



**Gender Equity: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century**  
**Organized by**  
**Enabling Unit, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi University**

The Enabling Unit of Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, is organizing a National Conference on the theme “Gender Equity: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century” on 14th and 15th October 2022, on the occasion of International White Cane Safety Day. The National Conference will be supplemented with a Debate, Group Discussion and Extempore competition for visually impaired university women students. We will be hosting a diverse group of participants from 15 universities all across India. It will be held at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. This conference has been organized in the memory of Late Smt. Saroj Chhabra, a renowned social worker and educationist. Born on 24th July 1936, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Saroj Gohal Chhabra was the quintessential woman of courage and verve. She formed lifelong bonds with friends from school and her mates from IT College, Lucknow, from where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Art. An historical event that left a deep impression on her was witnessing the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi with her own eyes as a young student. This led to her imbibing deep nationalist views and she pursued her interest in Indian History. Having had the opportunity of formal education in post Independence India, wholesome development and empowerment of the girl child was a cause close to her heart. The effort to bring awareness on the challenges of Gender equality is a befitting cause to remember her by. Her son, Mr. Sanjay Chhabra, a renowned Supreme Court advocate, has constituted an award in her memory. She was a great philanthropist, dedicated to the cause of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. She volunteered her services to a number of voluntary organizations to mainstream the problems faced by pwd.

The broad goals that we wish to achieve by organizing this conference are:

1. To sensitize the able bodied student community on the potentials of women with visual impairment.
2. To address the concerns and challenges faced by visually impaired women at a university level and give voice to the marginalized section.
3. To provide an impetus to the transformation of the status of blind young women in the society and provide them a level-playing field.
4. To provide a platform to visually impaired girls, allowing them to showcase their academic potential on a national scale.

5. To develop an insight on the challenges and adversities faced by visually impaired university women in the social, economic and educational front.
6. The debate competition will allow the audience to understand the concept of affirmative action and the efforts that need to be undertaken to provide substantial rehabilitation facilities.

Attractive prizes will be awarded to the top visually impaired participants in the debate competition. The first prize is an Orbit Reader which is a digital braille display cashed at Rs. 40,000, the second prize is Rs. 20,000 worth KIBO, which will help them scan books without aid, and the third prize is a Rs. 9,500 smartphone. Additionally, all the participants will be gifted a white cane. This is a mobility aid which will increase their mobility, thereby allowing them to pursue their educational and professional life independently and confidently.

To add more light to the event, we will be organizing a Blind-Fold Walk for the able bodied students and volunteers. This will immensely change their attitude from sympathy to empathy towards visually impaired students. The participants of this activity will be awarded with certificates and other attractive prizes.

