

Seva Mandal Education Society's

Smt. MMP Shah Women's College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous)

Matunga

Report

Webinar titled Values: The Need of the Hour

Organised by IQAC Cell and Department of Sociology

Date:11/1/2021

Time:2.30pm to 4.30pm

The Webinar commenced with the SNTD prayer song by Ms. Kiran Jadhav, Assistant Professor from the Department of Sociology. Ms. Shanthi Seshadri, Assistant Professor from the Department of Sociology was the host for the session. Ms. Shanthi Seshadri conveyed words of gratitude to Dr. Judy Andrews the acting Principal and Sabiha Madam the senior most Professor of Surajba College who extended their help in organising the webinar. She began with the quote by Mr. William. Burroughs, the aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values. She emphasised the urgent need for consciously planned value education programme for the students. She stated that the credit for selecting the topic on values goes to our Principal Dr. Leena Raje who has been a source of inspiration for our teachers and students. She requested the Principal Dr. Leena Raje Madam to give the welcome address. Our Principal Dr. Leena Raje gave the welcome address by greeting the teaching staff and non-teaching staff. Our Principal thanked Dr. Judy Andrews and Sabiha Madam of Surajba college by saying that we are fortunate that they are attending the session. She also welcomed Dr. Shilpa Charankar Madam, Executive Secretary, SMES for the session. She also gave a brief introduction of our college. She emphasised the urgent need for inculcating values today and she said that she felt that Mr. Gauhar Raza was the right person to address the topic on values. She stated that our college is interested in planning a workshop on value education by collaborating with Surajba College. She stated that in the present scenario values are discarded by our students. She stated that values like honesty, loyalty, dependability, and commitment lead to character building. She pointed out that the individual with sound values accelerate the progress of our country. Mrs. Shanthi Seshadri requested our Vice Principal and the Head of the Department of Psychology to introduce the resource person Mr. Gauhar Raza for the webinar. Madam

Archana Patki introduced Mr. Gauhar Raza by stating that he was the leading poet and scientist and a multifaceted person. She stated Mr. Gauhar Raza has completed his engineering from a prestigious institute. She stated that he has won many awards and he is well known for his writings in science. His achievements are rare. She also stated that Mr. Gauhar Raza is comfortable in sharing his knowledge even with a man in the street.

Mr. Gauhar Raza began his talk by stating that we must study values from the historical perspective.

He stated we can trace our identity by going back to Africa. He stated that human beings settled in Africa would have migrated to different parts of the world. The value system which emerged some years ago is ingrained in our culture. According to him Greek and Roman civilisation were primitive democracies. He stated that the value system which emerged in India was exclusive in many ways. The dominant philosophy in our society was based on fault lines of caste and gender. He stated that our government have used the parameter of caste and gender for a long time. With a result Dalits have been at the receiving end. We have replaced the word men with humankind. His session highlighted how gender inequality existed in India right from the ancient times. He pointed out how in our society women are being oppressed which is reflected in the language we use. He stated although the constitution of India has abolished untouchability, we still observe the practice in cities

His session emphasised the role of younger generation in transforming the values. He pointed out that teachers have an important role to play in inculcating the right values in the younger generation. He stated that the diaspora in America is reactionary. They are fighting for our farmers and some of them have migrated to America to enjoy the secular values. He firmly stated that our younger generation should protect our constitution by asserting the values. He stated that our generation has done the duty as elders to help the younger generation in the spirit of inquiry. Madhavi Sathe, the IQAC coordinator of our college took over the question-and-answer session. The participants raised many questions on caste and gender neutrality. Mr. Gauhar Raza answered the questions. The outcome of the session was that the participants gained immensely in terms of the value system prevailing in our society.

This was followed by vote of thanks by the Head of the Department of Sociology, Dr. Bhavana Prem Chand. She expressed her eagerness to listen to the session on values. She thanked Mr. Gauhar Raza for simplifying the concept of values for everyone by giving examples. She thanked the Principal and the Vice-principal for their support as a result of which the webinar

could see the light of the day. She thanked the Seva Mandal Education Society and IQAC for their support in organising this webinar. She stated that we will certainly inculcate these values in our students which will help them to face the adversities in life.

Report submitted by Ms. Shanthi Sheshadri,

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Department of Sociology