

Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector11, Chandigarh
Department of Philosophy- Philosophical Society
(2022-23)

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Samvaad: An Interactive Academic Session and Get Together of the Students of Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy students' orientation programme '*Samvaad*' was organized by the Philosophical Society of PGGCG -11 Chandigarh on **9th of September 2022**. The purpose of SAMVAAD was to have a dialogue. It provided an opportunity to the students to know each other and provided a warm welcome to the BA first year students of the Department.

The event was filled with excitement, joy, happiness and music. Bharti Rao from third year on behalf of the Philosophical Society extended warm welcome to everyone, followed by Simran Kaur from 3rd year, who emphasized the importance of SAMVAAD. Later, Megha from BA second year presented a detailed introduction and events organized by the philosophical society in the previous session.

The students presented cultural performances which included group song performances by the B.A. first year and second year students. In the other performances Kanchan from first year performed Bhangra, Arshita performed a Rajasthani dance, Diya Thakur sang and played guitar, Aditi, Akshita and Ujjaini presented a Himachali Song. On the occasion Dr. Ambuj Sharma, Head, Department of Philosophy encouraged the students to pursue academics with zeal and enthusiasm.

The students of BA second and third year presented self-made cards to the students of first year. as a token of welcome and remembrance.

The event was concluded with a vote of thanks by Noreen of BA second year.

The event was attended by **seventy two** students.



Students during Samvaad

Department Students' Visit to Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh

The Department of Philosophy organized an educational field visit to Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh on **17th September, 2022**. **Sixty Four** students of the Department participated in the visit.

The Visit engaged the students to explore the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh which owes its existence to the partition of the country in August, 1947. It is one of the premier institutions of India with a very rich collection of Gandharan sculptures, Pahari and Rajsthani miniature paintings.

The visit informed and helped the students to discover the aesthetics of the India's rich cultural heritage and provided them with an opportunity to imagine and appreciate our rich culture.



Students interacting and in group photo

Finding Myself: My True Identity

The Department of Philosophy organised a students' seminar on the topic, "Finding Myself: My True Identity" on **13th October 2022** in room 203 in which **thirty students** actively participated. The seminar focused on issues concerning gender identity and its understanding.

The session started with opening and itinerary of the event by the chairperson for the session, Diya Thakur (BAI). The speakers on the dias were Akshita Rana, Disha Walia, Nandni and Yuvika. The first speaker was Yuika. She talked about finding oneself through self-reflection and introspection. She also highlighted eight (8) ways of finding comfort and solace in solitude. The second speaker was Nandni, who elaborated on the contrasts drawn between the cultural practises to gender assigned. at birth and gender identity. She drew issues concerning social construct. And discussed in detail about the set of rules and expectations, heteronormative society often puts on individuals. The third speaker for the day was Akshita, she discussed about gender fluidity in general and androgyny in particular she also divulged on how gender influence people which are often subjected to marginalisation and subjugation. The last speaker, Disha Walia lamented on the meaning of gender and appreciated the concept of diversity and plurality in context to humans. She talked in detail

Disha's reflections were full of humorous anecdotes and satirical references engaging, that made the session even more live.

The session was followed by detailed discussion among the participants and many significant questions were also raised on the occasion. The session concluded with the formal vote of thanks by the chairperson. Dr. Ambuj Sharma congratulated the students for their creative participation.



Students during the Session on Finding Myself: My True Identity

World Philosophy Day Celebration

The world philosophy day was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO. It is celebrated each year on every third Thursday of November around the world. The main objective is to create dialogue and foster philosophical analysis.

The Department of philosophy of PGGCG -11 Chandigarh celebrated World Philosophy Day **on 17th of November 2022** by holding various events. The event was attended by **eighty Students**. The theme was Human of the Future. The celebration started with declamation competition which was also based on the same theme. The students participated keenly and expressed their concern emphatically, stressing on the dire need for reviving humanity. Declamation competition whose theme was "The Human of the Future" was conducted where students put forward their opinions and ideas of what humans would be like in the future. Whether there would be any difference in the nature and morals of humans and if not, would they even be there in existence?

It was wonderful to watch the enthusiastic ardently expressing their perspectives. The winners of the competition were Ravneet , Keerti Naidu and Disha Walia.

Then we had a guest lecture by V T Sebastian, former faculty, Department of Philosophy, Panjab University, on the theme Human Of the Future.

The speaker Prof. V T Sebastian dealt with the question of humanism, how we are in a constant rat race and wish to be ahead of everyone else around. He talked about the idea of modernization and how progressive we have become but still we feel a sense of alienation. The only way to reduce this feeling of insecurity is by being sensitive to our environment and those present in our environment. He also mentioned that no religion is harmful and it teach us important values like sacrifice, surrender, tolerance and compassion. Prof. Sebastian also gave personal example and emphasized the importance of bond and relationship with one's community, how we derive meaning of ourselves through our actions, relationship and understanding of our community. His lecture was concluded by Socrates search for human. His lecture was very informative and gave us a new perspective on being human.

Several competitions were organized by the Philosophical Society of Post Graduate Government College for Girls Sector-11 in which students of all departments were given the opportunity to take part and showcase their talents and skills.

Singing competition in which students sang the melodies of their hearts out, filled the atmosphere with heavenly vibes. Next in line, was a poetry competition in which a student of BA-1 recited a self-composed poem on The Indian Army that left the audience with goosebumps and renewed the sense of patriotism in their hearts. Participants showed the power of voice and impact was seen in the expressions of the audience. They were absolutely awestruck.

Students also showed their creativity through a poster making competition that was as vibrant as their blooming futures.

The highlight of the event was The Manipuri song called "Nangna Lapna" by the North-Eastern band called "Life in a Limbo" that was sung by the North-Indian students. Jenia and Manju, students of BA1 and BA2 respectively, willingly and enthusiastically helped in preparing the Manipuri song performance. Nati, an Indian Folk Dance was also performed that was filled with beautiful expressions and gestures which brought joy to the audience and further lit up the mood of the event. Two amazing guest performances by Chhavi and Megha of first year ended the event with a bang.

The event was also graced by the presence of Madam Principal Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal and Vice principal ma'am. The winners were felicitated by them. On the occasion, Group photographs were clicked which will be imprinted in hearts of every student.

Such an amazing event couldn't be possible without the able guidance of HOD Dr Ambuj Sharma and help of each and every member of philosophical society.



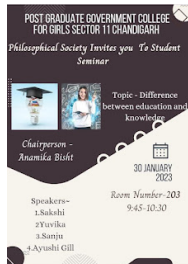
World Philosophy Day 2022

Difference between Education and Knowledge

An informative student seminar was held on **30th January 2023**. It was organised by the Philosophical Society of PGGCG-11. The theme was 'Education and Knowledge' Critical Reflections. Anamika from BA1 chaired. In the session the first speaker Sakshi (BA1) shared her views and emphasized different types of knowledge, such as physical, social, formal and informal. She was followed by Yuvika (BA1) who spoke about practical and theoretical knowledge. She informed that Education is a form of guided knowledge whereas knowledge can be a form of self-learning.

Ayushi Gill (BA1) presented an insightful distinction between the two terms education and knowledge with the help of practical examples. Sanju (BA1) made the listeners aware of the different sources of knowledge and how education is a method of it. Anamika then invited the students to share their thoughts, to which Kirti Naidu from BA1 enthusiastically spoke about her experiences and how the speakers helped her understand the meaning of both of these terms she initially thought of as synonyms. In the next part of the seminar, questions were asked by the students to the speakers. What changes can we make in education systems to enhance knowledge? asked Bharti Rao (BA3). **Forty students** participated in the seminar

Dr Ambuj Sharma concluded the session by complimenting the speakers for their commendable work and appreciating BA1 for organizing the seminar.



Department of Philosophy Students Visit to Kitab Utsav

Hindi book exhibition was organised by Punjab Kala Parishad in association with Adab Foundation, Chandigarh and the Rajkamal Publications, New Delhi in Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16, Chandigarh from 10th February to 16 February, 2023 at Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

On February 14, 2023, The Department of Philosophy organized an educational field visit to the book exhibition in which **forty students** of the Department of Philosophy paid a visit to the said book exhibition which was flooded with insightful and thought-provoking books written in Hindi language. They students met the managing director of the publication and explored through the pages of several books.

Later, everyone sat down and had a discussion on "What makes a person choose a book- it's Title or the cover page?" Each student was given 1 minute to talk about a book and its subject matter that they found intriguing. It was collectively agreed upon and concluded that how disheartening the reality of today is- where concerts are jam-packed and book exhibitions are filled with a silence that's nearly deafening.

The visit was coordinated by Dr. Ambuj Sharma, Head of Philosophy Department.



Kitab Utsav

Juvenescere: Annual Philosophy Fest 2023 (Inter-College)

Under the able guidance of the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, the Department of Philosophy of Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector-11, Chandigarh, organized Juvenescere: Annual Philosophy Fest 2023 (Inter-College) on the theme- "Are we living in Matrix?" **on March 6, 2023. Two hundred students** from different colleges of Chandigarh including PGGCG-11 attended and many participated in the nine competitions that were held in the Juvenescere.

The event began with a presidential address and formal welcome by the presidents of the Philosophical Society, Simran and Muskaan. Then the Vice President, Bharti shared the aim and the objectives of the Philosophical Society of PGGCG-11. It was followed by a debate competition that was moderated by Sudiksha and Noreen of BA-2. Tanu and Arshita of BA-1 anchored the poetry recitation and writing competition in which Megha (PGGCG-11) stood first. Hence after, Simran and Muskaan took over the stage and hosted group singing as well as solo singing competition. In group singing, the students of GGSDS bagged the first prize with their mesmerizing voices and thrilling performance. They did not just win the trophy but also the audience's hearts. And in solo singing the first prize was awarded to Tanya (GGSDS-32). Later on, Aditi and Ujjaini of BA-1 introduced the participants for the solo dance as well as group dance competition. In solo dance Anukriti of MCMDAV-36 stood first and in Group dance competition PGGCG-11 stood first. Lastly, the winners of the poetry writing competition, poster making and the photography competition were also announced.

Several guest performances took place like Manipuri dance, Manipuri song sung by North-Indian students etc., that were the highlights of the day. Principal, Prof. Dr. Anita Kaushal was the Chief Guest of the day who felicitated the winners with trophies and also addressed the students by appreciating their zeal and quality participation. She also appreciated the Head of the Philosophy Department of PGGCG-11, Dr. Ambuj Sharma for his efforts and the initiative to celebrate the spirit of youth every year with great passion and joy.



Juvenescere: Annual Philosophy Fest 2023

Discerning Dharma: Debating Universal vs Contextual Morality in The Mahabharata

Under the able guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, Department of Philosophy, in the seminar series 'Dialogue' organized the fourth lecture on the topic 'Discerning Dharma: Debating Universal vs Contextual Morality in The Mahabharata' **on 06 April, 2023** in the College Campus. Dr Pankaj Srivastava, Assistant Professor from Department of Philosophy, Panjab University, was the resource person. The session was coordinated by Dr Ambuj Sharma and moderated by Vanisha, student of BA I year.

Vanisha gave a brief introduction about the topic and the speaker. Dr Pankaj Srivastava was invited to share his views where he talked about various topics such as what are Epics and their traditions, what are objectives of Dharma and what Homo sapiens are. He also talked about the universal versus contextual dharma conflict present in Mahabharata.

Questions were asked by the students at the end of his presentation, where he answered enthusiastically. Tanu (BA1) asked what according to him was superior, universal or contextual morality followed by Vanisha (BA1) asking about his personal dilemmas about the two moralities. **Forty students** attended the lecture. On the occasion, Dr Ambuj Sharma and the office bearers of philosophical society presented a bouquet to the speaker and extended the vote of thanks.



Principal Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal with the Dr. Pankaj Srivastava and the Session

Why study Philosophy: Narratives from Class and Experience

Under the able guidance of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal the Department of Philosophy, PGGCG-11, Chandigarh in association with Nostalgia: Alumni Association of PGGCG-11, organized the Fifth Lecture of the Seminar Series “Dialogue” on “Why study Philosophy: Narratives from Class and Experience” on **April 10, 2023**. Dr. Shivani Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who is also an alumna of PGGCG-11, delivered the lecture which was attended by **Seventy eight students**. The lecture encouraged them to self-reflect on their actions and beliefs.

Dr. Shivani Sharma very briefly yet deeply explained the difference between philosophical and non-philosophical questions. She also touched upon the relevance of philosophy in other disciplines. She equated the significance of Philosophy to that of our grandparents. Just like we need our grandparents, to learn something from the wisdom they have earned from their experiences, similarly we need Philosophy and its various theories to inculcate wisdom in us.

She urged the students present there, to be a window, rather than a mirror. For she believed, one must doubt, every information given to them instead of just absorbing it without pondering upon it. The very essence of a good philosopher according to her, was the ability to entertain a thought without accepting it. She said how educating the mind without educating the heart, is no education at all.

The Session was Chaired by Ms Bhumika Thapa of BA First Year and vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Sadhna Verma, Dean, Alumna Association and Head, Department of Chemistry and Dr. Ambuj Sharma from Department of Philosophy. More than fifty students participated in the dialogue.



Deliberations in progress

Idea of Social Justice and Critical Pedagogy

Under the able guidance of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, the Department of Philosophy, PGGCG-11, Chandigarh, organized the Sixth Lecture of the Seminar Series “Dialogue” on “Idea of Social Justice and Critical Pedagogy” **on 11 April, 2023**. Mr. Lallan Singh Baghel, faculty and Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, Panjab University, Chandigarh, delivered the lecture which was attended by **fifty seven students**.

The session was chaired by Ms Tanishq student of BA First Year. In the session she introduced the theme of lecture and the speaker.

In his presentation, Mr. Lallan Singh raised questions about social justice and critical pedagogy. He associated the term social justice in context of citizenship where every citizen claims equal opportunities and rights as being citizens of the country. He shared the ideas of social justice in the context of historical evolution; the transformation of power from monarchy to democracy with reference to Glorious Revolution of 1688. He also highlighted the contributions of Gandhi, Ambedkar and Saint Kabir in raising issues of social justice for a better society. Mr. Baghel discussed issues concerning gender equality and human rights. He concluded his lecture with a quote, "You are not alone, you exist in correlation with others."

The Lecture was also attended by the College faculty Dr. Prakash Chandra, Department of History, research scholars from Department of Philosophy, Panjab University: Mr. Sachin Jaswal and Ms. Pooja Pagyal and Ms. Tanvi Chauhan student of MA Philosophy, PU. Dr. Ambuj Sharma, Head, Department of Philosophy, PGGCG-11, Chandigarh, extended the vote of thanks.

The dialogue successfully concluded with a presentation of a book to the speaker as a token of gratitude from the Philosophical Society of PGGCG-11.



Mr. Lallan Singh Baghel addressing the participants