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SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR REPORT

The concept of Sustainable Development has slowly risen to gain much importance in our world today. Efforts to attain the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as set by the United Nations are being undertaken in every country.

The need for Sustainable Development has gained importance to ensure that the needs of the future are not compromised by excessive usage and wastage of resources- both natural and manmade, by the current generation.

Since a long time, efforts are being put to improve the usage and management of resources. Looking at the deteriorating condition of the environment, now is the time to focus not only on inventing but also implementing new methods and inventions that help us reduce the bad impact and wastage of resources that is happening.

With the motto of highlighting this and encouraging the youth to take efforts for the same, the National Seminar on 'Innovations in Sustainability' was held at SIES College of Commerce & Economics on 23rd November 2019. It had two aspects to it- interactive talk sessions with esteemed guests and a presentation competition for students to present their innovative ideas on the topic.

The Chief Guest to grace the occasion was Mr. Vithal Kamat, the Executive Chairman and Managing Director of the Kamat Hotels Group Limited. A well-known venture under it, set up by him is Asia's first Ecotel Hotel- The Orchid Hotel in Vile Parle, Mumbai. His address set the right tone for the rest of the seminar.

The other esteemed guests also included Dr. Sudesh Rathod who addressed the aspect of Sustainability and Rural Development, Ms. Sanjana Jhunjhunwala who spoke about Life Skills and Sustainability and Mr. Prakasam A. shedding light on Infrastructure and Sustainability. The sessions by these speakers lasted through the morning after which students broke for lunch after which their presentations began in full swing.

Sustainable Development when considered, has three main interdependent spheres- Economic & Legal, Social and Environmental. These spheres were thus taken as the main tracks on which students were asked to base their presentations. Their energy no less than it was on their arrival in the morning, students enthusiastically presented wonderful ideas which have great potential to be executed in reality. Many discussed models for sustainability which were of their own making and left the judges awed by their imaginations.

The Organizing Committee along with the Conveners and Teachers-in-charge put up an amazing show by keeping everyone motivated and active.

There were 2 winners from each track who walked away with prizes, but as one of the judges rightly pointed out during the conclusion of the seminar- 'we are all walking away with a ton of knowledge and ideas which we should include in our lives so as to make a small change that will further encourage others too and create a world of difference.'

Priti Thakkar

Convenor

National seminar on Innovations In Sustainability