

‘Seminar on Scientific Temper: An Antidote to Superstitious Beliefs’

Type of hours: Campus Hours

Venue: AV Hall, Sophia College

Date: 18th August 2023

Time: 11:00 AM TO 1:00PM

Number of NSS Volunteers: 158

Number of Beneficiaries: 158

A Brief Report of the event:

The “Scientific Temper: An Antidote to Superstitious Beliefs” seminar was held on Friday, 18th August, 2023, in the AV Hall at Sophia College. This seminar was conducted by the NSS Unit of Sophia College in collaboration with the Department of Hindi & Life Sciences. The event was a huge success as the AV Hall which has a capacity of 200 chairs was filled entirely by the students. The event started with the felicitation and welcoming of the speakers and guests present. Our Principal, Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil couldn't be present due to other commitments but sent her best wishes for the event. Our Vice Principal, Dr. Rashna Poncha felicitated Mrs. Vandana Shinde & Mr. Prakash Parkhe from Andhshradha Nirmulan Samiti with a Memento, flowers, and a goodie bag on behalf of the Department of Hindi and Life Sciences, NSS Unit & Sophia College. Then Lecturer Incharge of Hindi Department and NSS Coordinator Dr. Vaishali Pachunde welcomed Mrs. Pushpa Tapole & Mrs. Prachi Sawant. After the initial introduction, Dr. Vaishali addressed the audience and informed everyone about Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti and their work for the society, everyone present there gave Shradhanjali to the late Mr. Narendra Dhabolkar by keeping two minutes of silence. Then the students of the Hindi Department presented the street play on the topic of Superstitious Beliefs that are still plaguing the minds of so many people and the trust in religious lies over trusted doctors. It was very well written and beautifully enacted by the students and achieved its aim of delivering its message to the audience. It was directed by Dr. Vaishali Pachunde and written by Mrs. Priyanka Chauhan, it was very well received & appreciated by all the viewers. Mrs. Shinde in her session showed the students a lot of tricks, she started with lighting up a diya with water without any oil, this was followed by a magic of karni, or bhootbhada by putting Trishul in a pot full of rice, which she was able to pick up just by holding onto the Trishul. One more trick was pulling out a black ribbon from an intact coconut. She also showed magic of the God's entry in a human body and held a lit Kapur in her hand and then also on her tongue that was even tried by our students. Mrs. Vandana Shinde also laid down on a bed of nails and then one bed was kept on top of her and made a student stand on top of it. She even asked one of the students to do the same and proved how black magic is not true. Mr. Prakash Parkhe in his session explained the calendar, nakshatra and position of stars and also explained how to calculate days. In the end Ms. Amaysikirti Khurasiya, TYBA Hindi department student representative ended the session with a vote of thanks. The feedback from the students was very positive, they said that the session was very informative and would now help them make smarter decisions. Also, they were absolutely enthralled by the way Mrs. Vandana Shinde and Mr. Prakash Parkhe explained the concepts and how people use basic scientific principles to fool simple people and feed on their religious beliefs using God's name. The seminar was delightful, interactive and informative as so many participants participated in the seminar.



FIG: Mrs. Vandana Shinde interacting with students



Mrs. Vandana Shinde showing tricks.



FIG: Speakers along with Department Heads, other staff Members and student performers.



FIG: Street play by students of Hindi Department



FIG: Audience members



FIG: Dr. Vaishali felicitating our guests.



Dr. Rashna Poncha felicitating our guests.



Tricks shown by Mrs. Vandana Shinde.



Street Play Picture of Dhongi Baba.