

“Theatre –An Art Form”

As a part of the curriculum encompassing ‘**Drama and Art in Education**’, a Theatre workshop was conducted for B.Ed.-Ist year students by **Ms. PreetiGautam**. It was a fun and interesting workshop to attend as it gave all the students a break from the monotonous academic routine. The teachers conducting the workshop made each and every one of the participants very comfortable and started by building a rapport with them. Made them do certain exercises that were central to theatre and could be helpful in teaching as well. One of the activity was the ‘**Frequency Meter**’ in which voice modulation practice was done by continuously changing our voice level while saying a phrase. This was an important aspect of theatre and was also undoubtedly a great tool to practice for conduction of a lesson by a teacher in the classroom as well that makes the teaching process all the more effective. Other activities were more of improvisation exercises like the ‘Random Walk’ and ‘The Mirror Mind’. The teachers called on for a volunteer from the participants for the ‘**The Mirror Mind**’ wherein the participant had to mimic the actions of the workshop conductor as if we were watching a reflection in mirror of the person. In the third exercise ‘**Random Walk**’, Thus, these two exercises taught the students the art of improvisation, wherein one has to be on one's toes and direct all the energy to what one was doing at that moment. It enabled them to think quickly and take actions accordingly – a task that applies to both theatre and to teaching as well.

This workshop was a good platform for all the students to work on their communication skills as drama enhances verbal and non-verbal expression of ideas. It improves voice projection, articulation, fluency of language, and persuasive speech. It instills self-confidence in them as taking risks in class and performing for an audience teach students to trust their ideas and abilities. This confidence will apply in nearly every aspect of their future. The workshop also sparked a flame of imagination and creativity among the participants and brought about a sense of social awareness wherein they could make use of this legendary art form to express their views about critical issues to the society.

Thus, in all, the workshop was really fun and interesting, successfully fulfilling the purpose of making the participants engaged during and fully appreciating the art form. It is really important to raise a generation that understands, values, and supports theatre's place in society and this workshop successfully tried to do just the same.