University of Mysore Department of Studies in Library and Information Science Manasagangotri, Mysuru 570006



A Report of the Freshers' Day Program held on 15th February 2023

On 15th February 2023, the senior MLISc students of the Department of Studies in Library and Information Science at the University of Mysore, Mysuru organized a freshmen welcome day. It was a day-long program held at Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Hall of the Department. The students, researchers, faculty members and office staff of the Department participated in the program. The event was organized with the intention of fostering a strong sense of belongingness among the incoming students. The primary goals were to facilitate the exchange of vital information, establish a platform for networking, and empower the newcomers with a muchneeded confidence boost. The event also included some fun activities and ice-breakers, allowing the new students to get to know each other and the seniors better. The event was entirely self-motivated and self-financed, highlighting the seniors' dedication to making the freshmen feel welcomed and supported.



The event began with an invocation by Ms. Maheshwari M., Mr. Purushothama P., and Ms. Harshitha M. of the second year, who sang the devotional song 'moodala giriyavane muddada maleyone' devoted to Lord Shiva. Ms. Bhavani S., one of the senior students, welcomed everyone with warmth, and her welcome message to the first-year students made them feel valued and included. This was followed by lighting of the lamp by the teachers and the first

year students.



Several teachers in the department also spoke on the occasion, providing guidance and advice to the new students. The gist of their speeches are given below:

During her speech, Dr. Niveditha B. emphasized that the Department of Studies in Library and Information Science not only provides a high-quality education, but also places a strong emphasis on discipline and moral values. She quoted Swami Vivekananda, who believed that true education is not just about filling the mind with information, but about assimilating ideas in a way that builds character and shapes one's life.

According to Dr. Niveditha B., the Department's aim is to help students cultivate a positive attitude, develop a strong character, and strive for excellence. The faculty has high expectations for their students, and they are committed to helping them succeed in their academic and personal lives.

In order to achieve their goals, Dr. Niveditha B. advised the students to stay focused, work hard, and maintain a strong sense of discipline and integrity. She also emphasized the importance of cultivating good habits and values, such as honesty, respect, and compassion. By doing so, she believes that the students will not only excel in their academic pursuits, but also develop into well-rounded individuals who are capable of making a positive impact on the world.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Sunil Kumar M. congratulated the seniors for organizing the program and emphasized the importance of the new students feeling confident and dedicated to their studies. He recognized that the freshmen may have entered the department with various dreams and expectations, and may be struggling with English or feeling overwhelmed with the tight schedule of classes. However, he reassured the students that all their problems would be addressed by the teachers to make each student confident.

Dr. Sunil Kumar M. emphasized the importance of dedication, regular attendance in classes,

and engaging with their peers and faculty to build a strong network. He encouraged the students to remain open to learning and making full use of the facilities provided by the department.

He reminded the students that as aspiring librarians, it's crucial to develop strong communication skills and build positive relationships with everyone they encounter. Dr. Kumar advised the students to approach their studies with seriousness and passion, emphasizing that it's ultimately their own career at stake.

Dr. Sunil Kumar M. advised the students to attend classes regularly, be open to learning, respect the teachers and seniors, and make use of the facility in the department. He emphasized the importance of communication, distinguishing between right and wrong, and respecting Indian culture. He encouraged the students to be serious about their studies and not lose focus, reminding them that "nothing equals knowledge" (Na hi jnanenasadrusham). He also advised the students to take advantage of the department's resources, such as the library, and to cultivate good relationships with their peers.



During her address, Dr. Adithya Kumari H. reminisced about her own experience as a freshman at Mangalore University, and highlighted the significance of organizing a freshers' day to help new students acclimate to the academic environment and build their confidence.

She acknowledged that starting college can be an overwhelming experience, particularly for students who are new to the campus or who are living away from home for the first time. However, Dr. Adithya Kumari H. emphasized that with the right support and guidance, freshmen can successfully navigate this transition and thrive in their academic pursuits.

Dr. Adithya Kumari H. stressed that the organization of a freshers' day can play a key role in helping new students feel more connected to their peers and to the institution as a whole. Such an event provides an opportunity for students to meet and interact with one another, as well as with faculty and staff members. By doing so, they can form new friendships, learn

more about the university's culture and values, and begin to build a sense of belonging on campus.

Additionally, Dr. Adithya Kumari H. noted that a freshers' day can be instrumental in helping students to develop a sense of confidence and self-assurance. By attending an event where they can interact with their peers and get to know more about the university, they can start to feel more comfortable in their new environment. This can help them to become more engaged in their studies, and to take advantage of the many opportunities that college has to offer.

Dr. Adithya Kumari H. stressed the importance of cultivating good reading habits and making regular visits to the library. She urged the freshers to take advantage of the rich resources available in the Department's library, which can greatly enhance their knowledge and understanding of the field. She emphasized that reading is not only essential for academic success, but also for personal growth and development. By making a habit of reading, students can expand their horizons and gain valuable insights into the world around them. Dr. Adithya Kumari H. also encouraged the freshers to seek guidance from the librarians and senior students, who can help them navigate the vast collection of books and journals.

Dr. M. Chandrashekara, a senior professor at the University of Mysore, spoke highly of the senior students who organized a successful program for the freshmen. He appreciated the choice of venue for the event, which was held at the Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Hall within the department. According to him, the hall itself was an auspicious location and provided positive vibrations.

Dr. Chandrashekara noted the significance of the traditional lighting of the lamp ceremony that was conducted during the event. He also commended the well-dressed and colorful students, which reminded him of the welcome day celebrations during his own student days.

The professor emphasized the privilege of studying at the University of Mysore, specifically at the Manasagangotri Campus. He stated that only a select few are granted admission to the esteemed institution and that those who are given the opportunity should make the most of it. He quoted a statement from Swami Vivekananda, which states that "Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet."

Dr. Chandrashekara emphasized the importance of learning English as a communicative language and the need for self-study and involvement in academic pursuits. He also urged the students to take Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as a role model and strive to develop similar qualities of excellence and dedication.



Prof. Mallinath Kumbar, the senior-most faculty member in the Department, expressed his appreciation for the timing of the event, which was organized on the succeeding day of Valentine's day. He explained that the positive vibe and energy from Valentine's day had carried over to the welcome day event, making it even more meaningful and enjoyable. He added that the event provided an excellent opportunity for the freshmen to socialize and interact with their peers, helping them to build strong bonds and friendships that would last throughout their time at the university.

Prof. Kumbar went on to emphasize the importance of making the most of one's university experience. He encouraged the freshmen to take their studies seriously and to put in the necessary effort and dedication to excel in their chosen fields.

Prof. Kumbar's advice to the students during the event was comprehensive and insightful. He started by emphasizing the importance of taking guidance from their teachers seriously and sharing their career goals with them. He also urged the students to be open to criticism and take it positively, as it can help them to grow and improve.

The speaker then spoke about the value of student life, describing it as the "golden life." He encouraged the students to get involved in their studies, work hard, and use their intelligence to achieve academic success. He warned them not to get distracted by others and stay focused on their goals.

To illustrate the importance of guidance from teachers, the speaker shared his own personal experience from his childhood. He explained how his teachers helped him to overcome his problems and achieve success in his career.

The speaker also introduced the concept of "Hamsa Ksheera Nyaya," which advocates for accepting the good and rejecting the bad. This concept encourages individuals to filter out negative influences and focus on the positive aspects of life.

In addition to these philosophical insights, the speaker also stressed the importance of developing skills and knowledge in Library and Information Science, the subject of the Department. He advised the students to make use of the facilities of the Department and the

experience of the teachers, and to build a good student-teacher relationship. Overall, the speaker's advice was thoughtful and practical, providing the students with valuable guidance for both their academic and personal lives.

During his advice to the students, Prof. N. S. Harinarayana, Chairman of the Department, made an interesting observation about the adoption of western culture in India. He explained that, while we have adopted many aspects of western culture, we have forgotten our own cultural practices. To illustrate this point, he gave an example of how we remember dates according to the Gregorian calendar, but have forgotten how to state the day using the traditional Indian method of mentioning the date.

He emphasized that we should not forget our culture while embracing new ideas and practices. Instead, we should strive to strike a balance between the old and the new, and create a harmonious blend of both. He encouraged the students to explore their own cultural roots and take pride in their heritage.

The speaker encouraged the audience to view Valentine's Day not just as a day of love for partners but also as a day of love for knowledge. The love for knowledge inspires and motivates students to pursue higher education, expand their horizons, and strive for success.

The speaker's words serve as a reminder that education is a powerful tool that can transform lives, create opportunities, and bring about positive change.

He stated that education has a philosophical purpose of achieving happiness, with one of the paths to happiness being through education, known in Indian terminology as "Vidya." He then recited the following quote: "विद्या ददाति विनयं विनयाद् याति पात्राताम् | पात्रत्त्वाद्धनमाप्नोति धनाद्धर्मं ततः

सुखम्॥" (Vidya Dadati Vinayam Vinayaad Yati Paatratam Paatratvaat Dhanamaapnoti Dhanaat Dharmam Tatah Sukham), which underscores the value of education in bringing humility, success, and happiness.

The statement suggests that happiness is a result of hard work and perseverance. This is exemplified by the quote "श्रमेणैव हि केवलं सुखं न तु कामै: " (Shramenaiva Hi Kevalam Sukham Na Tu Kamaih), which emphasizes that true happiness can only be achieved through hard work and not by merely indulging in our desires or aspirations.

The quote is a powerful reminder that success and happiness are not simply handed to us. We must put in the time, effort, and dedication to achieve our goals and aspirations. This requires hard work, perseverance, and determination, and it is through these qualities that we can derive true happiness and a sense of fulfillment.

In addition to aspiring for a materialistic life, it is necessary to cultivate the ability to renounce material possessions. This ability is developed through practice. The quote ""अभ्यासेन तु कौन्तेय वैराग्येण च गृह्यते।" (Abhyasena tu Kaunteya vairagyena cha grhyate), which is derived from the Bhagavad Gita - a sacred Hindu text, emphasizes that detachment can be attained through practice.

As he wrapped up his speech, he shared a valuable mnemonic called 'GRASP', which aptly

captured the distinguishing traits of a postgraduate student in comparison to an undergraduate. Here's what the acronym stands for:

- G Greater depth of knowledge in a specific area of study
- R Research-oriented approach towards learning and problem-solving
- A Analytical and critical thinking skills
- S Self-motivation and self-directed learning abilities
- P Professionalism and a commitment to lifelong learning

Through this powerful mnemonic, the speaker effectively conveyed the essential attributes that every postgraduate student should aspire to possess in order to excel in their academic pursuits and professional careers.



As the curtains drew to a close, Ms. Lakshmi G., one of the senior students, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, bringing an end to a memorable stage-function. Mr. Purushothama P. and Ms. Deekshitha G. did a commendable job as comperes, keeping the audience engaged and the event lively.

During the event, Ms. Rakshitha N., a first-year MLISc student, gave an awe-inspiring Bharatanatyam performance that left the audience spellbound. Her graceful and rhythmic movements perfectly complemented the soulful rendition of the popular song 'Varaha Roopam Daiva Varishtam', showcasing her exceptional skills as a dancer. The audience was captivated by her performance and showered her with applause and appreciation, recognizing her dedication and hard work in mastering this beautiful art form. Ms. Rakshitha's performance was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the event, leaving an indelible mark on everyone present.





Following a series of fun-filled activities, Mr. Veerendra A. V. and Ms. Priya G. N. were

crowned with the prestigious titles of Mr. MLISc and Ms. MLISc for the academic year 2022-23. The students were thoroughly entertained with an assortment of games and dance activities that made the event all the more enjoyable.



The following students attended the program:

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Pictures from the event:



