

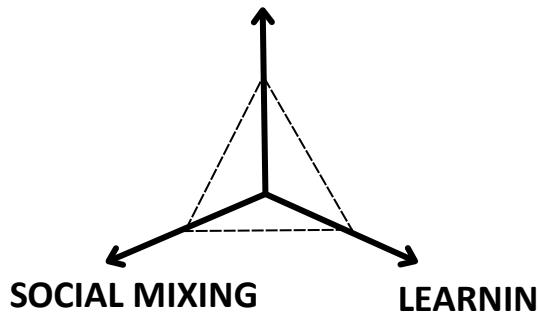
# BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CURIOSITY AND EXPOSURE

An insight into bringing foreign/domestic exchange programs to life at Gargi College, University of Delhi

Dalberg

## VISION

### KEY IMPACTS



Students on campus engaging in key interdisciplinary discussions with student leaders. Interacting with the “real world” as early as life allows them.

### IMPACT MEASUREMENT

- Intergenerational uplift: Widened opportunity pool for ‘first’ global interactions.
- Institutional goodwill: Thematic/regional exchanges fulfill uni’s social missions.
- Strengthened East: Long- term academic relationships improving research.
- Global competitiveness: Put down the building blocks for non-IIT Indian institutions to be recognized beyond borders.

### COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

- Trade-offs: Higher exposure, tighter acad schedule/strained faculties.
- Marginal Returns: Diminishing but compounding utility per exchange.
- Long-Term Returns: Credible institutes building independent thinkers.
- Distributional Effects: Benefits flow proportionally and converge via need based funding allowing students from diverse backgrounds to leverage different platforms.

### POTENTIAL LIVES AFFECTED

**2,00,000+**

Women Empowered

**UPTO 3**

Generations Uplifted

**100+**

New learning avenues

### FEASIBILITY

- Resource Pooling: Colleges can share digital infrastructure and administrative staff through a consortium model to reduce duplication and cost.
- Pilots: DU can launch small-scale pilots per program type to test demand and logistics before launching and integrate appropriate feedback via faculty and students.
- Time: Slower implementation of the NEP may hinder progress or make decision making authorities averse to any new changes in Gargi/UoD.

## WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME

### HEUTAGOGY

- Building autonomous thinking via access to diverse sharp minds, helping me answer questions that I pursue independently.
- Building familiarity within unfamiliar environments, challenging myself and those around me to be more “whole”.
- Contextual and conversational learning beyond campus echo chambers.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

- Bringing visibility to real world or academic enigmas by striking impactful conversations initiated by student leaders.
- Forcing ourselves to shift lenses, and understand problem solving at its core by knowing when and how to zoom-in and zoom-out to build thinking.
- Creating a “bigger pie” to share with peers.

### DIVERSE COHORTS

- Keeping empathy at the forefront while learning to interact with peers. Focusing on critical reflection and nuanced thinking.
- Opportunity to understand the existence of similarities and differences between people, to embrace rich cultural histories and minimize internalized discriminations.

### REAL WORLD COMPETENCY

- Dealing with intersectionalities to identify prevalent/niche socio-cultural and practical problems.
- Breaking out of dependent decision making cycles to analyse true trade-offs unique to each individual.
- Structural, analytical thinking that builds the way I deal with people day to day and learn to be a holistic leader.

*“I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”*

-Me and coincidentally also Einstein

## WHY THIS DEMANDS ATTENTION

### EXPOSURE = CURRENCY

#### ACCESS

Breaking structural gaps in access especially for a women’s college, allowing us to enter, participate and converse in impactful dialogues.

#### CREDIBILITY

Achieving feats beyond UoD and local bounds will build the credibility required for our students to stand out to employers and will amplify our ideas.

#### OPPORTUNITY

Spotting gaps in cultural, historic, academic and psychological differences among exchange program students, allowing them to build flexible pathways.

## POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS



### Thematic Exchanges

Short programs/summits without long-term displacement from campus. Concentrating on niche themes like climate, philosophy, art, robotics etc. with bi-annual meets for 2 weeks.

### BREAKING ECHO CHAMBERS

#### PREDICTABILITY

Decisions feel safer when everyone agrees, breeding unbacked overconfidence, leading to being intellectually unprepared for unconventional problems.

#### DISTORTION

Lack of dissent distorts our perception of reality. At a stage of learning and absorption, a lack of exchange of ideas eventually leads to inflation of our own ideas.

#### STAGNATION

Innovation might become accidental and not intentional when no one is pushed to rethink or rebuild ideas, leading us to attend curiosity’s funeral.



### Regional Immersions

Pairing students and mentors from countries nearing India, specifically SEA region to strengthen institutes locally and globally. Carried out via a shared consortium model with leading international institutes.



### Need Based Funding

Allowing scholarships funded by alumni/university partnerships especially to focus on reducing inequalities among candidates with reserved/unreserved seats in DU and in women-only colleges.