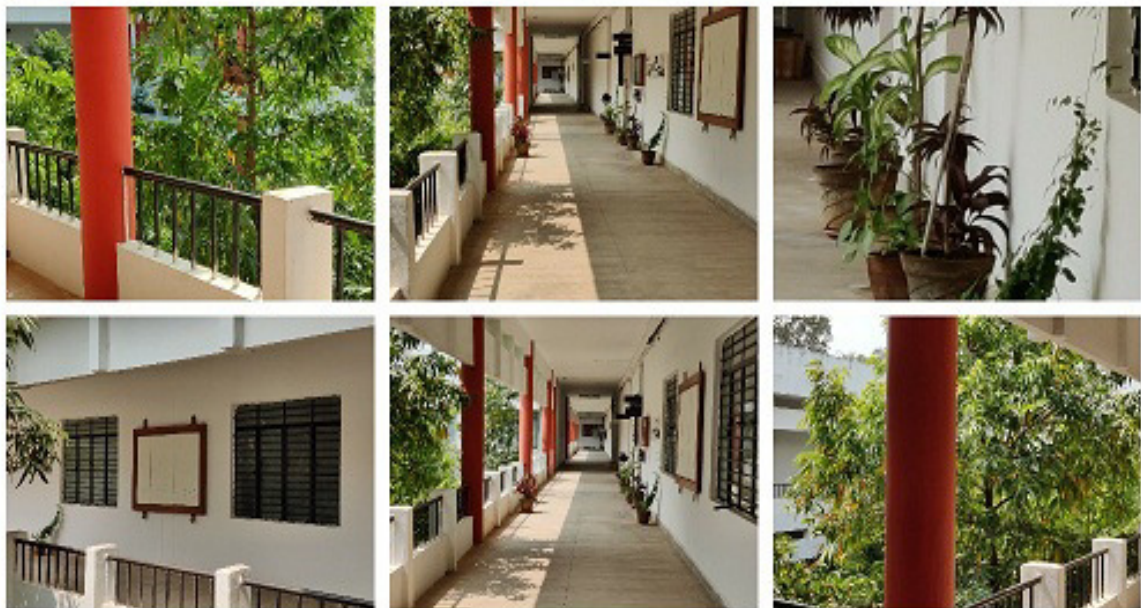


ENGLISH MAHILA

A Digital News Letter of
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM, TIRUPATI

May 2021, Issue -2



A collage of the images of the Department

The Department of English is happy to bring out the second issue of its digital news letter, **English Mahila**. We are overwhelmed with the encouraging response to the first issue, which was released in January 2021, from the English teaching fraternity, alumnae and well wishers of the department from all over the World.

The arrival of first years and the returning of the second year M.A. students to the campus in February had enlivened the department till the second wave of Corona sent them back home in mid April.

News of particular importance in the last quarter is the **generous donation of two lakh rupees** by Dr. G. Vijayalakshmi, an alumna of the department towards instituting an endowment lecture in the department. Her magnanimous gesture goes a long way in setting in motion the involvement of alumnae in Departmental development. The faculty, scholars and students of the department appreciate her magnanimous gesture with as much gratitude as she feels for the department. **Thank you Dr. G. Vijayalakshmi!**

Our alumna, Soumitha Sarcar who works as a PGT in English at a Navodaya school in Gujarat and who did her M.A from the department nearly two decades ago pleasantly surprised us by responding to our call and contributing a write up for the newsletter which you will read in the later pages of this issue.

Again, A. Manasa, an alumna of M.A.2012- 2014 batch, who works for Sri Chaitanya schools and simultaneously runs a spoken English institute of her own in Rayachoti, gladdens our hearts with her success story.

Hope you enjoy reading the success stories of these two English Mahilas.

We invite the alumnae to partner with the faculty by actively engaging in the development of the Department. The alumnae and readers of this news letter can reach out to the Department at maenglishalumnae21@gmail.com. We would be happy to hear your comments and suggestions . Please keep us informed about your professional accomplishments .

-editor

Faculty



Prof. T. Bharathi
Dean, SSSHM, Warden & Head I/C,
Department of Psychology



Prof. G. Sheela Swarupa Rani
Head



Prof. Y. S. Sharada
Dean, Student Affairs



Prof. P. Hari Padma Rani



Prof. M. Neeraja
Chair Person, BOS

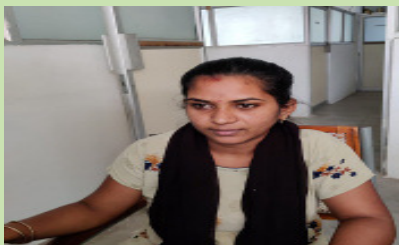


Prof. V. Nirmala
Deputy Warden



Dr. K. Revathi
Academic Consultant

Non-Teaching Staff



K. Kotamma
Clerk



C. Rukmini
Attendant

Prof. G. Sheela Swarupa Rani

Publications

1. "Trapped in a Wrong Body : A Critique on Transgender Poetry" in *VAAGARHTA*, Proceedings of Sixty Third All India English Teachers' Conference, Lakshmi Publications, Tirupati, 2020 ; ISBN : 978-93-5396-189-3.

Prof. Y. S. Sharada

Publications

1. "Anjali Sachdeva's All The Names They Used for God- A Critical Perspective" in *VAAGARHTA*, Proceedings of Sixty Third All India English Teachers' Conference, Lakshmi Publications, Tirupati, 2020

ISBN : 978-93-5396-189-3

- Delivered a lecture on "Importance of Language in Research" in a short term course on Research Methodology organized by IQAC, SPMVV from 15.03.2021 to 31.03.2021.

Prof .M. Neeraja

Publications

"The Image of New Woman as Portrayed in Jhumpa Lahiri's Novel The Lowland " in *SMART MOVES JOURNAL IJELLH* of Vol: 9, Issue : 3 March 2021.

e-ISSN: 2582-3574 p-ISSN: 2582-4406

- Took charge as Chair Person, BOS in April 2021.

Prof. P. Hari Padma Rani

Publications

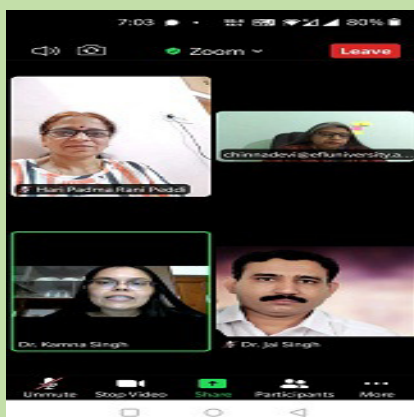
“What Can Literature Offer to Adolescents at Crossroads?” in *VAAGARHTA*, Proceedings of Sixty Third All India English Teachers’ Conference, Lakshmi Publications, Tirupati, 2020

ISBN : 978-93-5396-189-3

- Conducted a 3 day workshop on life skills for the students of Organic Chemistry from 18 to 20 February 2021.



- Conducted a two hour session for English Lecturers Working for Siddardha group of Colleges in Vijayawada on the topic “What Qualities Make a Good Teacher of English?” on 09.04.2021 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.
- Participated in the four day long International Conference on “Electronic Textual Cultures: A Study of Digital Literature & Literature in Digital Spaces” organized by the English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Hyderabad from 9th to 12th of March 2021. Chaired a session & presented a paper on “Reflections on Teaching Phonetics in the Electronic Textural Culture”.



Prof .V. Nirmala

Publications

“The Plight of the Suppressed Self in Fleeing from Religious Incarceration: Tehmina Durrani’s Blasphemy” in *VAAGARHTA*,

Proceedings of Sixty Third All India English Teachers’ Conference

Lakshmi Publications, Tirupati, 2020

ISBN : 978-93-5396-189-3

- Conducted a three day workshop on life skills for M.Com. students from 18th to 20th February .
- Participated in a Virtual Two Week Short term Course on Research Methodology from 15th to 31st March, organized by IQAC, SPMVV.



Dr. K. Revathi

- Attended a Seminar on “Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Challenges of Women in Workplace” at Sri Annamacharya Institute of Technology & Sciences , Tirupati, during 25-27 March 2021.
- “Communicative Competence of Teaching and Learning in Engineering Education “ in *Literary Endeavour* , Vol. XII : Issue 2 in April 2021.
ISSN : 0976-299X.
- Qualified APSET.

Activities of the Dean of Student Affairs

- Prof. Y. S. Sharada organized Sankranthi Celebrations on 11-01-2021 and a bonfire was lit to celebrate Bhogi, the first day of the festival where students and staff participated with great enthusiasm.



- Celebrated Voters Day on 25-01-2021 in collaboration with NSS to spread awareness about the necessity of voting and encourage the young generation towards voting rights. National Voters day pledge was taken by students and staff.



- An **Induction Programme** for the Freshers was organized from 17 to 20 February 2021.

- Organized World Water Day in collaboration with FANSA (Freshwater Action Network South Asia), Andhra Pradesh chapter, WINS, PORD and other NGO organizations on 22-03-2021 and officials from Ground water department addressed the students and created awareness on the importance of water, its conservation and protection. Students interacted with the officials, took pledge and participated actively.



- Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP), the flagship programme of the Election Commission of India for voter education was organized for students in collaboration with Urban MRO office on 06-04-2021.



- A week long celebrations were organized from 07-04-2021 to 14-04-2021 to mark the 130th birth anniversary of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar and various competitions were conducted for students.Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions on the closing day i.e. on 14-04-2021



- Prize winners of various competitions with Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Co-ordinator, Ambedkar studies and Dean, Student Affairs:



Faculty of the department felicitating Prof. Saraswati Vasudev of the music department on the eve of her retirement in February



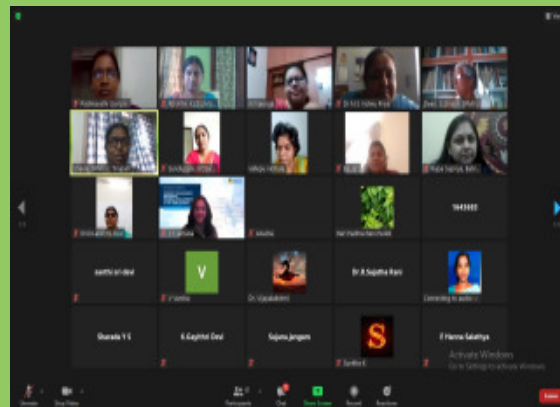
Faculty felicitating Prof. A. Jyothi, Dean, School of Sciences, on the eve of her retirement



WEBINARS

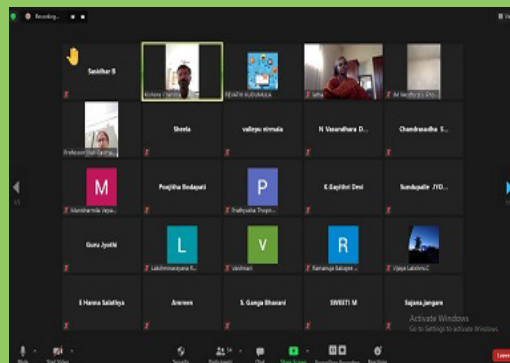
1. Prof. V. Nirmala organized a Webinar on Film Studies titled **Outside the Space of Moment: Understanding the Language of Cinema** on 08.02.2021 at 11.30 am to 1 pm.

Resource Person: **Prof. Kona Prakash**,
English and Foreign Languages University



2. Prof. P. Hari Padma Rani organized a Digital Interaction programme on **Leaving the Literary Terrain for Greener Pastures** on 07.04.2021 from 4.00 to 5.30pm.

Resource person : **Mr. Kishore Chandra**, an Ecological Farming Practitioner.



Alumnae News

Magnanimous Donation by Alumna Dr.G. Vijayalakshmi

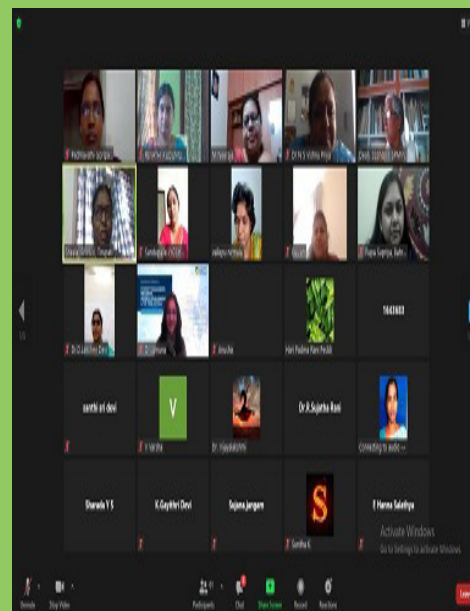
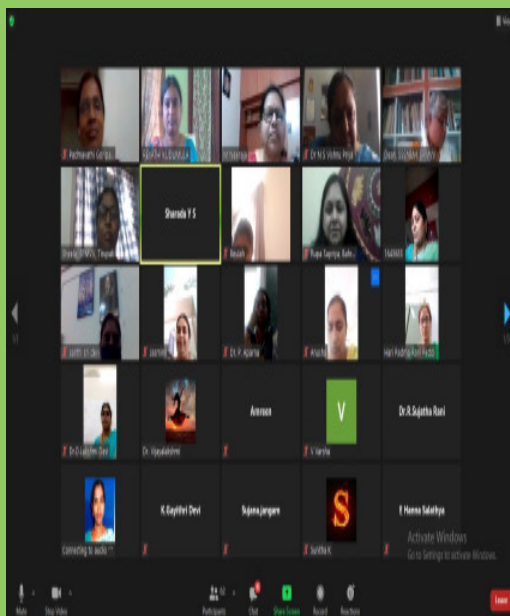
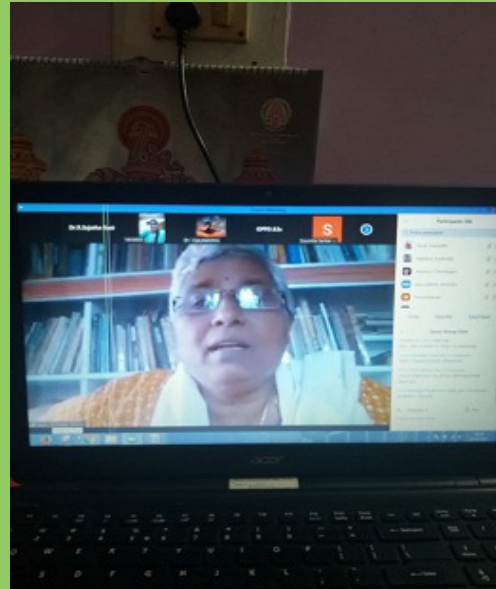
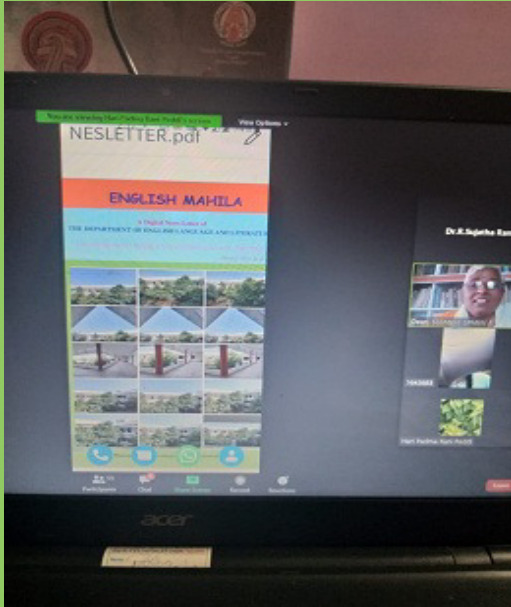


*Dr. G. Vijayalakshmi, prompted by the desire to do something for the Department as well as her wish to commemorate her son and parents, has given a magnanimous endowment of **two lakhs** to the university towards Instituting **Gottipati Sindhu Vimala Subbarao Endowment Lecture** in the department. The annual interest incurred on the amount will be spent on organising a lecture every year by an eminent speaker. Dr. G. Vijayalakshmi obtained her master's degree in English from Osmania University in 1999- She did her Ph.D. on "The Theme of Female Suffering in Indian Short fiction in English Translation" under the supervision of Prof. P. Hari Padma Rani and obtained her Doctoral degree in 2009 from Sri Padmavati Mahila University. She subsequently did a UGC sponsored post doctoral for five years from 2013 -2018 on "Violence against Women". She published two books and 14 papers .She served as a Soft Skills Trainer and as part of that job, toured around 200 Engineering colleges in the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh between 2004 and 2006. She worked at Koneru Lakshmaiah Engineering College and PB Siddhardha College for several years and now lives in Bangalore.*

We are grateful to Dr.G. Vijayalakshmi for her generous donation which will certainly contribute to the long term academic growth of the department.



Release of *ENGLISH MAHILA*, the first digital news letter of the department, by the Dean, Prof. T. Bharathi at the first online alumnae meet held on 29-01-21.



Soumita Sarkar (Batch of 2000-2002)



I come from a humble family. My father is a self-made man who started everything with a scratch. My mother instilled in me right from the time I gathered my senses that to survive in this world I need to find an honourable means of survival which is possible only through education. I was made to understand the importance of regular studies through many examples from our family history. As a result, I took to paying attention to my studies. Before I could understand the meaning of dream, I had a dream and it was a cliché, to become a doctor. This is not uncommon in an Indian household.

I learned a very essential life skill of adapting myself to any situation owing to my father's all India transferable government job. I entered Kendriya Vidyalaya in class 7th and continued studying till my 12th Board. I had opted Science group in plus two level with Biology, Physics and Chemistry. I got distinction in 12th Board exam and this raised the hope of my parents that I have the capability to compete with many others aspiring to become a physician and topple them to grab a seat in a prestigious medical college. I say you, this hope is quite infectious! I was also infected by the passion of donning the coveted white coat and stethoscope. Alas! I was too young to understand that God has His ways and we mortals when have expectations too high also have to face the Great Fall sometimes.

I took a drop of one year and joined one of the best coaching centers in Visakhapatnam with my parents' consent. I gave myself to studies for one year. I learned how to fill application for the first time and used my signature as a pro like I had seen my teachers do. I liked my English teacher. I also learned how to rhyme words and used to write poems both in Hindi and English as a leisure time activity. Back then I never thought that one day I would become an English Teacher. I applied for some seven admission tests with examination centers at various corners of the country. My mother with the only dream to see her daughter as a doctor used to sit three hours outside the examination center waiting for me with a dabba of food. We used to rely on our acquaintances' generosity at every corner of the country for that 'one night halt' before or after the exam as with our economic condition then we couldn't afford a stay at a hotel.

All of us were more than certain that my name will appear in the merit list. But no such merit list was ever published. I grew dejected and disappointed. It was very challenging for me to accept my failure. My parents stood beside me like rock and motivated me to move on in my life. I took Science in graduation with again a cliché combination during those days- Botany, Zoology and Chemistry. While in first year of graduation I joined the Brilliant Coaching in Chennai with my scholarship money. This educational scholarship was offered by the department where my father worked for scoring distinction in 12th Board examination.

The day result of All India Pre Medical Test was declared the air in our home in Sriharikota then was sober. I was devastated. Again my parents consoled that they were satisfied that I had put in my efforts and the result was not in our hands. I moved on once again. This time with a hope to get admission in M.Sc. Chemistry I started afresh. I wasn't prepared to do Masters in either Botany or Zoology. I didn't have any reliable person who could guide me in my career in our family. I could have got a seat in a collage in Maharastra for Chemistry with my combination subjects but was unaware then. I applied at REC, Warangal but failed as few seat were there for general caste candidates.

I was dread against taking one more year's drop preparing for Masters Entrance examination. Finally one of our neighbours Mr. Naushad told us about Sri Padmavathy Mahila University. He got the prospectus also and I found two courses of my choice there, MA English Language & Literature and the other being Master in Communication & Journalism. On consultation with elders I was suggested to apply for MA English. MA English course was and now also thought to be a traditional course of study. But the big question was- How could a meritorious Science student join Humanities stream? Seriously this question was of grave concern; I had to answer this question many a times in the next course of my life; almost for the next ten years or so. Even during my 'Pelli Chuupalu' which literally means the marital negotiation. I was prepared to face the consequences of the change in stream; may be my tenacity impressed Lord Balaji and by His grace I was selected for the interview by the Department Of English, SPMVV. I was selected and got admission in MA English.

It's been twenty years now since I joined Padmavati University. My two years of stay in the University campus while pursuing my Masters taught me many valuable lessons of life. For the first time I was away from home and all things I had been enjoying since childhood in the warm and protected shelter of my parents. As I already mentioned adjustment was not an obstacle for me. Yet home sickness is something that every student must feel to appreciate the blessings of staying with family in home. One prominent change was the transformation of a perspective that I had developed while studying Science. Instead of dissecting a leaf looking for its venation, stomata opening and margin; I began to appreciate the beauty of the leaf. I began to observe the slow movements of the same leaf in wind and under the rain drops. This paradigm shift in the thought process was the result of those lengthy conversations with my compassionate friends who helped me to handle the trauma of switching over to Humanities from Science. But now I know that change of stream from Science to Humanities was not a setback but a blessing. My friends had come to do Masters after doing their graduation in English. Considering this fact they had an edge over me as a student of Literature. I accepted the challenge and studied hard. My professors instilled in me the love for

Literature. Our batch staged two English dramas under the able guidance of our professors. I took part in Leadership Training programme and also represented University in the Cultural Exchange Youth Festival funded by Ford Foundation. I witnessed many educationist and scholars in their own fields delivering speeches with élan. I used to be awe struck at times and hoped one day I too would deliver such speeches. I even participated in Nation Group Dance Competition held at Kerala University along with our troupe. I can converse in Telugu well till date, credit goes to my two year's stay in university campus. The foundation of friendship that was laid in campus is still strong.

I never missed a class. My professors were (are) sincere, dedicated and approachable. They were always ready to help us in every possible ways. The thought never entered my conscious that I never studied Literature in graduation. All credit goes to my professors who made my entry into the realm of Literature so smooth and simple. I spend most of my leisure time searching for books and preparing notes in the library. But Vidya Laxmi's preparedness was better than me so she received the Gold Medal and I stood second in the final examination. Before the results were declared I was already appointed by a private degree college in Mancherial, Adilabad district as a Lecturer in English. I did my Bachelors in Education from Dibrugarh University and clenched the Gold Medal. After that there was no looking back and since then I have been teaching English in various colleges, institutions and schools in different parts of the country successfully. I enjoy teaching. My students like me, respect me and never stop from letting me know now and then that they still remember me. This is the greatest gift of being a Teacher. We get the opportunity to touch the lives of so many students in innumerable ways. The Late President of our country, the Missile man, Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said

“Teaching is a noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual”

If I don't get a chance to teach for some reasons I start feeling a strange emptiness. Teaching is in my blood it comes effortlessly to me. I understood that there is a difference between dream and delusions. May be I was never born to become a doctor. Now I am free of all guilt conscious for not being able to fulfill my parents' expectations. They also feel proud of me. I am presently working as a PGT English in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. In June 2019 I qualified UGC-NET and in December 2020 enrolled in PhD course in School of languages, Gujarat University. I seek blessings from my beloved teachers so that I can complete my Ph.D.

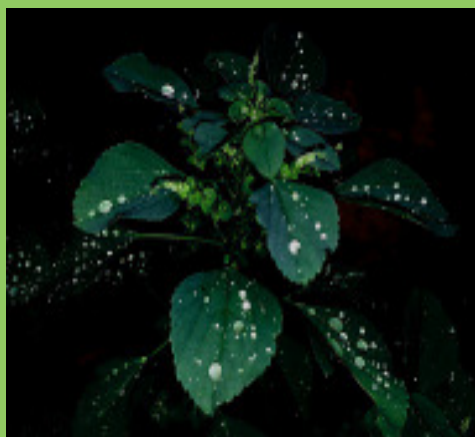
Wherever I stand today or whatever I am today as a person or as a professional everything I owe to my Alma mater Sri Padmavati Mahila University. I have preserved all my notes till date as they are so precious to me. How can I miss this opportunity to pay my gratitude to this great institution that had changed the entire course of my life? I thank wholeheartedly to the Department for giving me this opportunity to share the things which had been hidden deep in my heart for years waiting for an opportune time to come out. I am privileged to be taught and guided by the professors of English Department. Recently when I had a telephonic conversation with Prof. Hari Padma Rani madam, I was overwhelmed as a result couldn't stop the outburst of tears as I felt so emotional to talk to my mentor after so many years. It was even more touching when

madam told that she remembers me and mentions my name to the present batch while taking class on the topic Practical Criticism. I thank all the members of the Department once again including those who are not presently working for instilling values in me and teaching me more than what is written in books. Such knowledge cannot be acquired anywhere else. I have discovered my true potential through your teachings.

I congratulate the entire team and the English Department for bringing out the newsletter English Mahila and pray to the almighty that this great institution should continue its good work and continue to transform lives as it has done in my case.



Our alumna, Priyambada Reddy(2018-20) ,who passed out in 2020, got appointed as TGT at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Gunupur, Rayagada, Odisha. Congratulations Priyambada!



A photo clicked by Priyambada Reddy

A. Manasa (2012-14)



I am Manasa , an alumna of the department of English, feeling privileged to share my achievements with the readers of the Newsletter, because it is the department which made me get into the position I hold today. I strongly believe that a teacher's motivation can change a student's life both professionally and personally and it was proved correct in my case.

The very first day when I doubted myself and I was about to leave the university in the year 2012 , my mentor motivated me in such a way with her words that today I'm a proud M.A. M.Ed. holder. I can never forget getting an 'O' grade in my language paper in the second semester. The words of encouragement from the professors of the department, changed my life completely and have made me stand on my own feet holding a job in Sri Chaitanya Schools as H.O.D and at the same time running my own institution. I feel proud to share this achievement with you all. I can proudly say that the department is beside me in each and every achievement of mine and whenever I achieve anything in my life I always remember my mentor, because I am always afraid of one thing :” if I had not listened to her words on that day , what would have been my position today?” Unimaginable.

Today I'm in a position of teaching hundreds of students and unbeknownst to my teachers who motivated me during my M.A, I am helping hundreds of students to get motivated . The two years gave me very good knowledge which helps me a lot now.

I'm very grateful to the department forever mam. And I feel it's my responsibility to show my gratefulness. My mother is the one who gave me birth and supported me to lead this wonderful life and the department gave me birth as a teacher. The achievements, applauds, respect and blessings from parents.... everything I owe to the department as well. Once again I thank the teachers of the department for the professional life i enjoy today.

Student Achievements

Rich tributes have been payed to B.R.Ambedkar through huge participation of women students in the week -long events organised jointly by the Centre for Ambedkar Studies and the Student Affairs cell of SPMVV in connection with his Birth Anniversary . The competitions held in different events like skit, dance, singing, elocution, essay writing, and poster making extolled his multifarious contributions to the development of Modern India. Students from the English department have enthusiastically taken part in almost all the events and distinguished themselves by winning multiple prizes.

S.Sreelakshmi Tejaswini has won the second prize in singing.

A. Hemalatha too has won the second prize in dance competition; Sreeja, Swati, Deepika, Bhanuseelekha, Sreelakshmi Tejaswini, and A. Hemalatha have done a skit which has also won the second prize.

Essay writing and Elocution competitions had major participation from almost all the departments and B.Poojitha of our class got second prize in essay writing competition and a third prize in elocution.

Report by

Sreeja Reddy- M.A. First Year



M. A. First years after staging their prize winning skit on Ambedkar

Students at the Freshers' party held on 31-03-21



- B. Saroja Nayak from 2015-2017 batch is elected as the Grama Sarpanch of Machireddygari Palli village Panchayat .
- Students participated in World Water Day Celebrations and shared their ideas on 22nd March 2021.
- Three research scholars of the department attended a short term course on Research Methodology organized by IQAC from 15.03.2021 to 31.03.2021.
- Our Second year students won first prize in poster making competition held in connection with Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebrations.

POEM

WHO AM I?

I am a girl who wants everyone,
But no one wants me, my parents too.
They sent me with some stranger.
I bade farewell to everyone with tears in my eyes.

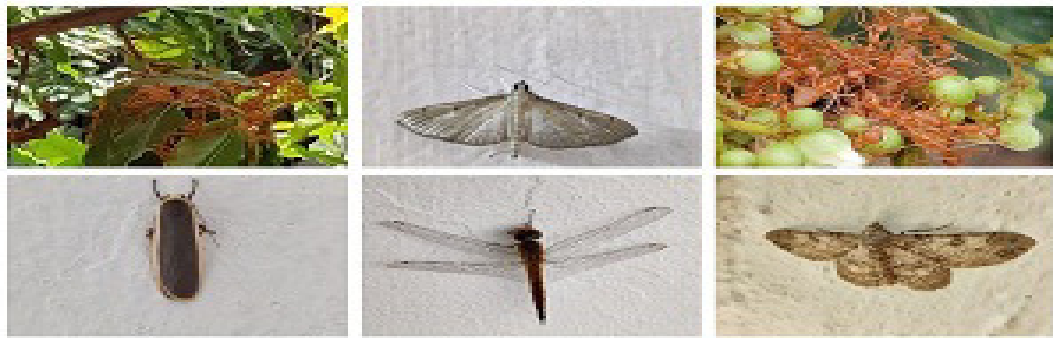
I thought, atleast he would love me;
But he proved I am wrong.
I am a self - dependent female, but he is
A dominating male.
I need a good partner but he needs just a
Doll.
I want to be happy
But he made me adjust.

I lost my identity;
As a daughter, as a friend, as a wife, as
A human too.
Who am I?

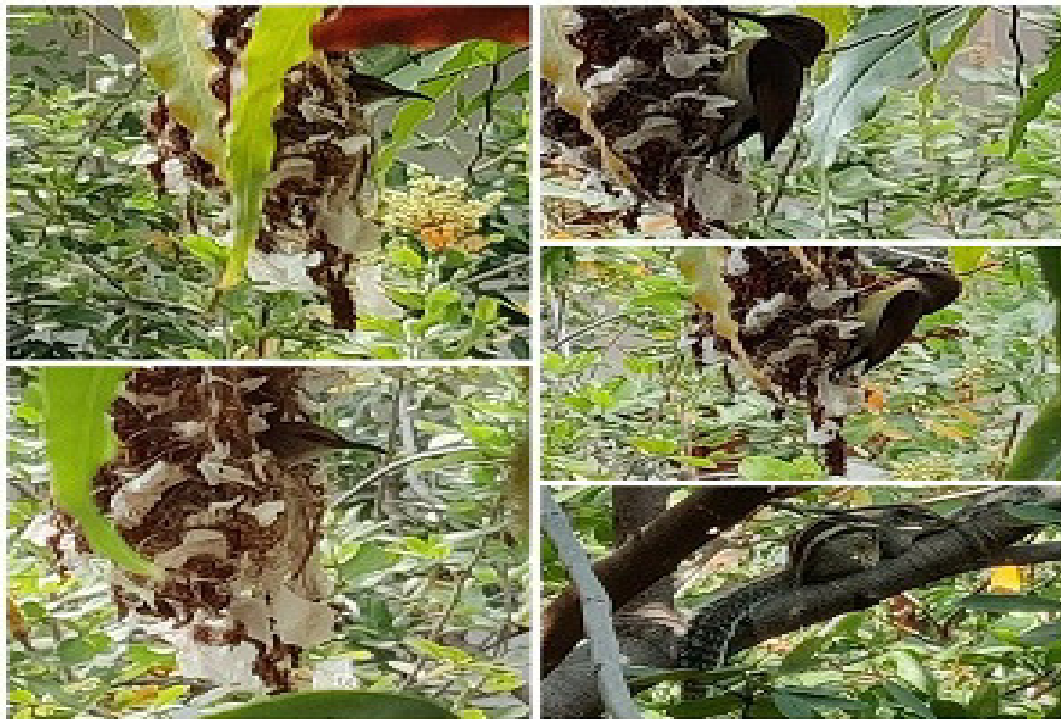
-Chandra Sudha.S
M. A. Final



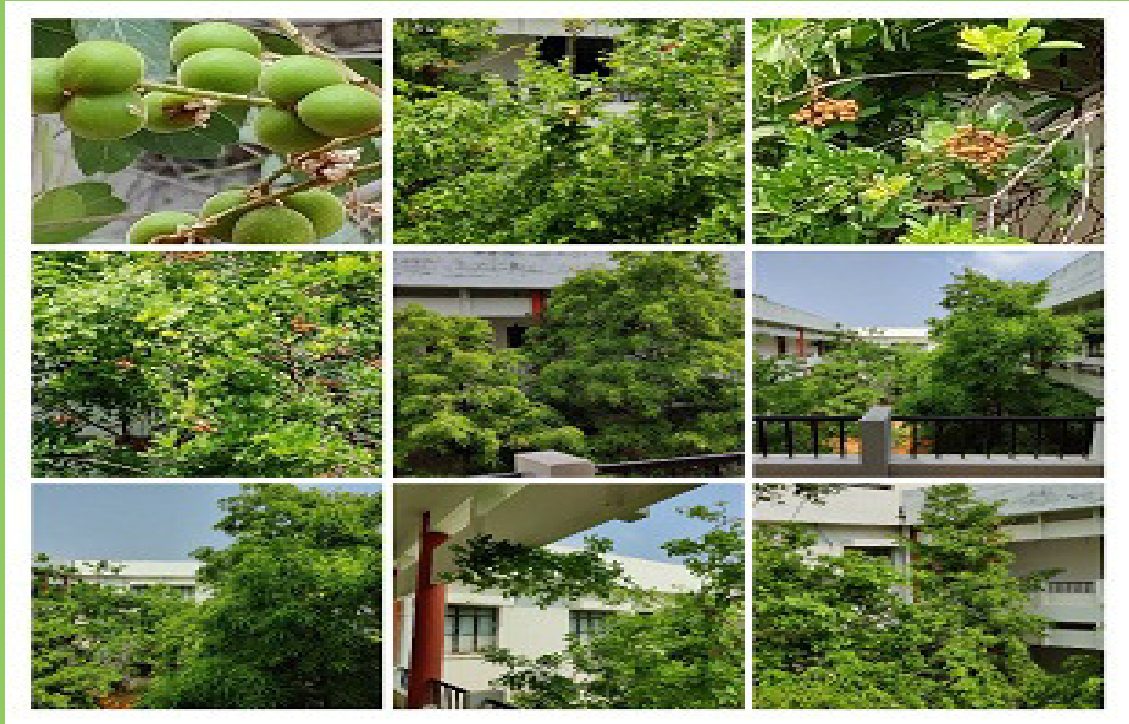
Our plant companions in the corridors of the department



Entomological visitors to the department



Arboreal visitors to the department



**The Much Loved Green Sentinels of the Department,
Ashoka trees and a Soapnut tree**



Ashoka and Soapnut Blossoms