



DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE

(Autonomous)

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 2024 – APRIL 2025)

The Department of English (Shift II) has organized several events in the academic year 2024-2025 to enhance students' communication skills and language competencies. The events include a seminar on English for Competitive Exams, a skill enhancement programme on Emotional Intelligence, a Guest Lecture on Ethical Considerations in Resume Crafting, and seminar on Learning English and Its Relevance in the 21st Century. The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II) has conducted a workshop on Public Speaking, and an Interdepartmental debate competition titled Debature.

SEMINAR ON ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

The Department of English (Shift II) organised a seminar, titled 'English for Competitive Exams' on 25th July 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The seminar amassed 170 students and 21 faculty members. The resource person for the seminar was Mr. S. Haribalasiranjeevi, Dean and Expert, Buddha IAS Academy (P) Ltd., Chennai. The seminar was tailored to equip the students with comprehensive knowledge and effective strategies for excelling in various competitive exams. The exam pattern, syllabus, the cutoffs and the distribution of questions discussed by the resource person provided copious information to the students. The speaker's tutelage on various case studies, gave the learners confidence to take up competitive examinations. He briefed on the significance of focusing on available resources like newspapers to enhance the vocabulary and get updated with current affairs. He recommended various books that would help the students to prepare the exam. His emphatic suggestion on the various techniques to clear the exam, the need for mock tests and constant practice, served as a much-needed session to the learners.

The students gained insights into a systematic and dedicated approach to preparing for competitive exams. They learnt that an emphasis on English language, can lead to significant improvement in academic performance. The seminar enabled the students to comprehend the prominent role of English in competitive exams, inevitability in mastering grammar, and enhance English proficiency for a stellar career.



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SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME - EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE: A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS:

The Department of English (Shift II) conducted a Skill Enhancement Programme on 'Emotional Intelligence: A Roadmap to Success', on 20th August, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. in Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The event witnessed 22 staff and 169 participants with immense interest and fervour. The programme featured an erudite resource person, Mr. P. Raja Venkatesh, Soft Skills and Behavioural Skills Trainer, associated with NPTEL and IIT Madras. The programme was conducted to enable the students to comprehend emotions and empathise



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with others, boosting interpersonal exchanges and improving mental health and well-being. Mr. Raja Venkatesh gave an insightful discourse on the working of human psyche, and the tendency of the human mind to pursue specific goals. He threw light on how to communicate more effectively and strengthen our relationship to nurture our emotional well-being. Mr. Raja Venkatesh acknowledged the students who volunteered for the activities, by presenting them with a small token of appreciation. He guided the learners through varied aspects of emotional intelligence, providing useful insights and practical tools. Mr. Raja Venkatesh's guidance coupled with interactive sessions and engaging activities, left a positive impact on the attendees.

The key takeaway, 'Respond, Don't React,' served as an illuminating principle for the participants to deal with complex emotions and interactions. The session on Emotional Intelligence highlighted the techniques to nurture thoughtful decision-making. The students gained insights in comprehending emotional patterns to attain holistic development.





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A GUEST LECTURE ON ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RESUME CRAFTING:

The Department of English, Shift II, organised a Guest Lecture on ‘Ethical Considerations in Resume Crafting’, on 25.09.24 at 10.30 am in Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The programme witnessed a massive participation of 172 students and 23 staff members. The resource person was Ms.Indraa Panneer, Founder and Director of Valam Solutions, HR Expert and Entrepreneur. The guest lecture was conducted to enable the learners, comprehend the significance of drafting a resume, and the need to adhere to ethical standards while perfecting a resume. Ms.Indraa stressed on the features of resume formats, and the do’s and don’ts in resume writing. The techniques on preparing the layout, assisted the students to understand the components in drafting an effective resume. Ms.Indraa also examined some common ethical mistakes, and provided guidelines to avoid exaggerating qualifications. The session focused on the best resume practices that included pertinent contact details, a LinkedIn profile, career summary, work experience, education and transferable skills of the learners. The students actively participated throughout the session and involved in discussions.

The guest lecture was immensely beneficial as it offered students the opportunity to interact with industry professional and acquire factual knowledge. The session also enabled the learners to gain practical skills, diverse insights and relevant industry practices in creating an effective resume. The guest lecture equipped the students with the crucial techniques involved in drafting a resume for their stellar career.



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SEMINAR ON LEARNING ENGLISH AND ITS RELEVANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

The Department of English (Shift II) hosted a seminar on ‘Learning English and Its Relevance in the 21st Century’ on 8.1.25 in collaboration with the British Council Library. The event was held at the SRG Auditorium at 11.30 a.m. The seminar witnessed a whopping participation of 442 students and 23 staff members. Mr.Sharoon Rubinstein, Tutor for Teachers, and Ms. Anitha Sivakumar, Library Manager, Education/Cultural Engagement at the British Council, were the resource persons of the day. The seminar was conducted to emphasise the inevitability of English in the present scenario and explore strategies to master the language. The volunteers of the Literary Debating Society were awarded with badges by Dr. K.K Lakshmi, the head of the department, expressing gratitude for their dedication. The speaker interacted with the students to encourage their critical thinking, and enable them to have a deeper understanding of the concepts discussed. The speaker shared practical approaches and learning methodologies of language learning, desirable for the 21st century. He further emphasised on task-based learning and communicative approach for developing language skills. He made the session lively by connecting language learning to various practical life experiences. This approach resonated with the students, who were able to relate the concepts discussed with their own lives. Following this, Ms. Anitha Sivakumar provided valuable insights about the British council library and its resources. She explained about the events that took place in the library and encouraged active student participation. She briefed the learners about the extensive



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collection of books, digital resources and also the benefits of accessing the repository of research and reference materials.

The seminar significantly enhanced students' understanding of the importance of English in today's globalised world, particularly in communication, education and professional development. By providing a valuable opportunity for students to interact with British Council experts, the event fostered networking and knowledge exchange. The seminar successfully achieved its objectives by offering insights on learning the English language, its relevance in the 21st century, and promoting the development of essential skills for success in a globalised world.





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WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC SPEAKING:

The Literary Debating Society (LDS) of the English Department (Shift II) organised a workshop on '**Public Speaking**' on 25th February 2025, at 2 p.m. in the SRG Auditorium. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of 468 students and 25 faculty members. The resource person for the event was Dr. John Ilavarasu, Assistant Professor, A.M. Jain College, Chennai. The workshop was organised to aid the students in developing confidence, and incorporating the significance of public speaking. The workshop commenced with insights from the principal, Captain Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo, who emphasised that communication skills is crucial in today's competitive world. The session focussed on the importance of communication and the art of delivering a structured speech to the audience with clarity and confidence. He elaborated on the different types of public speaking and offered valuable tips to improve one's confidence. The LDS president Ms. Rakshitha K (II B.Sc. Psychology) and LDS member Mr. Vishnu Karthik S (I B.Sc. Psychology) were the master of the ceremony. The welcome address was delivered by LDS member Mr. Vivek K (I BBA 'B'), and the introduction to the Chief Guest was given by Mr. Jashwanth M V (I BCOM CS 'C'). Dr K.K. Lakshmi, Head, Department of English, felicitated the guest with a certificate of appreciation and a memento. Mr. Krish, the secretary of LDS, briefed the audience about the **Society**, established in 2017 by Dr. K.K. Lakshmi. The members of LDS were honoured with certificates in recognition of their dedication and contribution. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Nishanth Kumar (I BCOM 'A'). The workshop effectively enhanced students' public speaking and debating skills, providing practical insights into communication and leadership. The programme encouraged confidence-building, critical thinking, and articulation, benefiting students' academic and professional growth. Students gained valuable strategies to overcome stage fear and improve fluency. The session motivated the students to be assertive, in order to engage the listeners effectively. The emphatic workshop was immensely beneficial as it strengthened leadership and persuasion skills.



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DEBATURE - INTERDEPARTMENTAL DEBATE COMPETITION:

As an extensive part of English Department (Shift II), the Literary Debating Society (LDS) conducted a debate competition titled, 'Debature' on 25th February 2025, at 2 p.m. in the SRG Auditorium. This competition aimed to enhance student's critical thinking, public speaking and analytical skills. Nearly 468 students and 25 faculty members attended this programme enthusiastically. The competition was inaugurated by the respected principal, Captain Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo, who highlighted the importance of debate in enhancing communication skills. The preliminary rounds of 'Debature' were conducted on January 31, 2025 with 59 entries across departments. A relevant topic with three minutes of preparatory time and three minutes for presentation was allotted for each student. Top 16 out of 59 entries were selected for the semi-finals. The semi-final was conducted on February 7, 2025 in Basha Sangam (FF02). Ms. Rajashree K, and Ms. Netra A, the faculty members of English Department (Shift II) shortlisted eight finalists based on content, coherence, diction, and adaptability. The much-anticipated finale of the **Debate competition** was conducted in the SRG Auditorium on February 25, 2025. The top 8 finalists, presented their arguments, showcasing their eloquence, critical thinking, and debating skills. Dr. John Ilavarasu, Assistant Professor, A.M. Jain College, Chennai, judged the participants based on content, delivery, clarity, and rebuttal skills. Mr. Achyuth R (I BBA) secured the first prize, Mr. Kenneth Joshua B (II B.Com CS) won the second prize, and Mr. Pranav Akshay M K (I B.Com) secured the third prize. Dr. John Ilavarasu and Dr. K.K. Lakshmi, Head, Department of English (Shift II) honoured the winners with silver coins and memento. The department of BBA, won the overall rolling championship trophy for their outstanding performance.

The Debature competition nurtured participants' analytical and persuasive abilities. The competition promoted and strengthened the confidence in students, in terms of public speaking. It provided a platform to enhance their debating skills. The students gained insights to present their arguments eloquently. Further, it has promoted critical thinking, and reasoning among the students. The competition contributed significantly to students' personal and career development.



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REPORT OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Department of English (Shift II) has always aimed for excellence, with faculty members actively enhancing their teaching and language skills through various platforms. In the academic year (June 2024 - April 2025), the department has to its credit 5 paper presentations, 12 paper publications, 3 book chapters. Participation by staff members include 46 FDPs, 31 seminars/workshops, 2 refresher courses. Dr. K.K Lakshmi, the head of the Department (Shift



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II), has published an impressive eight research papers in prestigious Scopus Indexed Journals, showcasing her exceptional expertise and dedication to academic excellence. Dr. K.K Lakshmi has also acted as the Judge for an event conducted by the Department of Economics in DDGDVC College. Mr. Veeran has published one research paper in UGC CARE listed Journal. Ms. Aiswarya Nair has published one paper in UGC CARE and 2 book chapters. The department remains dedicated to motivating its members and enhancing the college's reputation with even more excellence in the years ahead.