

# Theatre in Education @ ANDC



Acharya Narendra Dev College being primarily a Science college, Commerce being the only exception, attracts a completely different set of student clientele compared to other colleges. The stress on 'Science' as enabling is still only present in the mindset of the people away from the metros – hence we admit a lot of students from sub-urban and rural backgrounds, and often from other states. Also most of them have been educated in Hindi medium and/or in circumstances that rely purely on didactic classroom teaching. This results in students' often entering college with poor communications skills and a lack of confidence as also poor exposure to hands-on activities. In order to empower students with similar skill-set that a 'public school' education provides – that of self confidence and effective communication we decided to use theatre as an enabling medium – hence the course **ECPDT** – Effective Communication and Personality Development through Theatre.

Acharya Narendra Dev College aims to provide an enabling environment for wholesome education that envisions all-round development of the students. **ECPDT** encompasses dedicated 100-hours of rigorous training that seeks to empower the students with a healthy amount of self-belief, skills of critical analysis, decision-making

capability and ability to think independently. The course is inspired by vision of life-skills-based education of UNICEF and WHO and dedicated resource persons associated with National School of Drama act as mentors. Training under **ECPDT** helps students overcome common predicaments like stage-fright and getting tongue-tied in public and acquire proficiency and dexterity thus developing a complete turn-around in their personality.

For an education beyond the classroom, in sync with showcasing artistic talent and creative skills, the college has a theatre society, **Dhwani** - particularly popular with students. Besides routine skits, street-plays etc., **Dhwani** also provides students with a platform to exhibit their acquired skill-set in the form of a mega annual theatre production each year. **Dhwani** nurtures personal growth by inculcating a sense of responsibility, trust and resourcefulness.

The last four years has seen students staging *Sau Mein Laga Dhaga* (2011), *Ye Daagh Daagh Ujaala* (2012), *Khul Ja Sim Sim* (2013), *Spartacus, The Broken Shadows* (2014) at the Mecca of Theatre in Delhi - Sri Ram Centre.

