



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES 2017-23

SESSION 2017-18

OPEN-AIR CLASS ON ROMANTICISM

On March 27, 2018, the 4th-semester students (B.A. II) of English Honors were taken on a nature walk and open class on Romanticism in the reserved forest in the Catchment area of Shimla.

Objective: The main objective of the nature walk and open class was to create awareness among the students about the significance of the natural environment and its impact on human well-being. Additionally, the objective was to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Romantic poets and their inspiration drawn from nature.

The students embarked on an 8-kilometer walk through the thick forest of beautiful Cedars in the Catchment area of Shimla. During the walk, they immersed themselves in nature and the serene surroundings, preparing themselves for the open class on Romanticism. The open class provided a platform for the students to discuss and reflect upon the poetry of Wordsworth, Keats, and Shelley in the context of their personal experiences in nature. This shared experience fostered a deeper understanding of the connection between nature and the themes explored by the Romantic poets.

Outcome: The nature walk and open class on Romanticism resulted in the following outcomes:

1. **Self-study and interpretation:** Through this experience, the students learned to interpret the texts based on their own perceptions of nature. They realized that their personal connection with nature could influence their understanding and interpretation of the poetry. This self-study approach allowed them to delve deeper into the meaning and significance of the Romantic poets' works.
2. **Correlation of life's incidents and emotions with nature:** The students discovered the correlation between life's incidents, emotions, and the natural world. They recognized that major lessons of life, such as weathering storms, standing tall and upright, and rootedness, could be learned by observing nature. This understanding enriched their appreciation of nature and its impact on human experiences.
3. **Greater appreciation and understanding of Romantic poets:** The excursion deepened the students' appreciation and understanding of the Romantic poets and their inspiration drawn from nature. By experiencing nature firsthand and reflecting on the poetry in its natural context, the students developed a greater sense of connection with the Romantic poets and their works.



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SESSION 2018-2019

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SENSITIZATION

On December 18, 2018, the Community Outreach Cell organized an interactive program at the Govt. Middle School in Theog. Students from the English Department of St. Bede's College accompanied the program as part of the department's extension activities.

Objective: The main objective of the interactive program at the Govt. Middle School in Theog was to provide urban students from St. Bede's College with an opportunity to engage with children from rural areas. Through this interaction, the students aimed to gain insight into the social and economic disparities that exist between urban and rural communities.

Upon arrival at the Govt. Middle School, the students and staff from St. Bede's College were warmly welcomed by the staff and students of the school. The interaction started with a game of 'Dog n the Bone', in which both students and teachers participated. Following that, the school children were divided into groups, and planned races were conducted for them. Races included a race for the tiny tots, a balloon race for class 6 and 7 girls, a 'cardigan buttoning race' for senior boys, and a lemon and spoon race for classes 4-5. The students also enjoyed games such as 'passing the parcel' and 'Musical Chairs', with prizes and chocolates awarded to the participants.

The generosity and hospitality of the village school were worth mentioning. The visiting students were not only welcomed with a cup of hot tea and biscuits but were also invited to partake in the mid-day meal at the school itself. The day ended with a sense of fulfillment and valuable learning experiences.

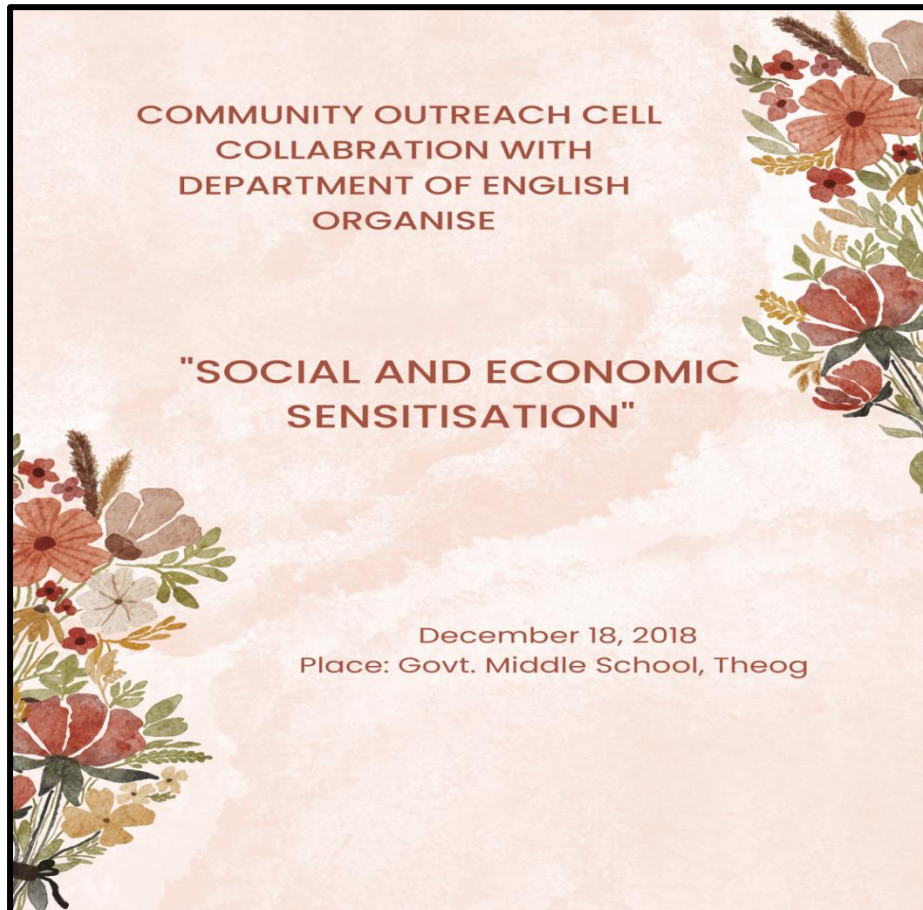
Outcome: The interactive program at the Govt. Middle School in Theog resulted in the following outcomes:

1. **Appreciation of innocence and genuineness:** The students from St. Bede's College gained a deep appreciation for the innocence and genuineness of people in rural areas. The interaction allowed them to see life from a different perspective and understand the simplicity and authenticity that exists in rural communities.
2. **Respect for people with diverse circumstances:** The students developed a heightened respect for individuals who may not have all the resources and privileges that urban dwellers often take for granted. They gained a greater understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities and learned to value the resilience and strength of individuals living in such circumstances.
3. **Empathy and sensitivity:** Through the interaction, the students cultivated empathy and sensitivity towards the living conditions and school life of rural children. They gained insight into the social and economic disparities that exist between urban and rural areas and were motivated to contribute towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society.



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The experience encouraged the students to become more socially conscious and actively contribute to bridging social and economic disparities in society.





EDUCATIONAL TRIP

From April 3-6, 2019, a study trip to the Partition Museum in Amritsar was organized for the English Honors students of St. Bede's College. Fourteen students from the VI semester, accompanied by staff members embarked on this educational trip.

Objective: The main objective of the study trip to the Partition Museum was to enable students to comprehend the psychological and historical perspectives of the traumatic 1947 Partition. The visits aimed to evoke empathy for the victims and survivors by exploring human stories behind the events.

The trip began with a visit to the Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib. Besides being a significant pilgrimage site for Sikhs, the Golden Temple symbolizes brotherly love and teaches the lessons of egalitarianism and humility.

The following day, the students visited Jallianwala Bagh, the Partition Museum, and Gobindgarh Fort. Jallianwala Bagh holds great historical importance and stands as a memorial to the hundreds of innocent lives lost in the infamous massacre. It serves as a reminder of the atrocities committed during that time, leaving a deep impact on the visitors.

The Partition Museum, established in 2017, is the world's first museum dedicated to the Partition. Housed in the historic Town Hall in Amritsar, the museum presents the horrors and aftermath of the 1947 Partition through various mediums, including documents, artifacts, oral histories, photographs, interviews, art, literature, songs, and personal belongings. It is divided into four parts, providing a comprehensive documentation of the period before, during, and after the Partition. The museum immerses visitors in the experiences and emotions of that tumultuous time, providing a powerful and authentic portrayal of the events. The songs, poems, and sounds of the era further enhance the authenticity and impact for the visitors.

Upon returning to college, the students were eager to read and discuss Partition literature, which offers a sharp commentary on human nature, migrant experiences, and the struggles of displaced individuals. This literature shed light on the sense of exile within one's own homeland and the challenges faced by tens of thousands of displaced men, women, and children who sought a dignified life in the newly formed nation.

Outcome: The study trip to the Partition Museum and other historical sites resulted in the following outcomes:

1. **Historical and psychological understanding:** The students developed a deeper understanding of the historical and psychological perspectives of the traumatic 1947 Partition. They were exposed to the human stories, trauma, and resilience of the individuals who experienced the Partition firsthand.
2. **Advocacy for social change and human rights:** Learning about communal coexistence and the struggles faced by people during the Partition, the students were



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inspired to advocate for social change, justice, and human rights. The trip motivated them to actively work towards creating a more inclusive and peaceful society.

3. **Reflection, dialogue, and action:** The sites visited during the trip served as catalysts for reflection, dialogue, and action. The experience prompted the students to engage in discussions, critically analyse the impact of historical events, and contemplate their roles in shaping a better future.

The trip inspired them to advocate for social change, justice, and human rights, fostering a commitment to creating a more inclusive and peaceful society.



INTERNSHIP AT SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SHIMLA, H.P. BY THE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.

The Social Welfare Department in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh provided internship opportunities to students from the English Department. These internships aimed to provide practical experience and deepen the students' understanding of charity and social responsibility.



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During the specified period, the students had the opportunity to work with organizations focused on child education, women empowerment, and healthcare.

Objective: The main objective of the internship program was to emphasize the importance of giving back to the community and understanding the obligations we have towards the less privileged. Through this hands-on experience, the students were expected to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-life situations and gain a deeper understanding of the social issues prevalent in society.

Ms. Tithi Agarwal, a final year student of English Honors, interned with Ek Pahel B.R. Memorial Welfare Society, which focuses on child education, women empowerment, and healthcare in Himachal Pradesh. Her internship spanned from May 22, 2019, to June 12, 2019. During this period, she actively participated in the organization's activities and contributed towards their initiatives.

Additionally, Tithi Agarwal, Ankita Sharma, and Rashmi Garg, also final year students of English Honors, worked with the Child and Social Welfare Department, Govt. of H.P., at the Kasturba Bal Ashram in Shimla. Their internship lasted for a month from September to October 2019. They took on the responsibility of teaching English and Mathematics to children between the ages of 6 and 10. These students were also members of the ELT@I (English Language Teachers' Association of India) - Shimla chapter.

Outcome: The internship provided a transformative experience for the students, contributing to their personal growth and development. Through their involvement in various social welfare activities, they gained practical insights into the challenges faced by marginalized communities. This hands-on experience helped the students in developing a deeper understanding of social issues and enhanced their empathy and compassion towards the less privileged.



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SESSION 2020-2021

A WEBINAR ON 'IMAGE, COMMUNICATION AND ETIQUETTE'

Objective: The main objective was to impart an introductory training session to the final year girls giving them an interactive session on image building, communication skills and etiquette.

A webinar on the topic 'Image, Communication and Etiquette' was organized in collaboration with Amity University Delhi on September 4, 2020., aimed at providing insights on social manners to the attendees. The session was conducted by Dr. Eeshani Saraswat, Deputy Director at Amity Finishing School, Delhi. The webinar comprised three sessions, each with a duration of 1.5 hours.

The first session focused on non-verbal communication, emphasizing the importance of body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice in communicating effectively. The session discussed the different types of non-verbal communication, their impact on the audience, and how to use them to convey the intended message.

The second session revolved around professional and social etiquette, including dining etiquettes, telephone etiquettes, and meeting etiquettes. The resource person emphasized the importance of being courteous, respectful, and attentive in professional and social settings. The



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session provided insights on how to present oneself confidently and professionally in various situations.

The final session of the webinar focused on image and wardrobe management. The session discussed the importance of dressing appropriately, maintaining personal hygiene, and grooming oneself in a professional and presentable manner. The attendees were provided with insights on how to choose the right attire for different occasions, how to accessorize, and how to maintain one's wardrobe.

The webinar was an informative and engaging event, providing valuable insights on social manners and etiquette to the attendees. The resource person's expertise in the subject matter and interactive approach made the sessions interesting and interactive, ensuring that the attendees gained a better understanding of the topic.

Outcome: After the webinar, a number of students registered for a certified online program on Business Etiquette training, which was scheduled for a month. During this program, students were trained on a range of topics, including business networking skills, appropriate workplace attire, and professionalism in any given workplace.

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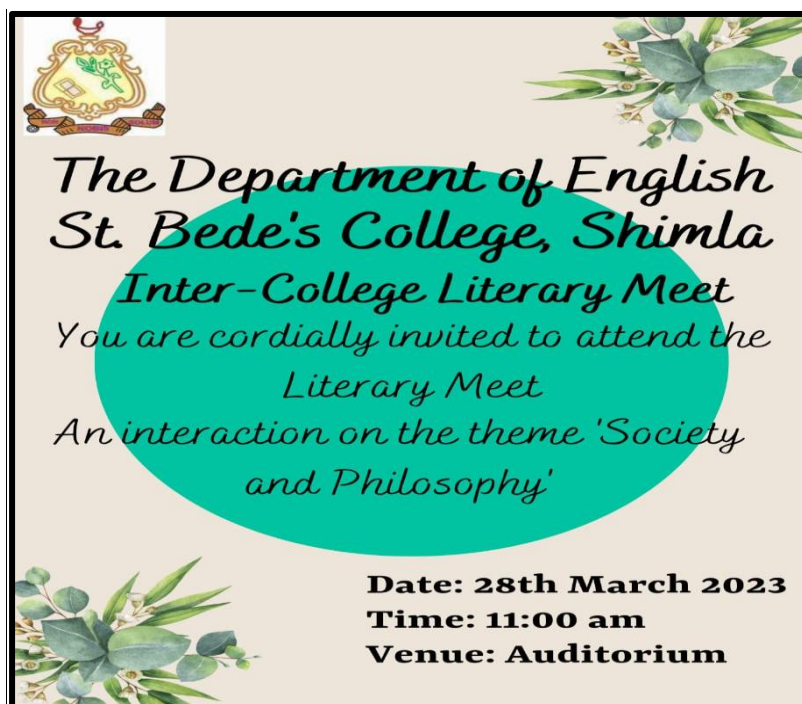
SESSION 2022-23

ENGLISH LITERARY MEET 2022-23

Objective: To give students the opportunity to broaden their perspective, gain new experience and learn new skills, by interacting with students from other colleges.

The Department of English, St. Bede's College, organised an English Literary Meet on March 28, 2023 where students from St. Bede's College and the Centre of Excellence, Government Post Graduate College, Sanjauli, Shimla interacted with each other. The theme of the literary meet was 'Society and Philosophy'. The speakers from both colleges expressed the political as well as the moral Philosophy of Jean Jacques Rousseau and Mark Alan Walker the Canadian American Philosopher.

Outcome: The Inter-college English Literary Meet gave the opportunity to the students to communicate effectively with the students of other colleges and were able to broaden their perspectives. The activity was based on research it enhanced the student's critical and analytical skills. This event helped the students to increase their interest in academics and learning.





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