

Samskruti Samachar

Hyderabad December 2021



Samskruti Foundation
Our Culture Our Identity

Deepavali lights up for the lesser privileged... The auspicious occasion of Deepavali Festival was celebrated by Samskruti Foundation with construction workers, labourers and other disadvantaged people who could not afford to celebrate on their own. Our wish was to share the festivities with them and thus spread our Samskruti which is our identity. Our team visited them at their houses, caringly spoke to them, and shared sweets and lamps with them. Deepavali was truly celebrated by Samskruti Foundation, as this small gesture of sharing and caring made these people's faces light up in joy.



The campaign was titled **"Celebrate the Festivals"**. In addition to celebrating in our homes, we campaigned to involve those around us and the poor who could not



celebrate. This initiative will help us to organize more such innovative programs in future. The program seeks to reduce cultural inequalities in society.



Career Skills Workshop

On 14th November Samskruti Foundation conducted a **Career Skills workshop** for students from different degree and engineering colleges in the twin cities. The sessions focused on personality development traits needed by students aspiring to be successful in their career. A total of 150 students registered and 68 students attended the sessions. The day began with an interaction amongst students over breakfast, tea, and

the registration process. All of them were handed over **Samskruti Foundation** folders along with a feedback form. The sessions started at 9:15 am with **Dr. W G Prasanna Kumari** welcoming the students and providing a brief of what was planned for the day. As a good practice, all students kept their cell phones away and in silent mode and agreed to spend the rest of the day without their phones. The sessions were interactive, engaging, and valuable, filled with group exercises.

Dr. Prasanna Kumar, Chairman, MGNCRE, began the Workshop with interactions with the students. He spoke on the theme of '**Skills for career growth**'. Topics covered included: People Skills, Getting Things Done, Personal Story & Lessons and How would you apply & benefit?

Dr. Vivek Modi, Wellness Educator, dwelt on the theme of '**Presentation Skills**'. Topics covered included: *Why Presentation Skills are so important, Steps to improve, Practice & Games and Key takeaways.*

Sri Natraj Gudla, Senior Director, Capgemini India Pvt. Ltd, covered the theme of '**how to be successful**'. Topics included: *What does a good career mean? He shared personal stories and lessons, highlighted key takeaways and answered queries.*

Students enjoyed a working lunch interacting with all other Samskruti Foundation members getting to know each other more. The final session was held between 2:15 to 3:15pm - where students were grouped into 5 each, and asked to list down all the 'Be Good and Do Good' activities they could do in their college premises. Students later shared their ideas with others in the room.

A group of students provided their feedback towards the end about the entire event - It was very positive, they appreciated the completely complimentary valuable session provided by Samskruti Foundation to them. The programme concluded closed with Shanti Mantra and group photographs.



Nation Building Campaign

Samskruti Foundation's 'Nation Building Campaign' is to engage with educational institutions through their Management, Faculty members and students by helping them conduct several programs annually for inculcating patriotic and nationalistic spirit. As part of this agenda, the Cultural Leadership Centre of Samskruti Foundation is connecting with a large number of educational Institutions across the country.

On 8th November, as part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we linked with **Vivekananda Government Degree College, Vidya Nagar** and signed an MoU to conduct the activities of Samskruti Foundation by establishing Cultural Leadership Centre there.

Dr. G. Sukanya, Principal, and other Faculty from Vivekananda Government Degree College and **Sri Sai Krishna** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the process of MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). Dr. Sukanya observed - *"It is a great opportunity for our college students"*.



On 18th November, as part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we linked with **Babu Jagjivan Ram Government Degree College, Narayanaguda** and signed on MoU to conduct the activities of Samskruti Foundation by establishing Cultural Leadership Centre there.

Dr. P. V. Geetha Lakshmi Patnaik, Principal, and other Faculty from Babu Jagjivan Ram Government Degree College and **Sri Chandru Rao** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the process of signing of MoU.



On 20th November, as part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we linked with **Government City College, Ghansi Baazar, Hyderabad** for setting Cultural Leadership Centre there.

Dr. P. Bala Bhaskar, Principal, and other Faculty from Government City College and **Smt. M. Naga Prashanthi** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the signing of the MoU. Sri Bala Bhaskar expressed happiness on signing the MoU and assured along with other faculty that they would always cooperate in organizing such programs for their college students.



On 25th November, as part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we linked with **TKR College of Engineering and Technology, Meerpet** for establishing Cultural Leadership Centre.

Dr. D. V. Ravi Shankar, Principal, and Faculty from TKR College of Engineering and Technology and **Sri Abhinav & Kum. Annapurna** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the process of signing the MoU. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ravi Shankar said that if students were provided with such additional skills in addition to regular learning process, they would get a great chance to enhance their personalities.



On 26th November, as part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we signed an MoU with **Sreyas Institute of Engineering & Technology, Bandlaguda** for setting up a Cultural Leadership Centre. **Dr. S. Sai Satyanarayana Reddy**, Principal, and other Faculty from Sreyas Institute of Engineering & Technology and **Dr. Vivek Modi** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the process of signing the MoU. Dr. Sai Satyanarayana Reddy said, "I am sure the innovative programs run by Samskruti Foundation will benefit our students".



On 27th November, as a part of our Cultural Leadership Centre activity, we signed an MoU with **Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology, Bandlaguda** for setting up Cultural Leadership Centre there.

Dr. B. V. Sanker Ramu, Principal, and other Faculty from Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology and **Sri Natraj** from Samskruti Foundation participated in the process of signing of the MoU. Dr. Sanker Ramu said, "I really liked the 'Vivekaband' and 'Samskruti Samvad' programs. I will give my full support to Samskruti Foundation for all activities".



Samskruti Samvad

On 6th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Government Degree College, Khairatabad**. The Topic given to the students was - **Is Marriage a Contract?** Sri Venu Gopal, working as GRC Capability Lead at Tech Mahindra was the resource person who guided the students on the topic and made interesting points on the topic - Is Marriage a Contract? Several important points were raised by the students and the resource person. "Marriages must be built on the foundation of faith and trust and must not be seen as a contract" said Mr. Bhanu, a participant. Dr. Rajender Kumar, Principal, Sri Venu Gopal Vice Principal, and Sri Nataj participated in the Samvad Program.



On 8th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Keshav Memorial Institute of Commerce and Science**. The Topic given to the students was - **Is Marriage a Contract?** Dr. K. Padmavathi, working as Principal at Government Degree College for Women Begumpet was the resource person who guided the students giving suggestions for an effective debate.

"Marriage gives an opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally. We need to develop endurance. But unfortunately, these days, in a discussion on Marriage, people even discuss divorce" said Trisha, a participant.

On 11th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Vivekananda Government Degree College, Vidya Nagar**. The Topic given to the students was - **Indian Culture Promotes Women Empowerment**.

Dr. Polumraju Lakshmi, Principal, Andhra Mahila Sabha Law College for Women, guided the students in different dimensions on the topic.



"Indian culture promotes women empowerment. Traditions, and commitments give a shape to our Indian culture. According to our mythology, 'Yatra naryastu pujyante ramante tatra Devata, yatra itaastu na pujyante sarvaastatra falaah kriyaah' is a famous hymn taken from Manusmrut. It means divinity flourishes where women are respected, and where women are disrespected, all actions are unfruitful" said Abhilash, a participant.

"Our Indian women have been culturally recognized and given prominence in the name of Bharatmata" - said Niharika, a participant.

"A girl has a great etiquette in our culture. There is a lot of affection in every family for every girl child. Western nations have invaded India in an attempt to destroy our culture. But India has not made such efforts against any other country. They made those efforts because our country's culture is so great" - said Dr. Polumraju Lakshmi.



On 18th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Babu Jagjivan Ram Government Degree College, Narayanaguda**. The topic given to the students was - **Parent-Child Relationship in terms of Indian Age old Traditions - Is it relevant today?** Sri Venu Gopal, working as GRC Capability Lead at Tech Mahindra, guided the students by providing useful insights into the topic.

"Shravana Kumara took his parents, who were blind, on pilgrimages. He did so because there was good communication between parents and children in those days. But these days children are leaving their parents in old age homes. No matter how good the information system is now, human relationships are weakening" - said a participant.

"We read "Maathru Devo Bhava- Pithru Devo Bhava- Aacharya Devo Bhava- Athidhi Devo Bhava" but in practice it does not happen. We talk to our parents only for our needs but not with love", said a participant.

Sri Venu Gopal concluded the event by giving many examples relevant to the topic that would make students understand and practice with their families and parents.



On 20th November, Samskruti Foundation Conducted Samvad at **Government City College, Ghansi Bazar**. The topic given to the students was - **Is Marriage a Contract?** Smt. Naga Prashanthi, working as Legal Head at Dream India Pvt Ltd and as Director for Tejaswini at Samskruti Foundation guided the students by providing

insights into the topic. *"Indian marriage is admired in every corner of the globe. People all over the world want to come to India and learn about marriage",* said a participant.

"Marriage is not a contract. It is a sacramental union. Rigveda also mentioned it. Marriage is completely an emotional bond between two souls", opined a participant.

Smt. Naga Prashanthi made the concluding remarks to the session and stated - "India is recognized by its cultural heritage. The Indian marriage system has a great reputation. There are many reasons for this. Few years back our grandmothers or great grandmothers were married without any contract. No agreement was reached in their bond. Yet they lived ideally for years."



On 25th November, Samskruti Foundation Conducted Samvad at **TKR College of Engineering & Technology, Meerpeta**. The topic given to the students was - **Is Marriage a Contract?** Sri Murali Krishna, working as Development Officer at LIC, gave instructions and guidance to the students on how to debate effectively.

"Contract is a legal term. Not so good to hear that marriage is a contract. That word itself is not appropriate here. Marriage is sacred. It is said that our elders should consider seven generations when deciding on a marriage. This means that marriage has great importance in our culture" - said a participant.

"If we want to be separated from a person we see negative traits in him/her. We only see positive things if we want to live with them. This is what each person thinks individually. But we certainly like them when we see only the good in them without looking at the negative aspects. Marriage contract documents are not required if we practice this" - said another participant.

Sri Murali Krishna concluded the debate by stating "A contract marriage is only a piece of paper if there is mutual understanding between couples."

On 26th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Sreyas Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bandlaguda**. The topic given to the students was - **Nuclear Family is the need of the hour**. Dr. Vivek Modi, Wellness Educator and also Director, Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra, guided the student teams to have an effective debate.

"In a joint family, members share their experiences with us. Because of that we have the opportunity to grow in life. In the nuclear family, we do not have this opportunity. Living in a joint family helps create a better personality. Those who belong to such a family reach a great position in life. It constantly corrects people's mistakes", said Rithika, a student.



On 27th November, Samskruti Foundation conducted Samvad at **Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology, Bandlaguda**. The topic given to the students was - **Ancient and Macaulay or Modern Education**.

Dr. S. Karunanidhi, outstanding Scientist and Associate Director, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO, Hyderabad, guided the students for an effective debate.



"The great thing about modern education is that it is accessible to all. It has no boundaries. Innovative courses are also coming. But there is a major problem with this. Moral values are underestimated. Current education does not foster personality development. Students are lagging behind in values, no matter how many degrees they take. There is a need to provide students with a combination of the good that exists in modern and ancient education" - opined a student.

"Be not afraid of anything. You will do Marvelous work. It is Fearlessness that brings Heaven even in a moment."

— Swami Vivekananda

Is Marriage a Contract?

"Should an institution such as marriage be viewed only as a mere contractual agreement" was the debate that was conducted amongst the young boys and girls of Government Degree College, Khairtabad on 4th November 2021 (Saturday). There were sixteen students of the college (eight participants each side with opposite points of view). About one hundred students from the college along with the Principal and other lecturers witnessed the debate. The debate was lively and all the participants enjoyed watching it enthusiastically and cheered the students participating in the debate. As a moderator I could summarize the proceedings of the debate as below:

The key point that was raised in support was that a marriage should be more seen as a contract, as it helps the couple (more specifically women) when there are differences and

As a moderator, without referring to any religious practices followed in our country and with all due respect, mentioned on the procedures followed in religions like Islam or Christianity which define marriage as covenant, it must be ensured with the practices and laid-down procedures to protect both - specifically the wife, in case of separation - morally and financially. She needs to be supported by the husband. The other point of view was that a marriage should not be reduced to a mere contract between a man and a woman.

During the proceedings of the debate, this team raised the points that - Marriage as per the Indian tradition and culture is a sacred ceremony, whereby a man and woman are tied into a knot through the by uttering of pious hymns along with the music making the sacred Fire and God as witnesses, and facilitated by the priest. As per them, a marriage

between man and woman is to be seen as entrance into a sacred bond with a promise to share their lives till their last breath. A contract signed in such circumstances would remain as just a piece of paper and would not support to lead a happy married life for the couple. Further, it would act as an instrument to ease the process of separation, in case any one or both would like to get separated even due to trivial reasons / disturbances, whereas, the Indian Traditional (age-old) practices have not facilitated any such separation facility for the wedded couple. As per the traditional practice, once wedded, the couple is expected to live the rest of their life as wedded couple and if any disturbances arise, have to adjust and must not let them impact their marital bonding.

As a moderator, I quoted the examples of some (specific species) of animals (Seahorses, Beavers, Wolves) and birds (Swans, Geese, Eagles, and Owls) which

both decide to get separated (more so in case a woman is deserted by her husband or in certain cases, where the woman is subjected to various types of abuse - physically and mentally). A contract signed by both of them at the time of marriage with specific clauses that provides for maintenance of the wife and her children, would protect her. Supporters with this view point, mentioned that, irrespective of the religion, couple should sign a specific contract that would contain the clauses to support the woman in case, her husband deserts her or subjects her to physical / mental torture whereby, she decides to move on and live independently along with her children. Almost all the points raised by this group revolved around justice for the woman if her husband abandons her. Financial security should be stressed in the contract and presence of such contractual clauses offers the woman major protection.

get into a relationship to mate for life and in such cases, without any contract signed by these creatures, they remain so in the relation lifelong. Such is even Indian culture / heritage practice which would facilitate a man and woman for such a relationship whereby, they pledge to remain as wedded couple for their lifetime, by performing traditional ceremony with recital of sacred hymns by the priest amongst the music and elders' blessings for the couple at the time of marriage ceremony. However, the provisions existing in the Indian Legal System to protect both man and woman, subject to the background of each case, a separation process has been built in. The debate was concluded with great sense of understanding amongst all, on the importance of a marriage and as an institution in a society which helps in building up a good society wherein, the people lead their life happily.

-Sri Venu Gopal, Tech Mahindra (GRC Capability Lead)

Samskruti Foundation

Samskruti Foundation is a registered trust consisting of prominent and accomplished senior civil servants, professionals and corporate citizens. It is constituted under section 4 of Indian Trust Act 1882 with registration no. 000124/2009. It has been striving towards promoting Nation Building activities among the youth of the society in Telangana and across India.

Our Vision – To be National Resource Center for Culture

Our Mission – To preserve, protect and encourage practice of the Bharateeya Culture and Ethos through research, education, training and

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From the Chairman's Desk



Dr. C. Umamaheswara Rao
IAS (Retd.)

It is heartening to note that Samskruti Foundation has engaged in a hectic schedule of activities in the last month. Samskruti Foundation has considerably enhanced its footprints in its activities centered on the youth of the nation, that is, Samskruti Samvad and Nation Building Campaign. The youth of the nation need proper guidance to get a nuanced perception of essential elements of culture. Under Samskruti Samvad, a number of interesting and thoughtful debates were held such as "Is marriage a contract?" and "Does our Culture promote Women Empowerment?" The themes are very relevant to society today.

This was substantiated by the phenomenal interest generated in the debates carried out in the educational institutions. The interest generated in fact proved the relevance of the topics to contemporary life. What is more interesting is that despite the alluring diversions presented by the western outlook, our new generation does take pride and has a sense of belonging to our own culture. A look at the student response clearly demonstrated that Samskruti Foundation hopes to continue such debates with renewed enthusiasm on such important themes inextricably linked to our culture. Further, in the aftermath of COVID, and also the fact that in our nation, youth continues to constitute an ever increasing proportion of the population, career guidance is more important than ever before. The workshop on 'Career Development' evinced tremendous response from our college going youth. We have to continue this activity emphatically in future. We continue to attract more and more youth as evident from the increasing number of MoUs getting signed with premier institutions. The MoUs help in committing the educational institution and also Samskruti Foundation to mutual interaction in future and would go a long way in realizing our objectives.

Samskruti Foundation joins the nation in condoling the unfortunate demise of our beloved and renowned lyricist Sri Chembolu (Sirivennela) Seetharama Sastry, a Padmasree awardee. He was also a member of the Advisory Council of Samskruti Foundation. His yeoman contribution to Telugu language made him a bright star among the galaxy of literary figures. Taken away from us rather prematurely, he leaves a void difficult to fill. He continues to live with us through his lyrical masterpieces.

