

Report 2015

The Department of Journalism organized a number of workshops, film screenings and talks throughout the year 2015. A Talk on 'Globalisation and Sexuality' by Dr. Navaneetha Mokkal (Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, JNU) was held on February 20, 2015. Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil (Assistant Professor, Centre for Media Studies, JNU) gave a lecture on 'Visual Culture Methodology' for third-year Journalism students.

The department organized a documentary film screening session during April 2015; films that were scripted, directed and produced by the Journalism students of the third year were screened in this session which was attended by students as well as several faculty members of the college. The themes of these documentaries pertained to Uniform Civil Code, Concept of Shiva, Surrogacy and Bonded labour. The screening of the films was followed by engaging discussions in which the audience actively participated.

The department held an Orientation programme for the First Year students on July 22nd, 2015 to orient them on the papers being offered by the department in the new CBCS scheme. A similar orientation programme was also organized for all students of the college who were interested in opting for the generic elective course offered by the Department of Journalism.

A workshop on Creative Writing was organized by the department on July 29, 2015 which was conducted by Ms Libby Paul of the University of South Carolina; she used the latest instructional strategies while conducting her workshop. The Journalism students were given exercises in Creative Writing to hone their writing skills and they were also given useful tips to improve their writing abilities. The students found the workshop stimulating and immensely enjoyed interacting with the creative-writing expert.

The department organized a talk by well-known progressive artist, Mr. Ashok Bhowmik on September 16, 2015. It was an illustrated talk through which he helped students to explore concepts like what is art, how paintings can reflect historical perspectives, how to understand concepts like composition, perspective, form, techniques etc, and how they can inform art criticism. The talk was followed by a lively interaction between the artist and the students.

The Second-Year students of Journalism were taken on a visit to the Parliament to help them understand the working and functioning of the institution. This field trip was conducted as an exercise to develop and hone the parliamentary reporting skills in the students.

Teaching in Journalism classes is done through a combination of traditional lectures, student presentations, interactive class-discussions on specific topics and assignments. Care is taken to help students analyse and understand journalistic craft and practice by using theoretical tools and analytical concepts they learn in class. In the paper: Media Ethics and Press Laws, students were introduced to the objectivity/subjectivity debate in journalism, its historical origin and growth, and the principal elements of this debate. The students were then asked to analyse contemporary Indian news media practice using the objectivity/subjectivity debate and present their findings.

Student presentations were also extensively used in class. In the paper: Media Ethics and Press Laws, the class was divided into groups and each group was assigned a specific press law which they had to teach in class through a group presentation. The basic framework of the presentation structure was outlined for them. Once the presentation was made, the floor was open for the rest of the class to ask questions and seek clarifications.

A camera-workshop was organized for the students of the Third Year during October 2015, which was conducted by documentary film expert, Ms Anuradha Chandra. The students were trained in various aspects of shooting, editing and film production techniques.

Ms Rachael Sauer (Faculty-Member of the Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, Bangalore) delivered a lecture on the topic: 'Is Multimedia the future of Journalism?' Ms Sauer's work has taken her to newspapers and wire services in Utah, Colorado, Washington D.C. and Florida. In her talk, Rachael Sauer stressed that Print Media was still reigning strong in this multimedia era and must not be written-off as obsolete, despite the soaring popularity of digital media. Her talk was enlightening, interactive and well-received by the students.

The first-year students of the Department of Journalism undertook research projects that comprised of short video presentations as well as written news reports on current affairs, social and developmental issues. The students covered a wide-range of subjects in their news reports and prepared video presentations on the same – be it the

contribution of the Indian army, the ancient Indian style of wrestling, issues confronting students in Delhi University, traffic woes in Delhi and environmental concerns.

Students of the Second Year creatively designed and produced five newsletters for the department which had interesting content and covered varied issues in Journalism.

The second year students of Journalism put-up display boards 'On the Life and Cartoons of R K Laxman' in honour of the cartoonist who passed away during the early part of the year. The students drew and displayed Laxman's best-known iconic character of 'The Common Man' that lampooned India's powerful for half-a-century. Besides this, the students also drew some of Laxman's famous cartoons from his "You Said It" series that were a satirical comment on the times.