

Annual Report 2015-16:

Inauguration for the year

Group Discussion Cell began the year for Degree College with an orientation on public speaking, jointly held with the Speakers' Academy on 17th July, 2015. **The ceremony was attended by around 50 students.** The ceremony began with the reading of the annual report of the bygone year and introduction of plans for the upcoming year by the Secretary of the GDC. Chairperson of the Group Discussion Cell, Mrs. Leena Ramani, addressed the students on various aspects of public speaking. This was followed by the address from Mrs. Karishma Khadiwala, co-chairperson. This was followed by a mock group discussion being conducted with students from the audience participating in the same.

Group Discussion Cell also conducted an orientation on public speaking for the junior college separately on 28th July, 2015. This was attended by 120 junior college students. We not only covered aspects of group discussion but also the various areas of speaking in an elocution. The orientation also saw a mock group discussion where the students from the audience got a chance to participate. This was evaluated by the Chairperson, Mrs. Leena Ramani who gave her valuable comments so that students could improvise their skills. We kicked off the registrations for intra collegiate events on the same date.

Intra Collegiate Activities

Degree College

The Group Discussion Cell garnered a registration of 140 students from Degree College to participate in the intra collegiate group discussions. We conducted 12 group discussions with 8 to 10 participants each. The topics for the same ranged from current affairs to social issues. We aimed at judging that the students don't just know how to speak but also what to speak. Diverse points and ideas were raised. This is the beauty of group discussion that new points get raised and diverse solutions get created.

From the rounds of eliminations and semifinals of both FYBCom and SYBCom, 8 worthy participants were selected each from FYBCom and SYBCom to participate in the final round for each standard. The final round for FYBCom was conducted on 14th November, 2015 and for SYBCom was conducted on 25th December, 2015. The judges for all the round were Podar Alumni who have represented the college and won laurels in various inter as well as intra collegiate events on public speaking.

The final rounds had a cumulative scoring where two group discussions one on contemporary topic and one on abstract topic was conducted. The entire activities spanned between the months of July to December. **From each final round we felicitated 3 best discussants. Top 4 discussants from each standard were pitched against each other in a SYBCom v/s FYBCom Group Discussion conducted on 25th December, 2015. From these 8 students 3 students were felicitated as the best discussants from Degree college for the year 2015-16. They got a chance to represent the college in Rostrum Spectrum 2015.**

Junior College

Given the enthusiastic response received from the students of the junior college, Rostrum Spectrum was organized by the GDC for the students of the junior college for the second time. The Junior Intra college Rostrum Spectrum was organized with a view to enhance the public speaking abilities of the junior college aspirants so as to empower them better for the times to come.

We gathered registration from 120 students for group discussions as well as elocutions. We conducted 9 group discussions and 3 rounds- Eliminations, Semi Finals and Finals for elocutions for the year in the period July to December. The rounds were Eliminations, Semifinals and finals. 10 best discussants from group discussions reached the finals held on 9th January 2016. Same was the case with elocutions too. 5 best discussants battled each other out to secure their position as the best discussant from Junior college.

The topics ranged from contemporary to social issues. The judges included Degree college teachers as well as Podar Alumni well aware about the art of public speaking.

All the year round we use **digital marketing** to communicate with all the college students through messages in grape vine and also through regular updates about various activities on our facebook page. A special congratulatory post was updated on our facebook page for the winners of the group discussion. This serves not only to motivate the winners but also encourages other students to participate. Besides this it was the first time that we started uploading tips on public speaking on our facebook page. Thus we aimed at tapping the maximum medium of communication as possible to pursue our aim of improvising the public speaking skills of our students.

Inter Collegiate Events

Moneta 2015

The Boardroom Challenge

The event is a role play event where the participants assume the decision making roles for a company. They face different problems associated with their departments. Each board member will place a set of alternative solutions for their own problems. This involves various curtailing or expansion measures to be taken. There begins the problem, whereby each director will not happily agree compromising. Thus the skills of persuading and reaching a common consensus are tested here.

The event is divided into 2 rounds. The first being an elimination round where 6 candidates qualify from all the participants by battling their ways through group discussions. From their ranks in the first round, case studies were allocated on the basis of their difficulties.

The group discussion in the elimination round was in the format of 1:8:1, i.e. 1 minute thinking time, 8 minutes of discussion time and 1 minute of conclusion time.

We had 3 group discussions of which we qualified 8 people for the final GD. From the final group discussion we shortlisted 6 candidates and allocated them their case studies as per their scores in the elims round. We also gave them the other 5 case studies to go through. This means that a participant was expected to use his case study and also the case studies of other departments so that he could prepare himself for the rebuttal round in the board meeting. They had a day's gap to go through the case studies and prepare themselves. The final round was a 4 hour session.

The number of participants that got registered for the elims round were 19. Of these 3 were podarites and 16 non podarites. Of the final six contestants only one was a podarite. The case studies were allocated in decreasing order of difficulties. The first in group discussion round got the toughest of all case studies- finance department, since this department had to speak in almost all case studies. It was also supposed to defend itself in situation other than its own case study. The information security case study was the easiest one and went to the contestant coming 6th in the group discussion.

Rostrum Spectrum 2015: Re-inventing tomorrow.

The Group Discussion Cell along with the Speakers' Academy conducted Rostrum Spectrum 2015-16 with the theme for this year being 'Re-inventing tomorrow'. The event was held on 16th January, 2016. The Group Discussion Cell organizes Spectrum which is an inter collegiate group discussion competition.

We received participation from around 8 colleges for this literary extravaganza. S.K.Somaiya, NM, Mithibai to name a few. The top 4 discussants from R.A.Podar college of Commerce and Economics got an opportunity to represent the college at the event.The Elimination Rounds commenced at 9:30 A.M. which were judged by past office bearers of The Group Discussion Cell and members of faculty. **Topics were *Bullet trains vs Bullet proof vests, For saving the environment have we reached a point of no return?***

The Final round witnessed the 6 best discussants deeply discussing on the topics *Snakes and Ladders and Juvenile crime must be treated at par with adult crime?*The final round was evaluated with a cumulative scoring for both the discussions.The Final was judged by **Ms. Duhita Shrikhande and Mr. Anuj Daftery and the event was presided over by Prof. R R Sahuraja (Chief Mentor of L. N. Welingkar Institute and an erstwhile principal of our college among other things).**

Thus this year too we tried to uphold then belief and the motto of the Group Discussion Cell and tried to develop an environment where students could activate their public speak skills, analyze a situation and the world around, evaluate it and present their ideas in front of the audience. We did achieve new benchmarks but we constantly aim at improvising ourselves and garnering more and more participation.

It must be inculcated in each student that no opinion is small enough to not be expressed and no audience is large enough to be afraid of.

Committee members (2015-16):

Faculty In-charge:	Mrs. Leena Ramani & Ms. Karishma Khadiwala
Student Secretary:	Mihir Sharma
Student Joint Secretary :	Adhishree Aras Utsav Sejjpal
Student Treasurer :	Aditya Rathod Chaitanya Lapsia
Executive Members :	Jai Shah, Mahima Chandan, Silvester Joshua, Devesh Walia, Meghana Atulri, Mihir Jain, Ram Keshwala, Sanjana Deshpande and Nikita Majukar. Junior College Members- Abhay Kothari, Ameeta Maliekkal, Reuben Salins, Gaurav Borse and Alka Joseph.