearby, Agaram, Kothapalli and Gudupalli villages with the help of University bus. The farmers of the villages were gathered at the meeting place and were sensitized about organic farming, waste management and waste decomposer techniques which help in keeping the villages clean and how it helps in converting animal dung and bio-waste into good quality organic manure. Later, all the students visited the crop fields along with farmers where they have demonstrated good farming techniques and assisted them in various activities. Students also organised awareness programmes amongst the farmers regarding safe use of chemical pesticides and the disposal of insecticide containers after use.

With all the above activities, Dravidian University celebrated Mahatma Gandhi 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebrations in a befitting manner. Based on Gandhiji's "Nai Talim", that is, Experiential based learning, the staff and students of Dravidian University also participated in the above discussed activities involving dignity of labour, with a vision for a clean, healthy and a Progressive Nation ,along with the Key team of NSS under the leadership of Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof G.Lokanadha Reddy and Registrar Prof T.Anuradha - Dr .S. Chinna Reddiah -NSS Co-ordinator & programme officer Unit -I, Dr.V.Gopal-NSS P.O. Unit-II, Dr.V.Palani-NSS P.O. Unit-III, Dr. D.Sripriya- NSS P.O. Unit-IV, Dr. M.C. Kesava Murthy - NSS P.O. Unit-V , Mrs V. Mercy Jyothi - NSS P.O. Unit-VI.





