



DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE

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College with Potential for Excellence, Linguistic Minority Institution

Affiliated to University of Madras

Arumbakkam, Chennai – 600 106

Department of English - Shift II

Report of Department events (June 2023 – April 2024)

The Department of English (Shift II), has conducted various events in the academic year 2023 - 2024, that has facilitated in enriching the language competency and interpersonal skills of the students. The events include a seminar on strategies to Enhance Conversational Skills, a guest lecture on Mental Health and Life Skills. The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II) has conducted a skill training programme on Interview Dynamics, a workshop on The Art of Public Speaking, an Interdepartmental debate competition titled Debature, a seminar on English Language Learning through Social Media, and an Interdepartmental programme Innowitz'24.

Skill Training Programme on Interview Dynamics:

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II), conducted a Skill Training Programme on Interview Dynamics on 19.07.23 at 11:00am in the Vallabacharya Auditorium. The programme was attended by 215 students and 24 faculty members. Mr Bharathi Raja, Director of training and placement, Dhanalakshmi Engineering College, was the resource person. The programme aimed in providing valuable insights and practical tips on interview dynamics for students, helping them to boost their confidence and refine their communication skills during job interviews. Mr. Raja discussed the prospects that lie ahead in the respective fields of the students. He thoughtfully highlighted the dangers of restricting oneself to a single career path and emphasized the significance of exploring alternative opportunities. The subsequent part of Mr. Bharathi Raja's session entailed an in-depth lecture on crafting an impressive resume, tailored to meet contemporary demands. Additionally, he provided comprehensive insights into conducting a SWOT analysis, emphasizing its significance in the job-seeking process. Furthermore, he expounded on the aspects of acing interview questions like 'Tell me about yourself' and inquiries about the prospective organisation, meticulously guiding the students on how to confidently respond to such questions. The session served as a catalyst for introspection and self-evaluation among the attendees, providing them with a profound understanding of interview dynamics and empowering them to confront even the most challenging interview scenarios. Ultimately, the program successfully prepared the young minds for the dynamic and competitive world of work that lies ahead.



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Guest Lecture on Mental Health and Life Skills:

The Department of English, Shift II, organised an insightful guest lecture on ‘Mental Health and Life Skills’ on August 22, 2023 at 9 am. The event took place at the Vallabacharya Auditorium and witnessed the active participation of 211 students and 26 faculty members. The esteemed resource person of the event was Dr K Lakshmi, Psychiatrist, District Mental Health Programme, Chennai. Dr Lakshmi had an interactive session that resonated well with the diverse audience comprising students from various academic backgrounds. The resource person demonstrated a keen interest in connecting with the attendees on a personal level, encouraging them to share the challenges they face in their daily lives. During this segment, Dr Lakshmi addressed the common terminologies related to mental health that are prevalent among youngsters. She took the opportunity to clarify misconceptions and provide accurate information on these terms, nurturing a better understanding of the topic. With expertise, the resource person delved into the ‘Biopsychosocial model’ and its complex interactions, in understanding thoughts and behaviours from a psychological point of view. Additionally, Dr Lakshmi’s emphasis on the need to promote life skills such as empathy, critical thinking, and effective communication. She accentuated the significance of self-awareness and understanding one’s limits by sharing illustrative case studies to evaluate how different individuals respond to circumstances. Dr Lakshmi concluded the session by accenting the significance of maintaining balanced interpersonal relationships and honing effective communication skills. The interactive guest lecture was immensely beneficial for the students, as it fostered a better understanding of mental health issues and provided them with valuable life skills. Dr K Lakshmi’s proficiency and engaging approach helped students learn various approaches to achieve academically and build social skills as well. The event successfully achieved its objective of spreading awareness about mental well-being and empowered students to take proactive steps towards enhancing their mental health and life skills.



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Workshop on the Art of Public Speaking:

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II), organised a workshop on the art of public speaking on 22.09.2023, at 2:00 PM in the Dwarka Auditorium. The workshop garnered substantial participation, with 25 faculty members and an impressive attendance of 361 students. The event featured two distinguished resource persons: Dr H. Abdul Hadi, Assistant Professor of English, New College, and Ms. Kirthiga Nagaraj, trilingual consultant and psychotherapist. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in the art of public speaking. The members of the Literary Debating Society were bestowed with their badges, by Dr K.K Lakshmi, Head of the department, paving way for kindling dynamic leadership, a sense of responsibility and positive change among the students. Dhansri K of II CPA, Rackshitha of I Psychology and, Dhyaneshwar K of II BSc Computer Science (B) were entrusted with the prestigious titles of President, Vice president and Secretary respectively. Dr Abdul Hadi initiated the proceedings with an enlightening talk on public speaking. He delved into the strategies for mastering the skill, which included mastering the language, focusing on one central idea, and identifying one's area of interest and proficiency. The event held a unique significance, as it also served as the finals of Debature, a debate program organised by the department. Eight finalists from various departments, formed four teams to engage in a compelling debate, that showcased their confidence and competence in the art of public speaking. Following this, Ms. Kirthiga Nagaraj shared her insights on the evolving nature of public speaking, providing valuable guidance on emotional regulation, offering strategies to overcome the fear of being misunderstood and the anxiety of lacking instant feedback. The workshop concluded with the announcement of the winners of the Debature competition by the resource persons who also served as the judges of the event. The Department of BBA emerged victorious, claiming the overall trophy. The workshop on the art of public speaking was a valuable learning experience, enabling students to grasp the intricacies of public speaking. The invaluable insights and guidance provided left a lasting impact, instilling confidence and inspiring future public speakers.



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Debature- Interdepartmental Debate Competition:

The Literary Debating Society (LDS) of the Department of English (Shift II) organised the finals of Debature; a debate competition, on September 22, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Dwaraka Auditorium. The competition provided eight finalists from BBA, B.com AF, B.com honours, and BSc Psychology a platform to showcase their proficiency in the art of public speaking. The grand finals of Debature was held following a prestigious investiture ceremony. The investiture was presided by Dr K. Valli, Assistant Professor, wherein 13 members of the LDS received their badges from Dr K.K. Lakshmi, the Head of the Department. It marked the beginning of nurturing dynamic leadership qualities and a strong sense of responsibility. Notably, Dhansri K from II CPA (B), Rackshitha from I Psychology, and Dhyaneswar K from II BSc Computer Science (B) were honoured with the prestigious titles of President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively. These students will form the backbone of the LDS and actively participate in all its organised events.

'Debature' served as an interactive platform for students to put into practice the principles that were discussed during the workshop on the Art of Public Speaking. After active registration, the preliminary rounds with 62 participants from 16 departments took place on September 14, 2023, at Basha Sangam FF01 and FF02 and Goverdhan Block ET27 and ET28. The preliminaries involved evaluations by two panels of three assistant professors from the



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Department of English (Shift II). To ensure impartiality, students were assigned slot numbers and their identities were kept undisclosed. They chose topics from an offered pool of 30 current and relevant subjects. Each student had 3 minutes for preparation and 3 minutes for presentation. The rubric included Content, Coherence, Diction/Fluency and Adaptability.

The finals showcased an abundance of talent among the students, who delivered exceptional debates. Dr Abdul Hadi, Assistant Professor at New College, and Ms. Kirthika Nagaraj, consultant and psychotherapist who conducted the workshop on the art of public speaking, graciously accepted the role of judges for the finals. The rubrics for judging included content/arguments, clarity/style, diction/fluency and non-verbal communication. Varun from II BBA (C), P Amit Pramod from II BBA(B) and P Nain Sharma from II BBA (C) secured the first, second and third place respectively. The Department of BBA emerged triumphant, securing the overall trophy.





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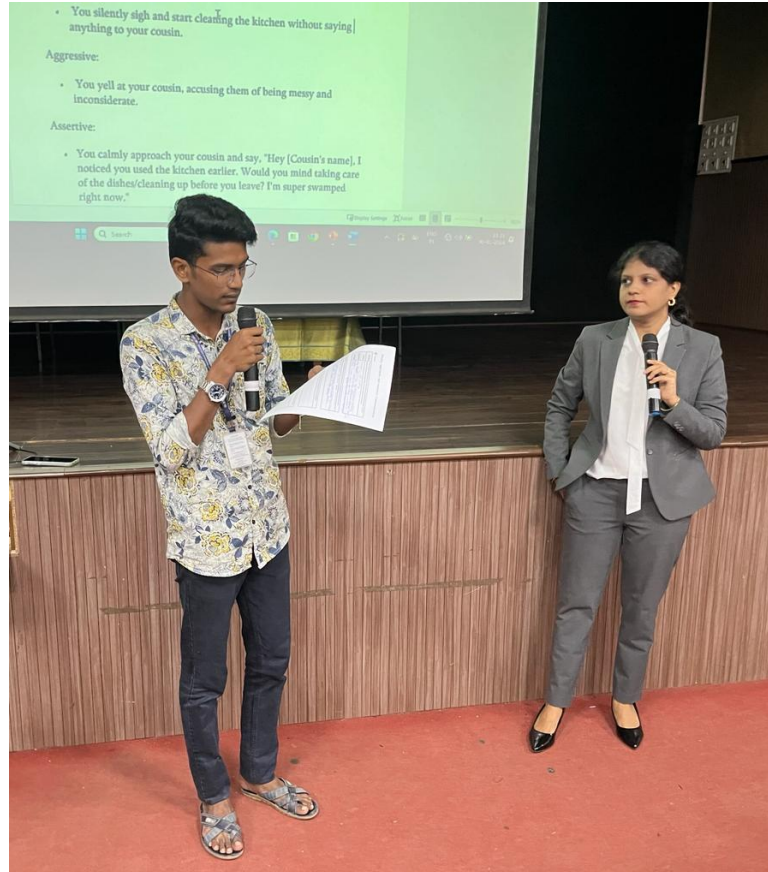
Seminar on Strategies to Enhance Conversational Skills:

Discerning the necessity of having effective and reasonable conversations in the contemporary times, the department of English (Shift II) organised a Seminar on ‘Strategies to Enhance Conversational Skills’ on 30th January 2024 at 10.00 a.m. in Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The seminar witnessed a whopping participation of 192 students of various departments and 20 faculty members. Ms. Dhanalakshimi A., Soft Skills Trainer for Corporate and CA aspirants, M.D., Tokoni Coffee, Chennai served as the resource person. The Principal, Dr S. Santhosh Baboo graced the occasion with his presence and aptly accentuated the topic of the seminar by emphasising its pertinence in today's world. He encouraged the students to initiate conversations and build rapport by discussing few common grounds and sharing personal experiences, which was followed by the release of the department’s Newsletter, Skylark, Vol. IV. Ms. Dhanalakshimi commenced the session with a brainstorming question on social media, the topic that kindled the critical thinking of the students. This enabled them to express instinctively and the activity set stage for the intended theme of the session. The resource person guided the students to share from their personal experiences and discussed the numerous reasons for the generation z social media usage. The resource person incorporated several activities for the students so that there was enough participation throughout the session. The activities were comprehensible for them to appreciate the implication in active listening, non-verbal cues and the diverse perspectives of understanding in communication. The worksheets circulated among the students, sparked their lateral thinking, in attempting new efforts, evade making assumptions and pose questions. The vibrant and well-structured activities with effective worksheets kept the students engaging and informative as well. The Seminar was highly beneficial to the students as it furnished many techniques and strategies to enhance their conversational skills. The session empowered the students to master the essential components, and develop confidence to engage in meaningful and productive conversations.



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Seminar on English Language Learning through Social Media:

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II), conducted a seminar titled English Language Learning through Social Media on 13.02.24 at 10.00 am in the Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The seminar was attended by 166 students and 25 faculty members, with much enthusiasm and avidity. Dr. S. Krishna, Associate professor, Department of English, AMET University, Chennai, was the resource person. The seminar was organised to aid the students in exploring effective strategies for using social media platforms to enhance English language proficiency and fostering interactive learning experiences. The principal Captain Dr S. Santosh Baboo, presented a memento to honour the resource person. The principal addressed the gathering by sharing personal experiences of using social media for communication and learning. Cautioning students about its potential drawbacks, he emphasized its dual nature describing it as a double-edged sword. The session unfolded with an engaging activity led by the resource person, involving interactions with student volunteers to delve into their social media usage. The resource person underscored the necessity to redefine socialisation in the digital realm. She also highlighted the enduring impact, individuals can have in the online space, emphasizing that people are judged based on their posts, shares, and follows. Encouraging students to view social media as a valuable learning tool, the resource person stressed the need for self-discipline and responsible use. The discussion then delved into practical steps, examining the integral role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in daily life. Open-access websites offering free learning opportunities were highlighted, showcasing the accessibility of educational resources for students. She highlighted the potential of social media as a valuable learning tool emphasizing the notion that online platforms provide an environment free from the fear of judgment and self-consciousness. The seminar concluded with the LDS volunteers performing a skit that focussed on how students can grasp English language and stay updated on the evolving vocabulary and trends through diverse social media platforms. The students gained insights into responsible social media usage and practical steps to enhance learning through ICT. The event aided them to empower themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital world and sharpen their language learning abilities.



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INNOWIZ' 24 –Prelims:

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English organised the preliminary rounds and finals of Innowiz'24, an interdepartmental event, on the 9th, 12th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, of February 2024. Renowned for its dedication to nurture young talents and foster innovative initiatives, the engaging competitions aimed at igniting curiosity and enhance the linguistic prowess of the students. Through vocabulary-centric events like Spell bee, word relay, caption writing, and word salad, participants were encouraged to expand their lexicon, and sharpen communication skills. Creativity-oriented contests such as essay writing, If you were a writer, spontaneous verse, and wings unfurled provided platforms for participants to unleash their imagination, express their thoughts, and demonstrate their ability to think critically. Jokesmith, marooned, twenty questions, podcast, and trash to treasure were organised to provide participants with opportunities to showcase their unique abilities, in humour, storytelling, and creativity. Caption writing, coordinated by Mr. Veeran on 09.02.2024 saw M. Ashwath I BBA (A) winning and Chiraag Kumar Bohra I B com CS (A) as the runner-up. Word Salad, coordinated by Ms. R Shalini Priscilla, was won by Saran S II BSc CS (B), with Ashwanth M(I BBA(A) securing the runner-up spot. The preliminary rounds of spell bee, coordinated by Dr T Kanchana Devi was held on 12.02.2024 with 41 participants, and seven finalists chosen. Word Relay, coordinated by Dr P Senthil Kumaran, saw seven finalists out of 44 participants. If You Were a Writer, coordinated by Ms. N Abinaya Devi event on 20.02.2024 had 19 participants across two sessions. Sanjaynath SD II B com CS (B) won, with Varshini V II BA Economics as runner-up. Marooned event on the same day, coordinated by Ms. K Rajashree had eight participants, with Mahima I B com AF (D) emerging as the winner and Harsha Rajkumar I BSc Statistics as the runner-up. Essay writing sessions coordinated by Ms. K Rajashree on 21.02.2024 had two topics: 'Power of Education' and 'Mental health.' Sumitra P won the forenoon session, and Saran S II BSc CS (B) was the runner-up. In the Twenty Questions event, 23 participants engaged, out of which 7 finalists were chosen. The Jokesmith event, coordinated by Dr T Kanchana Devi, had Sanjay Amudhan winning and Tejaswavin II Statistics as runner-up.

The Spontaneous Verse event, on February 22nd was coordinated by Ms. A Netra themed around 'Light/Shadows' and 'Journey/Destination. Diksha I B com AF (B) won, with Kamalesh (I BCom FT) as runner-up. In the Wings Unfurled event, coordinated by Ms. SK Rahmath, Gowri Shankar from II B com AF (D) won for storytelling, with Ravinandan Udai (I Sociology) as runner-up. The Trash to Treasure event, held on 23.02.2024, was coordinated by Ms. N Abinaya Devi, with S Swathi from I BBA (C) emerging as the winner and B Shobana



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(I BCom Honours) as the runner-up. In the Podcast event coordinated by Ms. C Vidhya, Harini I (BCom Honours) won, and Meenakshi P from I BCom (B) was the runner-up. The event aided in showcasing diverse talents, fostering creativity and critical thinking among students through engaging competitions spanning from vocabulary challenges to storytelling events.





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INNOWIZ'24 – Interdepartmental Event:

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II) conducted the interdepartmental event INNOWIZ'24 on March 15, 2024, at 2:30 PM in the Vallabacharya Auditorium. The event witnessed the presence of 23 faculty members and 165 students. Mr. Ranganathan Chakravarthy, Grand Master and International Scrabble Player, and Founder of Madras Scrabble Foundation, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event aimed to enhance vocabulary through gamification and bring out the diverse talents of the students through various events. The role of emcee was carried out by LDS volunteers, headed by B. Shiloh Hewins from I BBM. The welcome address was delivered by K Dhansri, II CPA (B) President, while the introduction of the Chief Guest was given by Rakshitha K, (I BSc Psychology). Vice President Dr KK Lakshmi felicitated the guest with a certificate of appreciation and a plant as a memento, as part of the Go Green initiative. Mr. Chakravarthy, commenced the session by elucidating the intricacies of Scrabble and its potential impact on young minds. He unravelled its potential to shape and stimulate the minds of the youth. He expounded upon the game's rules and the various techniques to unveil new words. He talked about the origin of the game and its historical significance. Emphasizing the relationship between gamification and pedagogy, Mr. The talk resonated deeply with the audience, igniting a discourse on innovative educational paradigms. The audience were then provided with insights into the annual events organised by the Department of English and the Literary Debating Society through a visually aided presentation. Subsequently, the event transitioned into the finals of the spell bee competition, featuring four finalists across three rounds. Following a tie-breaker involving three participants, K Ramyashri Varshini and Shalini S of I BSc Biotech and I BCA (B) respectively emerged as the winner and runner-up. The day also witnessed the finals of the events, Word relay and Twenty questions. The word relay event featured students tasked with generating pertinent words stemming from a given word. Among the 7 finalists, Vineeth Sathiya from II BSc Viscom A and Sanjaynath from II B com CS (B) emerged victorious as the winner and runner-up respectively. In the twenty questions segment, six finalists were provided with twenty attempts to guess the identity of a renowned personality. Tejaswavin from II BSc Statistics and Mukesh GM from II B com CS (D) claimed the titles of winner and runner-up. Mr. Chakravarthy presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up of all the events conducted during INNOWIZ. The winners and runners received a silver coin of 4gms and 3gms respectively. The LDS volunteers and the faculty were also awarded with tokens of gratitude for their unwavering support and dedication. The event fostered vocabulary



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enrichment and showcased diverse talents, culminating in an engaging event with Scrabble insights from Mr. Ranganathan Chakravarthy and successful competitions, reinforcing a vibrant learning environment.





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Report of Staff achievements:

The Department of English (Shift II), has always strived for excellence as the faculty members are motivated and driven to upgrade their skills in various forums of teaching and language competencies. In the academic year (June 2023 - April 2024), the department has to its credit eleven paper presentations, three paper publications, participation by staff members in 78 FDPs, 9 International, National and regional seminars, 27 workshops, 9 refresher courses and 3 book chapters by Dr. K.K Lakshmi, Dr. T Kanchana Devi and Ms. Aiswarya K Nair. Dr. K.K Lakshmi, the head of the Department (Shift II), has published three papers titled 'Impact of the Metaverse on Organisational Culture and Communication', 'Human-centered Artificial Intelligence in Education, Present and Future Opportunities', 'The Impact of Remote Work on the Culture and Performance of Multinational Corporation' in UGC Approved, Refereed Indexed, International Journals. She has also received the prestigious Library Ambassador Award by the Society of Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), DDGD Vaishnav College. Dr. K.K Lakshmi has also acted as the Library Stock Verification Committee member, and has delivered a key note address at a state level seminar on 'Enhancing 21st Century Skills for Library Professionals'. She has acted as a resource person for a guest lecture organised by A.M Jain College, Chennai. She has also been a team lead of the English Board at National Institute of Open Schooling. She has delivered a guest lecture on 'Communicating with Diplomacy and Tact' at Signet Ring Solutions. Ms. R Shalini Priscilla had acted as a Judge for the Regional Level Elocution Competition in The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Ms. A Netra has served as an External Expert for the Group Discussion session conducted for the PG admission (MHRM) in DGDVC. Ms. Sangeetha has acted as a resource person for a guest Lecture organised by Nazareth Arts and Science College, Chennai. The department remains committed to inspiring its members and upholding the college's reputation with more excellence in the forthcoming years.