



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

M. A. ENGLISH

SESSION- 2019-2020

'TEACH AND REACH: REINVENTING THE ART OF TEACHING THROUGH SOFT'

Date: July 4, 2019

Objectives: Communication is the key in modern times. It affects every aspect of our life from workplace to every place in society. If we are aware of the verbal, aural, non-verbal, written and visual aspects of language, it becomes easier to reach out to the other person. The linguistic skills, body language, behaviour and attitude fashion one's personality. The lack of communication and soft skills of college students is a matter of grave concern for teachers. The students manage to score high grades as graduates but lack the basic communication and soft skills. The objective of the workshop was to discuss some of the important aspects of communication skills.

Description: Dr. Kulbhushan Sharma, Associate Professor of English gave an insightful lecture on 'Soft Skills' He inspired the students by his words of wisdom, he emphasised on the importance of communication skills. In his talk he said that the ability to deal with one's feelings and understand the feelings of others in any given situation helps one to complement academic achievement. The problem is that the importance of soft skills is undervalued in educational institutions and no training is imparted to the learners. Every student carries incredible potential, which if tapped properly can create wonders. He delivered a detailed lecture on the importance of soft skills in students' lives and the pivotal role played by teachers as they have a major influence in moulding their career perspectives. The soft skills will enable the students with a strong conceptual and practical application and amplification. The need of the hour is the effective practical teaching that enhances the soft skills and the acquisition of basic adequate skills beyond flattering academic records.

Outcome: The students were motivated and inspired to lead a healthier lifestyle by prioritizing their physical and mental wellbeing. He was able to develop an interest in the students for literature. They gained insights on maintaining a balanced lifestyle.



Activity: WORKSHOP ON THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TRANSLATION

Date: August 21, 2019

Objectives: The objective of the workshop was to give hands on experience to the students of PG course on translating texts.

Description: The eminent resource persons invited were Prof. Meenakshi F. Paul, Prof. Usha Bande and Prof. Rana Nayar. Students from other colleges situated in Shimla were invited for the workshop so that they could also benefit from this activity organised by St. Bede's College. Prof. Usha Bande an illustrious writer, critic and a translator delivered the inaugural address. Prof. Meenakshi F. Paul and Prof. Rana Nayar were the main discussants. They introduced the students to the theory of translation. In the final session, the students were divided into groups and were given some extracts for translating. The resource persons gave the students suggestions to maintain the essence of the original piece. The students had an interactive session with students of other colleges.

Outcome: The workshop created awareness amongst the students on the theory and practice of translation. They were able to learn by experiencing the process under the able guidance of eminent resource persons, who have created a niche for themselves as renowned translators.



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Activity: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP BY COURTNEY COLLINS AN AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR

Date: September 25, 2019

Objectives: The objective of the book talk was to introduce students to Australian literature and a celebrated Australian author Courtney Collins.

Description: An Australian writer Courtney Collins, who visited the centre of Australian studies Himachal Pradesh University as a visiting author, was invited at St. Bede's College on September 25, 2019 to conduct a workshop on 'Creative Writing'. She talked at length about her debut novel, 'The Burial', which was published in ten countries and shortlisted for several awards. She held a Masters of Creative Writing from University of Melbourne and had received an Asialink Fellowship and a Myer Fellowship from Australia for two years. The students of M.A. English were given some important guidelines on creative writing. She read out some excerpts from her novel, 'The Burial' and talked about the creative process of writing this novel. Inspired by the life of Jessie Hickman, her debut novel showcases the writer's brilliant talent as an amazing writer.

Outcome: The M.A. English learnt about Australian literature. They got an opportunity to interact and ask questions from the author. They got a plethora of ideas from the author on creative writing after this fruitful interaction.



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Activity: NATIONAL SEMINAR CULTURE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Date: December 4-5, 2019

Objectives: To involve the students of M.A. English in organising, participating and undertaking research in the National seminar organised by the department of English.

Description: This seminar was organised in collaboration with ELT@I – Shimla chapter. The PG students were a part of the organising committee. The Head of Department English, Ms. Anuja Sharma assigned them duties such as hospitality, certificates to be printed, logistics etc. for the invited guests. The students were also encouraged to write research papers and present them at the conference. The students enthusiastically participated in the conference. They attended sessions, interacted with delegates and looked after eminent resource persons. It was an enriching experience, wherein they were able to gain insights into the process of writing a research paper.

Outcome: The students gained confidence, were able to shoulder the responsibility of organising a conference. The interaction with delegates broadened their perspective. After listening to the research papers, the students learnt the various aspects of language, literature and culture.



Activity: CLASS PRESENTATIONS BY M.A. STUDENTS

Date: December 14-15, 2019

Objectives: To organise academic activity to involve the students in teaching learning process and build up their confidence

Description: The PG students were given topics related to the courses studied by them. They gave PowerPoint presentations in the class. The teacher helped the students by giving them feedback on their presentations. This activity inculcated a sense of responsibility and instilled



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confidence in the students. They were also able to improve their communication skills through this activity.

Outcome: The students gained confidence, were able to improve their communication skills and could have a better understanding of the course after this activity.

