



AMRITA
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

Book Review

Date: 23.06.2026

Platform: Microsoft Teams (Online)

Subject: Fourth Book Review Session

Introduction and Objective of the Programme

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, successfully conducted the fourth session of its Book Review Initiative on 23rd June 2026 through Microsoft Teams. The programme continued its mission of encouraging reading habits, critical thinking, and meaningful intellectual discussions among students.

The objective of the session was to inspire participants to explore literature that promotes self-reflection, personal growth, ethical awareness, and the pursuit of one's dreams. The books selected for review offered valuable insights into human nature, ambition, purpose, and the importance of following one's aspirations.

Introduction of the Presenters

The session featured two student presenters from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering:

- **Ms. Shalini (CB.SC.U4CSE25456)** reviewed *The Picture of Dorian Gray* written by Oscar Wilde.
- **Mr. Miriyala Dhanwinn (CB.SC.U4CSE25639)** reviewed *The Alchemist* written by Paulo Coelho.

Both books offered unique perspectives on personal choices, self-discovery, ambition, and the consequences of one's actions.

Book Review Presentations

Presentation 1: The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

The first presentation was delivered by Ms. Shalini.

The presenter reviewed *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, a classic philosophical novel that explores themes of beauty, morality, vanity, and the consequences of unchecked desire. The presentation highlighted how an excessive pursuit of pleasure and external appearance can lead to moral decline and personal destruction.

Participants learned that true character is defined not by physical appearance but by one's actions and values. The review encouraged students to reflect on the importance of ethical decision-making and personal responsibility.

Presentation 2: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

The second presentation was delivered by Mr. Miriyala Dhanwinn.

The presenter reviewed *The Alchemist*, an inspirational novel that follows the journey of Santiago, a young shepherd who pursues his Personal Legend in search of treasure. The presentation emphasized the importance of following one's dreams, embracing challenges, and learning from life's experiences.

Participants learned that persistence, faith, and courage are essential in achieving personal goals. The review highlighted how obstacles often serve as valuable lessons that help individuals grow and discover their true purpose.

Interactive Discussion Session

Following the presentations, an interactive discussion was conducted through Microsoft Teams. Participants actively shared their thoughts and raised questions regarding the themes discussed in both books.

The discussion encouraged deeper reflection on topics such as ambition, morality, personal growth, dreams, and self-discovery. Students engaged enthusiastically and contributed diverse perspectives, making the session both informative and engaging.

Key Learnings from the Session

- True success comes from balancing ambition with integrity.
- Personal growth often results from overcoming challenges and learning from experiences.
- External appearances should never be valued above character and ethics.
- Following one's dreams requires courage, persistence, and self-belief.

Conclusion

The fourth Book Review Session conducted by the National Service Scheme was insightful, engaging, and intellectually enriching. Through reviews of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Alchemist*, participants gained valuable insights into morality, personal responsibility, self-discovery, perseverance, and the pursuit of meaningful goals.

The active participation of students contributed significantly to the success of the programme and further strengthened the objectives of the NSS Book Review Initiative.