

Group Discussion Cell



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EVENT 1: Orientation session:

On 1st October 2021, the Group Discussion Cell & Speakers' Academy conducted their orientation session for the academic year 2021-2022 jointly. It marks the continuation of a long-lived tradition of guiding and helping the junior college and undergraduate students the importance of public speaking.

The session was graced by Dr. Ruta Vyas, an alumnus of Podar and our guest speaker for the day. An excellent speaker, currently an executive coach and leadership development facilitator. Among the dignitaries were Dr. (Mrs.) Shobana Vasudevan (Principal), Mrs. Kavita Jajoo (Vice-Principal), Mrs. Karishma

Khadiwala (Faculty-In-Charge of GDC) and Mr. Suryakant Pagare (Faculty-In-Charge of Speakers' Academy).

During orientation, mock group discussion, debate and elocution were held to explain students in depth the rules of the events. The orientation session saw an amazing response of 150-200 students. It was a very interactive and informative orientation session where students from the audience got a chance to come up and participate in debate/group discussion/elocution in front of their peers.

EVENT 2: GD week:

"Speech is power: speech is to persuade, To convert, to compel "

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Understanding the importance of speech and public speaking, we, The Group Discussion Cell of R.A. Podar College of Commerce & Economics (Autonomous) had organised the GD Week from 27th January 2022 to 1st February 2022.

We have come a long way from the ancient gurukul system to brick and mortar schools and colleges to virtual institutions. Amidst all the upcoming advancements in the education field, we decided to discuss what the students have to say about it! And thus, the theme of our GD Week was 'Education Experimentation Evolution!'

The topics encircled the changing education system in India. Amidst the technological advancements and changing policies, the education system has undergone several changes. The topics emphasised on some of such transformations taking place. This included several topics ranging from "E-Learning: a substitute for Classroom learning.", "Should there be government intervention in Indian education system" and "Does the name of the institution matter?"

Students expressed their views and gave different perspectives to the same. The discussions were quite healthy and gave positive outcomes as well. After all, the aim of any group discussion should be progress not victory.

The judges for the week were alumni of our college: Ms. Aishwariya Ketkar, Mr. Eshan Vaidya, Mr. Mayuresh Tawde and Ms. Tanvi Dombé. The judges gave very constructive remarks to the students. Individual feedback by the judges helped students improve their skills.

Our college realises the importance of group discussion in a student's life hence provides a platform through group discussion cell where students can enhance their communication and listening skills and correct their mistakes.

"A group discussion increases the dimensions of everyone who takes part"

-Randolph Bourne

This quote very precisely sums the learning of GD week for a participant. The participant not only understands how different people have different perspectives for a topic but also gains an in-depth analysis of the topic.

EVENT 3: Rostrum Spectrum:

Rostrum Spectrum is an intercollegiate literary extravaganza and the flagship literary event of R. A. Podar college of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous). It is organised jointly by Group Discussion Cell and Speakers' Academy of Podar college every year. Rostrum meaning Debate and Spectrum meaning Group Discussion.

The event was scheduled on March 4, 2022 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on the MS Teams platform. Under the vast diversity of the rostrum spectrum, there were four events: debate, elocution, group discussion, and JAM.

The theme for Rostrum Spectrum 2021-22 was 'Youth At Cultural Crossroads.' The lifestyle today's youth live is a far cry from what the youth lived 20 years ago. World is reinventing and those habits are becoming global. Today we embrace western culture as easily as our own. From food habits to clothing, to even ideologies. But then one might ponder, whether this is good or bad or even wonder about its impact on Generation Z. The theme gives a chance to give a thought to all these and many more questions that spark when we think about the Youth standing at Cultural Crossroads.

The event was judged by 3 judges. For semi-finals we had Ms. Divya Iyer and Ms. Nikita Tanksali, and for finals we had Mr. Sunil Shanewar sir. The event saw an amazing response by enthusiastic participation of around 25 participants across Mumbai. 2 group discussions were conducted with 7 participants each while the JAM session had an active participation of 7 people.

The topics in our event ranged from some realistic issues like westernisation, technological impact to gradual shift in youth ideology to how aware is the youth when it comes to politics to some personalised issues like how today's youth is more focused on what they have than who they are and where the new India is influential or influenced. There were debates on topics like is westernisation leading to an Identity crisis or giving clarity to the youth of India to whether Indian and western culture blended beautifully or result in a disastrous outcome. Whether it was a JAM session or whether the individual was more important than the community. Like every year this event gave students an opportunity to dive deep into the topic and understand different perspectives for the same.

In a nutshell, the event was fruitful and the experience and knowledge gained from the event was everlasting. The participants were content with the events

and its experience and all of us are looking forward to a more amazing event with greater enthusiasm in the next year.