

Co-Curricular Activity “NUKKAD NATTAK-ROLE PLAY”

Date: 30th September' 2019

Venue: Gitarattan Institute of Advanced Studies & Training

'We must all do theatre to find out who we are and to discover who we could become.'
- Augusto Boal

Theatre has often been regarded as a means to engage with one's own self as well as society at large. Street theatre in particular lies at the heart of society, dealing with issues that plague the current social fabric, in an attempt to bring home a strong social message to the masses while addressing *their* concerns in *their* language.

'Nukkad Natak' is performed in public spaces, free for all by standers. It has no target group and is therefore a gift to anyone who wishes to receive it. It is thus a vibrant, expressive, minimalist and inclusive art form.



This spirit of conveying strong social messages while simultaneously connecting with the very core of oneself as a social being was epitomised in the 'Nukkad Natak Competition' held on 30th September, 2019 at Gitarattan Institute of Advanced Studies and Training. The competition was organised as part of our practical 'Understanding the Self' and was arguably the most comprehensive of its elements through the semester.

Prof. Sonia Jindal graced the event with her presence, both as part of the audience as well as the esteemed judge for the event. Each of us was part of a group of 10 students and had the freedom to choose a topic of our choice- something we believe strongly in and wish to present it theatrically to our colleagues. Myriad themes were dealt with by each group such as Triple Talaq, struggles of the LGBTQ community, mental health concerns, Article 377, women empowerment and critiques of the present education system among others. The nuances that came through in each of the self-scripted plays struck a chord within every member of the audience, some of whom were even moved to tears. The first prize was bagged by group 2 who performed a heartrending play on women empowerment.



Regardless of the result, the entire experience was an amalgam of creative expression, strong social messages and a feeling of belonging. It culminated in a unanimous resolve to address such issues, not just on one day but in the future as well. It is said that theatre holds up a mirror to its audiences. It was this reflection of society that marked each performance and curated a timeless ‘Nukkad Natak’ experience that would be etched in our minds for a long time to come.