

The Student Social Reform Initiative (SSRI)

Annual Report 2021 - 2022

August Club Report - SSRI + SQC

Charcha: Film Screening & Discussion

“The Little Terrorist”



SUMMARY

The Student Social Reform Initiative (SSRI) held a film screening and discussion on the short film “Little Terrorist” on 4th August 2021 for Peace Fortnight. “Little Terrorist” is the tale of a young boy from a village across the Indian border, who crossed over chasing his cricket ball. The story unfolds with a Hindu Masterji sheltering the boy who is wanted for being a terrorist. With around 30 participants, the film screening was followed by an hour and a half long discussion.

The participants shared their own interpretations and viewpoints on the film. The discussion primarily centred around the themes of religious tolerance, partition, and caste.

POINT OUT THE PROBLEM

Starting date: 14th August, 2021;

Frequency: Every week

Venue: Instagram

Participants: 100+ viewers

The Students' Social Reforms Initiative (SSRI) conducts a series called "Point out the Problem" every Saturday through its Instagram page, using the 'story' feature. This series focuses on the highlighting the problematic aspects of specific scenes in movies, shows, or songs with an aim to make the audience introspect about their media consumption and also educate them about various societal issues.

The title of the movie/show/song along with a video clip of the scene containing the "problem" is posted, and viewers are given the chance to interact and share their opinions on it. Later, the received responses as well as a brief write-up about the issue (written by an SSRI Executive) is posted to inform people about the same.

The media and entertainment industry has a strong influence on our thought-processes and opinions. Considering this, it becomes more than necessary to call out scenes from entertainment pieces that are offensive, demeaning, or are a poor and misleading portrayal of specific communities/individuals. Through the weeks, we have talked on varied issues such as sexism and gender bias, objectification, non-consensual acts, casteism, hyper-sexualization, patriarchal norms, homophobia, stereotypes, etc.

QUEER STORIES - II



Date: 1st October 2021

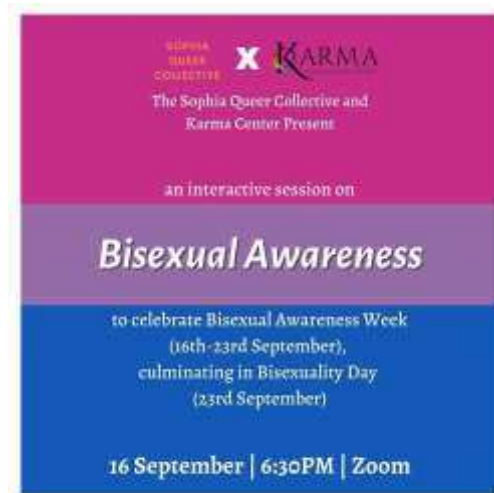
Participants: > 40

The Sophia Queer Collective (SQC) held its second edition of 'Queer Stories' for students to come together and share their experiences related to the LGBTQIA+ community. The theme of this edition was 'Closets'

Conversations surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community in India have been on the rise, but not so much within colleges filled with many young individuals. SQC has aimed to provide a safe space for the students of Sophia College, and Queer Stories has played a big role in doing so. The event started with an introduction and basic guidelines to remind students to issue a trigger warning wherever necessary, before sharing. Following this, students spoke about their journey with coming out to people, keeping the theme in mind.

Audience members actively participated and engaged with each other, by unmuting themselves and using the chatbox. Anecdotes and thoughts were exchanged, and the students were able to support each other during this discussion.

Bisexual Awareness



Date: 16th September 2021

Participants: > 70

Resource Person: Prabhjyot Kaur

The Sophia Queer Collective (SQC) held an event for Bisexual Awareness, to celebrate Bisexual Awareness Week (16th-23rd September), which culminated in Bisexuality Day (23rd September). The aim of this session was to debunk all of the stereotypes and stigma surrounding bisexuality. The event was preceded by a keynote address by a Senior Counselling Psychologist and a Queer Affirmative Practitioner, Prabhjyot Kaur. She started the session by addressing various stereotypes regarding bisexuality. She also provided the audience with the tools to be able to validate their own journey to figuring out their sexuality.

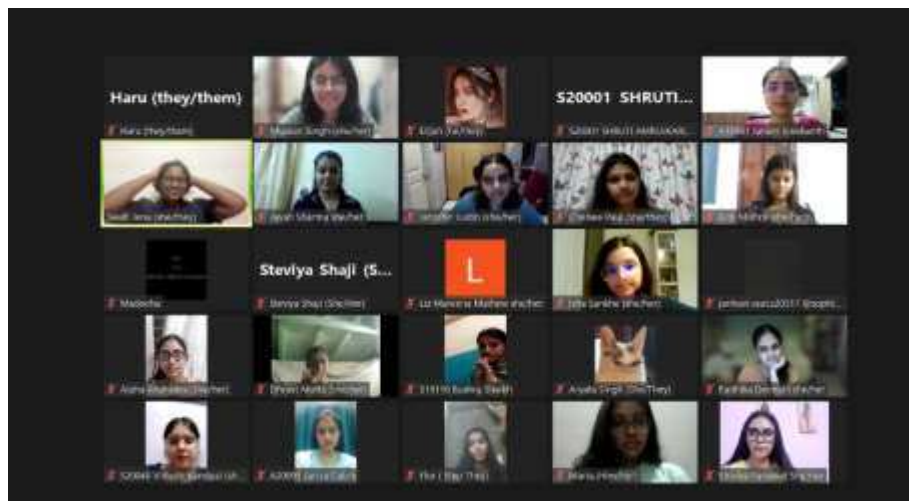
The session ended with questions asked by the students to the resource person, followed by a vote of thanks. Audience members actively participated in the discussion and got an insight into the deeper definition of what it means to be a bisexual person in today's world.

MENTAL IS POLITICAL

Sophia Social Reforms Initiative held a conversation with two mental health practitioners, Afifa Kauser and Richa Vashista, on 25th September 2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event took place on the online platform Zoom from 6:30 pm to 8 pm with more than 150 participants joining. The 1-hour long discussion and 30-minute long question-answer session revolved around the political approach to mental health. The speakers engaged with students about the political aspect of mental healthcare and promoted the acknowledgement of mental distress arising from discriminatory practices against certain communities like women, LGBTQIA+, religious minorities, subjugated castes, etc. We discussed the applicability of western models in Indian populations and the decolonization of therapy. The speakers also acknowledged the importance of being politically aware as therapists as it plays a role in understanding the client's day to day life issues which are deeply embedded in their sociopolitical identities. The event also addressed how terms like self-control, self-efficacy etc. can have an impact on how much pressure an individual can feel to succeed in capitalist societies where a lot of success factors are predetermined.



QUEER STORIES



Date: 4th September 2021

Participants: > 70

The Sophia Queer Collective (SQC) held an event called 'Queer Stories' for students to come together and share their experiences related to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Conversations surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community in India have been on the rise, but not so much within colleges filled with many young individuals. SQC has aimed to provide a safe space for the students of Sophia College, and Queer Stories has played a big role in doing so. The event started with an introduction to SQC, and an invitation to students to offer support and educate each other by sharing anecdotes, all while making sure to provide a trigger warning wherever needed. Audience members actively participated and engaged with each other, by unmuting themselves and using the chatbox. Everyone got an insight into various aspects of being in the community, while also resonating with each other's stories and learning how to be better allies.

Queer Stories 3



Date: 23rd November 2021

Participants: > 35

The Sophia Queer Collective (SQC) held its third edition of 'Queer Stories' for students to come together and share their experiences related to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Several students who have attended previous editions of Queer Stories, along with newer ones attended the event. It started off with students giving recommendations of movies, shows and books that had a good representation of people from the community. The conversation then led to an exchange of people's personal experiences, along with support offered by everyone listening. A discussion about how to avoid misgendering a person also took place.

Most people engaged with each other by unmuting themselves and speaking, while some also used the chatbox. A few people who weren't students of Sophia College also attended the event, stating how the collective has offered them a safe space that their schools haven't been able to.

Film Discussion on Mary Kom



Dates- November 27,2021

Participants- >50

The Student's Social Reform Initiative (SSRI) had an event based on a movie discussion in collaboration with The Sports Club, the movie that was selected for this event was 'Mary kom'. The goal was to discuss about various issues like, gender discrimination, job opportunities to sportspersons, struggles faced by northeast Indians and and the corruption practiced by sports federation of India.

The participants discussed enthusiastically about the given issues and also pointed out the problems with capitalism and power that lies in the hands of production houses.

Dates:- 8/9/21, 15/9/21, 29/9/21 & 20/11/21

The Students Social Reform Initiative (SSRI) has started a new campaign called 'Factually Speaking'. The goal is to make students more aware by using this campaign as a medium. SSRI this year wants to address issues that have not been given the required attention. This is why SSRI came up with 'Factually Speaking'. We want to bring those facts to the table which have been hiding behind the glitz and glam of the industries. We also want to touch on those points which sometimes tend to get ignored due to personal human prejudices.

We have worked on four topics so far

Nestle really all that nice?

Lights, Camera, Inaction: The Many Overlooked Problems In Bollywood

Menstrual Products a Privilege in India?

India's Reservation vs Meritocracy Debate

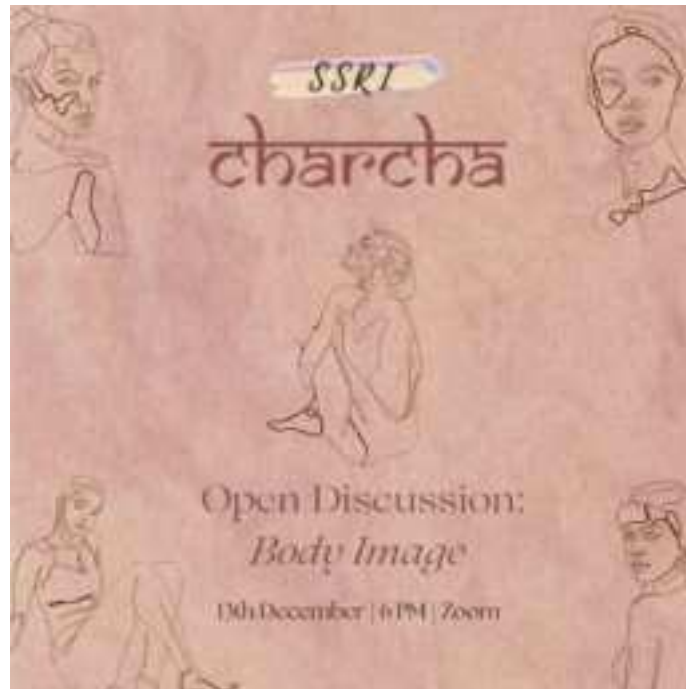
We try and highlight disparities, discrimination and exploitation of people. Make people understand their privilege and how their choices can affect somebody else's life. How us as individuals not being subject to exploitation. How all the misery and inhumane behavior gets blurred amongst everything else. How the truth doesn't come and that is just what we try and bring out.

Safe Space Saturday-

Safe Space Saturday is an informative and interactive ongoing series that takes place on the

Sophia Queer Collective's Instagram stories every Saturday. Various scenarios about how to be a better ally to people that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community are discussed. A situation is stated, along with three options using the question sticker, out of which one is correct. Followers interact with the story by selecting the option that they think is the most suitable way to deal with the situation, after which a detailed explanation is put up. Each option is broken down, and why each one is the right or wrong way to deal with the situation, is explained. This series is extremely helpful when it comes to debunking why certain methods of reacting to a particular situation can be perceived as supportive, but are actually harmful. So far, various situations have been discussed, such as coming out, outing someone's identity, being a good ally to people who identify as non-binary, transgender, asexual, bisexual, pansexual and aromantic.

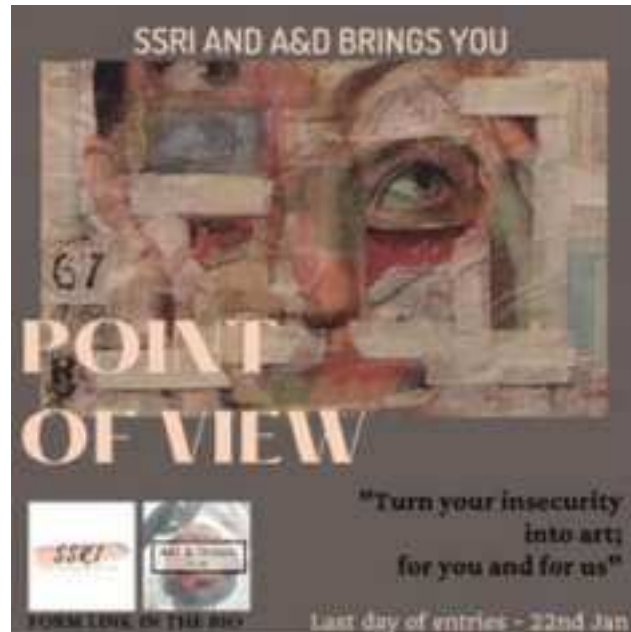
Charcha: Open Discussion on Body Image



SUMMARY

The Student's Social Reforms Initiative held an open discussion on the topic of Body Image on the 13th of December, 2021. The event had about 65-70 participants, the event started at about 6:05 pm and finished about 7:45 pm. The event provided an open space for participants to bring up and share anecdotes that were relevant to their experiences with body image and the repercussions of these on mental and physical health. The event followed a discourse on the role society's expectations play in one's perception of their body and the effects of these expectations. The event was highly interactive and ended with a participant's reading of a poem about the sensitivity of body image.

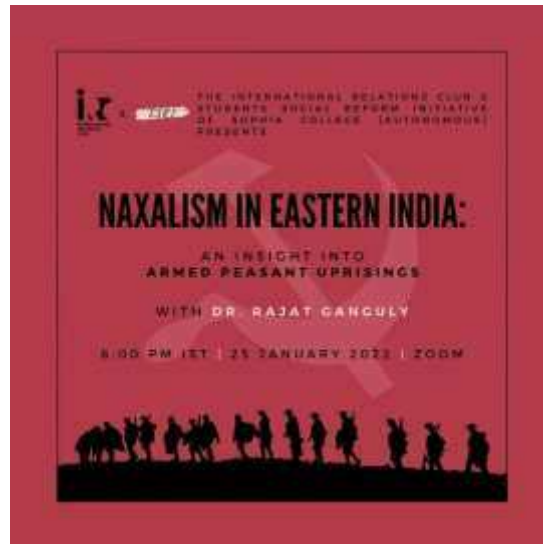
Point Of View: Art and Design Collab



SUMMARY

The Student's Social Reforms Initiative in collaboration with The Art and Design Club held an entry based event titled "Point of View", where participants were asked to submit their art, portraying how they view themselves, their flaws, their strengths, and who they want to be. The event was accepting entries from 15th January, 2021 till 22nd January 2021. The event garnered 39 entries and out of those, 14 were selected and shared as a reel on both SSRI and Art and Design Club's instagram pages. The link for the reel is attached: https://www.instagram.com/reel/CZUVsg6Ic_8/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Event on Naxalism in Eastern India



Date: 25th January, 2022

Participants: >80

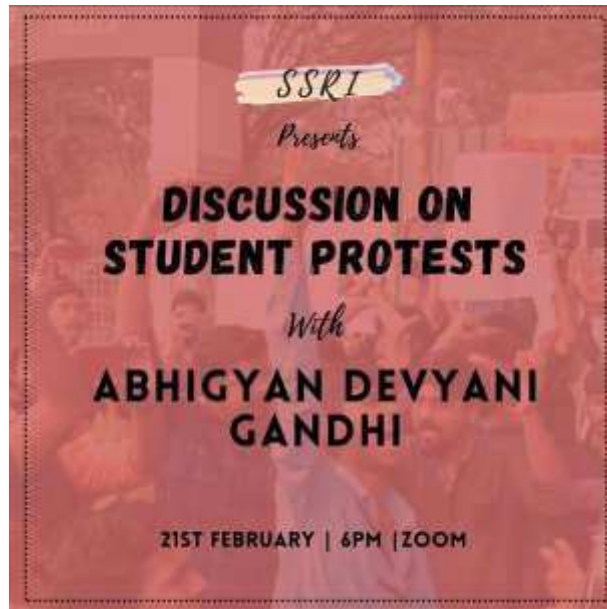
Resource Person: Dr. Rajat Ganguly

The Students' Social Reforms Initiative (SSRI) in collaboration with The International Relations Club (IRC) conducted an event on Naxalism in Eastern India: an insight into armed peasant uprisings.

The insurgency movement in Eastern India has been propelled by a far-left Maoist faction known as Naxalites, who came to emergence in the late 1960s. Through this event, SSRI and IRC educated our peers on armed peasant uprisings, their causes and consequences. The event began with a brief introduction on the topic made by the speaker Dr. Rajat Ganguly who is a professor of international relations, security studies and Asian politics. During the event, Dr. Rajat Ganguly spoke and informed our students about the Maoist movement and armed insurgencies.

The Maoist movement and its current status, understanding armed insurgencies, general causes behind armed insurgencies, response from the government towards armed insurgencies, root causes of the Maoist movement, were discussed. Audience members asked various interesting questions; they actively participated and engaged with the speaker and got an insight into armed peasant uprisings.

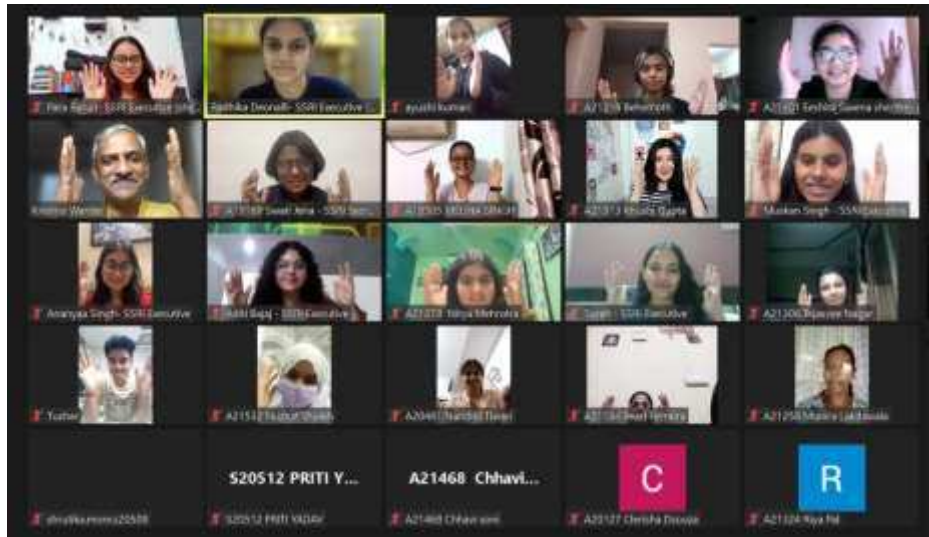
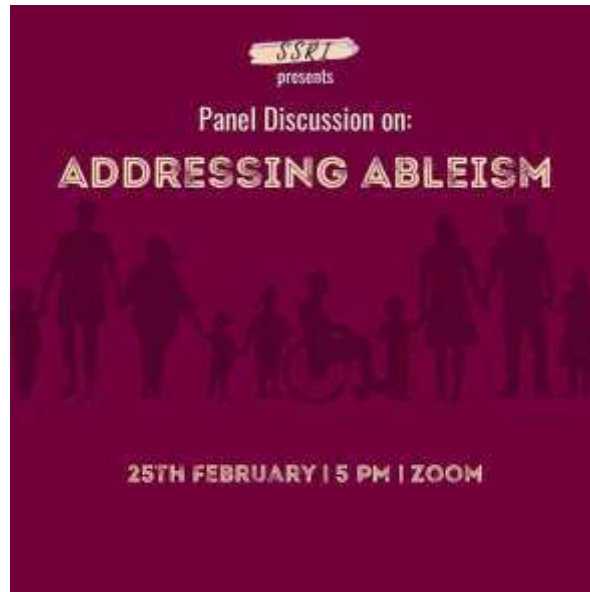
Discussion on Student Dissent



Date-21/02/22

The Students' Social Reforms Initiative conducted an event on student protests. The speaker for the event was Abhigyan Devyani Gandhi. He is doing his Masters from Delhi University in political science. He is currently the President of the All India Students' Association. He walked us through his journey as a student activist, the hurdles he faced and how he overcame them. Our students had the opportunity to talk to him and get an insight into on-ground activism. He spoke to us about how we as individuals can contribute to activism and gave us his views on online activism. The ideas of dissent and protest are the virtues that uphold SSRI. We hear at SSRI create socially aware citizens. This event summed up all this and more. It was an enlightening experience for all our students and the team as well.

Flagship: Addressing Ableism



Date: 25th February, 2022

Participants: > 60

Resource persons: Mr. Krishna Warriar and Mrunmayi Abroal

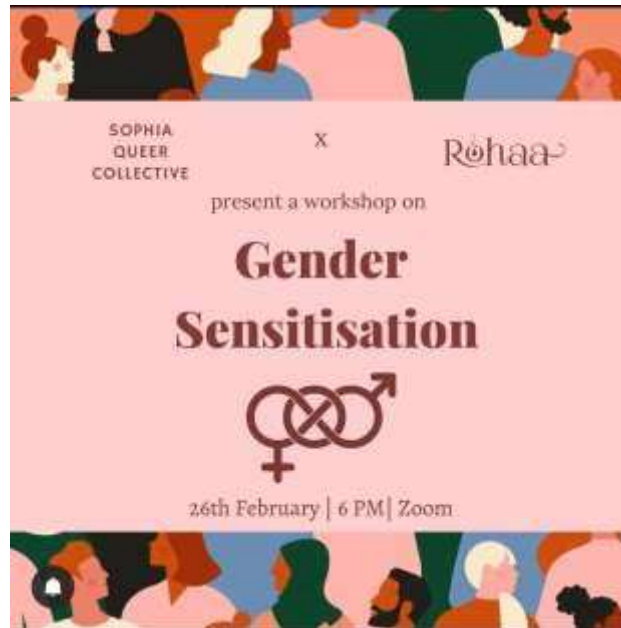
The Students' Social Reforms Initiative (SSRI) held a panel discussion on addressing ableism for their flagship event of the academic year 2021-22.

Often, the casual ableism people propagate and witness in their daily lives remains unacknowledged. This year, with the help of the panelists, SSRI initiated conversation surrounding disability and made our student base and peers aware about the lack of accessibility and sensitivity towards persons with disabilities. The event began with a few activities which

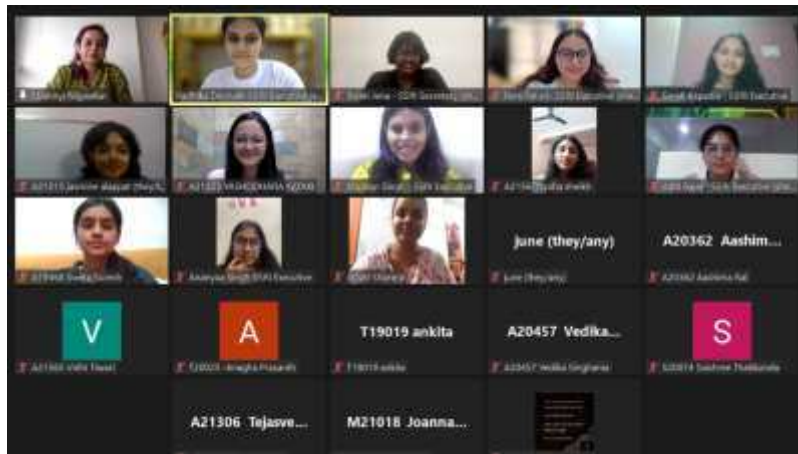
were conducted by Mr. Krishna Warriar, who has held various training and sensitisation workshops across India. It was followed by Mrunmayi Abroal, sharing her story and lived experiences as someone who loves to travel and is a wheelchair user with the audience members.

Discussions about, understanding the diverse world of disability, the way casual ableism is embedded in our everyday lives and ways of thinking, lack of accessibility and representation, ways to address ableism around us, took place. Audience members actively participated and engaged with the panelists and got an insight into the world of disability which is otherwise not spoken much about.

SQC Flagship: Gender Sensitization Workshop



A Session on Generational Trauma



Date - February 28, 2022

Participants - >50

Resource person - Maitreyi Nigwekar

The Student's Social Reform Initiative (SSRI) conducted a session on Generational Trauma with a trauma therapist Maitreyi Nigwekar as the guest speaker.

Trauma is something experienced by everyone and how negatively it impacts the individual and their family, sometimes it even passes through the generations. Therefore the objective was to make everyone feel comfortable and provide insights into the various types of trauma and how to identify this cycle of abuse and to break out of them.

The participants engaged with the speaker with their questions and the event ended on an informative and interactive note.