



MARATHWADA MITRA MANDAL'S

# SHANKARRAO CHAVAN LAW COLLEGE

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC  
202/A, DECCAN GYMKHANA, PUNE - 411 004.

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University & Approved by Bar Council of India, New Delhi  
(Permanent Reg. No. - Id No. : PU / PN / Law / 179 - 2002)



**Late. Shri. Shankarrao Chavan**  
Founder President

**Shri. Shivajirao D. Ganage**  
President

**Prin. Bhausaheb Jadhav**  
Exe - President

## Report of activities organised by Equal Opportunity Cell in 2022-2023

The Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) of the college is committed to fostering an environment that embraces equality and supports the varied needs of our student body. The EOC diligently organizes a range of activities throughout the academic year. These initiatives are designed to promote inclusivity, address disparities, and create a campus culture where every individual feels valued and empowered. From awareness campaigns, guest lectures, seminar and workshops to mentorship programs and events, the EOC endeavors to ensure that every student has equal access to opportunities, regardless of their background.

Following are the various activities organised by EOC in the academic year 2022- 2023 so as to celebrate diversity, breaking barriers, and building a community that thrives on the principles of equity and respect.

1. Equal Opportunity Cell of the College participated in **Pune Pride Parade** title "**Walk of Pride**" on **June 5, 2022**. **Dr. Renu Naidu**- Assistant Professor of Sociology & Chairperson Equal Opportunity Cell, **Ms. Shivani Jadhav**- Teaching Associate, Coordinator Equal Opportunity Cell and **10 Student members of Equal Opportunity Cell, SCLC, Pune** participated in this Pride Parade.

The purpose of this participation was to build an atmosphere of acceptance, equality, celebrating the work of LGBTQIA+ people and building awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Also, to build awareness among the College students and celebrate progress in recognition of the rights of LGBTQIA+ community fostering the free exchange of ideas which would further help in building a campus that welcomes diversity of opinion and people of all backgrounds and to fight for continued recognition of the basic human rights for all LGBTQIA+ people everywhere in India and all over the world.

2. With the overwhelming response from all over India, our College's Equal opportunity Cell conducted **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the 3 months Certificate Course on "Law and Alternative Sexualities"** from **21<sup>st</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2022**.

Like earlier **Prof. Dr. R. Raj Rao**- former HOD English Literature Dept, SPPU was the Principal Resource Person of this Course. There were 18 resource persons/ experts in this three- month course:



**Mr. Parmesh Shahani**-Author, Public Speaker, Culture Curator and Inclusion Advocate;

**Ms. Zainab Patel**- Director Inclusion and Diversity, KPMG, Mumbai;

**Ashok Rowkavi**- Journalist, LGBTQIA+ rights activist and founder of NGO Humsafar Trust, Mumbai

**Dr. Kaustubh Jog**- Practicing Psychiatrist, Sr. Research Fellow Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, Indian Law Society, Pune

**Dr. Anagha Karve Jog**- Consultant Psychiatrist, IPH, Pune;

**Sagar Barve**- Activist and LGBTQIA+ Network Moderator, Pune

**Dr. Kanchan Pawar**- Medical Officer, MITR Clinic, Centre for Transgender Health, YRG Care, Pune Maharashtra.

**Manvendra Singh Gohil**- Gay Prince of India, Heir of Honorary Maharaja of Rajpipla, Chairperson & Founder of Lakshya Trust, Gujarat

**Aruna Desai**- Co-Founder - Sweekar The Rainbow Parents, Mumbai

**Dr. Sanjay Sharma**- CEO & Managing Director, ATHI (Association for Transgender Health in India), Gurgaon Haryana

**Maya Sharma**-Vadodara Based Feminist, Activist and Author, Program Coordinator "Vikalp"

**Kanav N Sahgal**- Samvidhaan Fellowship Programme Manager, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Delhi

**Sr. Adv. Anand Grover**- Supreme Court Lawyer, Legal activist in Indian law relating to homosexuality and HIV.

**Adv. Manuraj Shaunmugasundaram**- Madras High Court, Founder, Partner at Ganesan and Manuraj Legal LLP, Chennai, TN

**Ms. Sarita Jadav**- National Program Officer, UNESCO

**Ms. Sapna and Sana Bhosle**- German Language Specialist, LGBTQIA+ activist, Indo German Chamber of Commerce, Pune

**Mr. Ranjan Dwivedi**- IPS, Former Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh.

The objective of introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the course was to introduce and acquaint other students, enrolled for this course with the concept of alternative sexual identities, and the history, law, politics, and literature of alternative sexualities in ancient, medieval and contemporary India.

Not only this, this is a kind of awareness program which comprises of highlighting socio- psychological, legal, medical- mental and awareness towards the literature part of the alternative sexualities as well. The changed law has ramifications for future legal issues such as same-sex marriage, adoption etc. The course has included discussions on the NALSA judgement and various transgender rights bills. Several cases concerning the above are being fought in Indian courts at the present time by practising lawyers. Acknowledge of these laws and the social, political and cultural issues surrounding them is imperative for law students who are desirous of having a holistic knowledge of the law.



3. Equal Opportunity Cell has celebrated National Coming Out Day with an insightful Panel Discussion on "Shades of Love: Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Inclusion" on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. Our guests for this panel discussion was Shreegauri Sawant- (Transgender Activist, Founder Trustee of Sai Savli Foundation Trust and TEDx Speaker) Chitra Palekar-Theatre Veteran, Author, TEDx Speaker and Co- founder of Sweekar - The Rainbow Parents.

This panel discussion was an attempt to change mindsets and promote inclusivity. October 11 is nationally observed as an annual awareness day to support members of the LGBTQIA+ community for Coming Out of the Closet and living the life on their terms. A panel discussion on "Shades of Love: Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Inclusion" was organised. For a long time, LGBTQIA+ community members have had to hide in fear of their livelihood and their lives. A constant fear of being rejected by friends and loved ones, as well as the community of which they are a part, has led to many of them remaining in the proverbial closet.

4. Equal Opportunity Cell begin the new year by Celebrating World Braille Day by organising an online Webinar on "Right to Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in the Domain of Education" on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The guest speaker of this webinar was Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jain- former Principal of ILS law college and currently Prof. of law at NLSU.

This webinar was arranged to help sensitizing students over the accessibility of the disabled, particularly in India and the challenges faced by them, in their day-to-day life. The primary focus of this session was acknowledging their problems and discussing the effective solutions, to make the lives easier and dignified for the differently abled.

5. Equal Opportunity Cell also arranged one International Guest Lecture "Understanding Gender Violence: A comparative study between India and UK" on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The guest speaker for this lecture was Dr. Mirana Guha- Senior Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge and a Course Leader for the Master's program in Sociology. Dr Guha has a PhD in International Development from the University of East Anglia.

The idea behind arranging this guest lecture was to give a picture and understanding of Gender-based violence as a global public health emergency that has plagued girls and women throughout history. Defined as harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender, it is a constant threat for girls and women around the world regardless of their age, race, or socioeconomic status. To address this global concern, our college has organised this guest lecture to understand the life cycle of violence in women's social relations.

6. Equal Opportunity Cell also organised One Day State Level Seminar on "Empowering & Educating Youth for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment" on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. This one- day seminar covered under 4 Sessions by 4 different



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team of professionals. The Chief Guest of this seminar was **Dr. Parag Biniwale**-  
Chairman FOGSI, Pune. The details of these 4 sessions are:

Title: "Friendly Accessibility to Police Personnel in time of Distress" was addressed  
by Ms. Anita More- Senior Inspector, Bharosa Cell, Crime Branch, Pune.

Title: "Sexual Violence: Current Scenario, Types and its Management and our  
Role as Active Bystanders" was addressed by **Dr. Vaishali Korde Nayak- Prof &  
HOD Obgy, MIMER Medical College and Senior Consultant Critical Care  
Obstetrics, Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune**

Title: "Sexual Harassment and Mental Health – Framework to understand  
Consequences, Intervention and Prevention" was addressed by **Dr. Jyoti Shetty-  
Prof. HOD, Psychiatry, Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College, Pune**

Title: "Five Laws that Protect Victims and their Rights" was addressed by **Sr. Adv.  
Vaishali Bhagwat- Founder, Vaishali Bhagwat Advocates, Pune**

It was an initiative to spread information about the social and legal implications for  
sexual harassment, the anti-sexual harassment policy and the steps in place for resolving  
complaints along with how to deal with the mental trauma that comes with such an  
incidence. The workshop will be conducted by a team of professionals, a doctor, a legal  
expert, a police personnel and a mental health practitioner.

*Note: These are the details of activities organised by Equal Opportunity Cell under its policy  
to provide barrier free inclusive and diverse environment to students, teaching and non-  
teaching staff members to its stakeholders during the academic year 2022-2023.*

**Dr. Renu Naidu**

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Chairperson Equal Opportunity Cell  
SCLC, Pune

**Dr. Kranti Deshmukh**

Principal  
MM's SCLC  
Pune

Dated: 27/05/2023

