

Amrita Students Debating Society (ASDS)

Newsletter



October 2023

Amrita Students Debating Society (ASDS) is a forum of thirty students and a few faculty members. It has been started with a vision to foster a dynamic learning space outside classroom. It is a platform for our students to collaborate and deliberate on diverse issues that affect the world. ASDS aims to tap into the potential that debating has in shaping a person's character, which holds the key for her or his overall success in life.

The idea of starting a debating society was born during a verbal and communication session when a few students expressed their desire to create a platform to discuss and debate issues beneficial to the student community. With the encouragement and support of the senior leadership team at CIR, faculty members- V. Suresh, Navami Govind and G. Rameshkumar along with student volunteers- Moheshwara L. (III Year Aerospace Engineering), Arya S. (III Year Chemical - Engineering) and R. Ananya (III Computer Science Engineering) started working for the formation of the debating society.

At ASDS, members take part in debates that follow the rules of a formal debate on a weekly basis. The topics are decided on gathering the views of all the members a week before. This provides sufficient time for debaters to prepare well. Apart from strictly adhering to the format, debaters focus on dos and don'ts of their roles. At the end of each debate, judges, after around a fifteen-minute discussion, announce the results. They also outline the factors that were considered in making the decision.

Vision

We aspire for a society where people appreciate diverse perspectives and embrace critical thinking.

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Mission

To enable student community to articulate their ideas, respect opposing viewpoints, and work towards collaborative solutions

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V Suresh



G Rameshkumar



Navami Govind



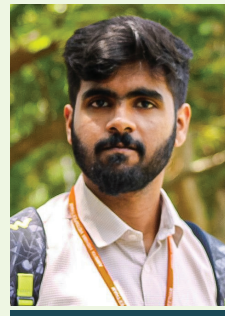
Ananya R



Bhavana N



Hari Kesav



Harish Raju



Arya S K

MEMBERS





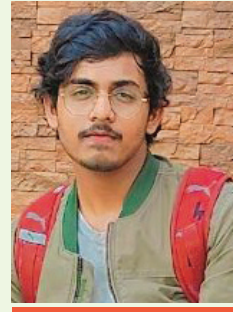
Kabilan R S



Praveen K M



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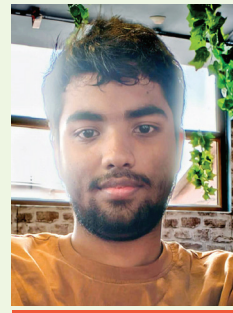
Srinidhi J



Varun Sankara
Narayanan



Hitika Ranparia



Sagar Bantupalli



Sowmya M S



Pravinkumar G



M S Sree Mridhula



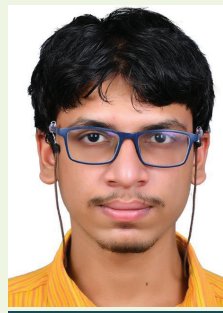
Adithya A



Nandagovind T N



Arman Mahapatra



Abhijeet Sreyas



Moheshwara L



Message from

V. Suresh

Faculty-in-charge, ASDS

It is my strong belief that when an individual takes part in debates, she or he not only becomes an effective communicator but also learns valuable life lessons. Debating enables the person to develop the ability to think, at the first place, and thereafter think critically. Besides learning the importance of keeping the emotions under control, debaters hone the ability to think on their feet. Debating requires one to have at least basic knowledge of the various subjects and issues that affect the world. Above all, debating enables the person to develop a broader outlook on the world and to accept victories and defeats in the stride.

The debating society has been formed primarily for three major reasons. First and the foremost is the fervent call by Shri C. Parameswaran, Principal Director, CIR that students must be provided holistic education wherein they get opportunities to develop their abilities in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities besides what they learn from professors in classrooms. Second is effective communication. It holds the key to success in many spheres of life and debating is a way to strengthen it. Third, in a world where people are involved in constant quarrels and fights even over trivial things, the art of debating can help people see things from different perspectives and appreciate the importance of civil discussion and reconciliation.

We believe Amrita Students Debating Society will usher in a path-breaking experience in the life of every ASDS member!

ASDS Inauguration



Shri. C. Parameswaran, Principal Director

Laying the foundation of the Amrita Students Debating Society

Amrita Students Debating Society (ASDS) was inaugurated on 4 September 2023 in Muralikrishna Hall at Corporate and Industry Relations. Shri C. Parameswaran, Principal Director of CIR, unveiled the brochure highlighting the salient features of ASDS. In his

inaugural address, Shri C. Parameswaran called on the students to grow into conscientious debaters who can appreciate critical thinking, embrace divergent viewpoints and empathise with others. He exhorted the students to become discerning individuals and contribute significantly for the welfare of the nation.

Shri Suresh Kodoor, Director- Academia Industry Partnership, appreciated the faculty and students for their extraordinary initiative. Dr. A. Balachandran, Additional Director- Career Competency Development, expressed his happiness about the initiative which he said would enhance their communication skills for professional success. Dr. Madhu Menon, General Manager- Career Competency Development, stressed the ASDS members should be the epitome of commitment and leadership. All the CIR staff and ASDS members were present.



ASDS

Deliberations

A peek at the debates we had in September.

Should the Death Penalty be Abolished?

ASDS conducted a debate on the motion **“This House Believes That The Death Penalty Should Be Abolished”** on 7 September 2023. The debate saw a fierce competition between the proposition and the opposition who weighed the legal and ethical righteousness of the death penalty. While one side staunchly called for the dire need to banish capital punishment for it has never been a deterrent of crimes, the opposition refuted their arguments as they failed to perceive the agony of the victims subject to heinous crimes. Either sides provided a comprehensive perspective on diverse aspects of capital punishment and its implications. The proposition made it a winning case by highlighting the futility of the death sentence that neither acts as a deterrence nor serves as a befitting retribution for the perpetrator.

The Moral Dilemma in Legalising Abortion

The debate held on the motion **“This House Believes That Abortion Should Be Legalised”** on 8 September 2023 delved into the moral dilemma in the medical termination of pregnancy. Foeticide being considered an inhuman act in many societies across the world makes it a crucial debating topic. The proposition contended legalising abortion as the only way to avoid unwanted pregnancies. On the other side, the opposition elaborated on the brutality of abortion. They emphasised the unjustifiable act of taking life in the name of abortions. The controversy surrounding the use of foetal tissue in cosmetics was also a bone of contention throughout the debate. However, the proposition won the debate by making a strong case for legalised pregnancy termination under agreeable circumstances as an ideal solution for women who resort to illegal means for abortion.

The Great Indian Brain Drain

“This House Regrets Brain Drain in India” was the motion for the debate held on 20 September 2023. Brain drain has been on the upsurge in India for many years now. The debate probed the causes and effects of brain drain with both sides making strong cases to prove their point. The proposition condemned the practice as it shows the lack of accountability of citizens to work for the collective welfare of the nation. They criticised brain drain as a psychological warfare to woo people to developed nations. The opposition focused on the benefits of brain drain. In their view, it contributes immensely to the economic development of the home country while also ensuring cordial international relations. With stronger arguments backed with adequate evidence, the opposition nailed the debate.

Is Free Travel Women's Ticket to Empowerment?

ASDS conducted another exciting debate on the motion **"This House Regrets Free Travel Scheme For Women"** on 27 September 2023. Even as both sides exchanged heated arguments, the proposition won the debate by a close margin. They argued that the free travel scheme cannot be perceived as a significant measure that ensures gender equality. It projects women in poor light - incapable of meeting their basic needs. They also questioned the efficacy of the scheme which does not make any socio-economic differentiation for its effective dispersal. On the other side, opposition presented the scheme as a right step aimed at women empowerment. They substantiated their arguments with data that showed a considerable increase in women's workforce participation after the implementation of the scheme.



Navami Govind
Faculty-in-charge of
Amrita Students Debating Society

Editor's Column

Debating as a quest for truth

Debating is an everyday reality. Whether it is a petty verbal spat with our siblings or compelling arguments with colleagues, we want to stand our ground. Oftentimes we see ourselves caught up in debates deep within- some of which affect our peace of mind. Why is there a debate? Where does it lead us? Every debate, with others or within, is a quest. A quest one embarks on to arrive at the truth. It helps each individual to question his or her understanding, refine perspectives and gather deeper insights.

Debating is commonly assumed to be a heated exchange of arguments. However, learning the art of debating will make us realise that it is a structured discourse of ideas supported by effective reasoning and evidence. In the pursuit of truth, reasoning and evidence guide us to perceive multiple facets of things around us, which we can seldom notice ordinarily. Debating also teaches us the power of rationality and poise, which keep us going in most difficult times. It plays a pivotal role in helping us discern a multitude of perspectives during our attempts to quell the unrest outside and within.



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