

Report of Walk With a Scholar (WWS)

Report 2018-19

The activities of Walk with a scholar program for the academic year 2018-19 was started from the beginning of the academic year itself. 30 First year and second year students each were selected from various disciplines based on their plus two marks, willingness to join the program, and evaluating their resume. The program is coordinated by Mr. Jipin V Jimmy, Asst. Professor in Commerce. Ten mentors were selected for mentoring the students selected under the program. They are;

1. Dr. Teena Annah Thomas, Associate Professor, Dept. of English
2. Dr. Reeja PS, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology
3. Miss. Elizabeth Johny, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Commerce
4. Miss. Jaisy Joy, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Chemistry
5. Miss. Neethu Varghese, Asst. Professor, Dept. of English
6. Mr. Liju Alex, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
7. Miss. Ann Johns, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
8. Miss. Shalini Thomas, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Economics
9. Dr. Elizabeth V John, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Physics
10. Miss Alphonsa Kurian, Asst. Professor Dept. of Sociology

The internal mentors frequently visited the mentees and discussed the matters relating to academics and others.

There was a seminar conducted for the internal mentors of WWS program at Govt College Kottayam. 5 internal mentors attended the same. There was a participation in the coordinators workshop conducted at Loyola College Trivandrum. The guidelines for the conduct of WWS Program for the academic year was explained there.

External Mentoring sessions were handled by eminent personalities from various fields which include

1. Prof. MVN Murthy, Indian Mathematical Institute Chennai –
2. Dr. Sudheesh Kumar, ISI Chennai
3. Prof. H S Mani, Adjunct Professor, Mathematical Institute, Chennai

4. Mr. Aswin A
5. Prof. Geevarghese Mathews
6. Dr. T P Sasikumar
7. Dr. Brijesh George John
8. Prof. Kamaleskar, Radhakrishnan Mission Vivekananda Education and Research Institute , Belur

Interview and Group Discussion training was given by Prof. Motti Thomas Zachariah, Associate Professor (Retd.), St. Stephen's College Uzhavoor.

We also conducted a motivational visit to CIFT Ernakulam, IIM Calicut, NIT Calicut and CUSAT. 30 students and 3 teachers participated in the program.

As part of the motivational visit conducted by the WWS Programme of BCM College, Thirty second year walk with a scholar mentees from various departments, under the guidance of Mr. Jipin V Jimmy, Dr. Reeja P.S and Mrs. Shalini Thomas visited institutes of excellence like CIFT, NITC, IIMK and CUSAT from 21st to 23rd January 2019.

The WWS team reached Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin on 21 January 2019 by 9:30am. Mr. Satheesh Kumar took classes on the same. One of their most widely used successful commercial products is the Retort Pouch Packing. In the By-products Division, Dr. Elavarasan Krishnamoorthy said that they export around 1.3 million tonnes of seafood. The division also does research on the by-products of fin fishes and shell fishes.

Great efforts were made to stress the future opportunities of students in this area. The students were informed about various internships and project opportunities offered by the institution. After this informative session the team left CIFT by 1pm and set off to Kozhikode after lunch. We reached accommodation at Pastoral and Missionary Orientation Centre, Marikunnu, Kozhikode.

As per the instructions, the team reached National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NITC) at 9:30am. After reaching the institute we entered the Natural Science block, where the

students were divided into three groups and went to the Departments of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry respectively.

At the Department of Mathematics, the group was greeted by a few authorities and 3 research scholars. They were taken to a classroom for a brief introduction by Dr. Sunil Jacob John. After that Dr. Sunil Mathew gave a lecture on the history of NITC and about its admission procedures for post graduate programmes. The group was informed about exams such as IIT- JAM, NET and GATE. He also talked about the advantages of studying in NITC. Dr. Sunitha who was part of last year's admission procedures also spoke to them.

After a short tea break the research scholars guided them to the MSc Lab and Library. They were told about the different software used by the faculty for research. There was also a brief interaction with the second year post graduation students of the college. Dr. Krishnan Paramasivam offered them a few research questions on abstract algebra and group theory. Then they met Associate Professor Dr. Lineesh M.C who briefed about the scope of applied mathematics and statistics, while also sharing his personal journey towards NIT.

The Department of Physics was introduced to the group by Mr. Madhavan who talked about the academic activities and entrance exams like JAM (Joint Admission Test). At the Department of Chemistry, Professor Dr. G Unnikrishnan gave an introduction about the institute and the various courses and opportunities that they provide. After which the group visited the Bio Inorganic Lab, where they saw various apparatus like Rotary Evaporator and Sonicator. They also saw instruments like Liophiliser, Fume Cupboard, Water Distillation Unit, Laboratory Oven, Vacuum Pump, etc. Research scholars Rashna and Diana explained the functioning of the same. Following a tea break they visited the Theory and Computational Lab. Research scholars Jishnu, Sneha and Muhasina explained to them about computational chemistry and their respective research areas. They also gave them an idea about super computers and software like Gaussian, ADF and Gamus.

The three groups then met in the conference hall by 11:30am for a lecture by Mrs. Preethi M, Coordinator of NIT Technology Business Incubator. She showed them a presentation about the history and functioning of the incubation centre. She was informed about the

boot camps offered to start ups. After the deeply enlightening session and a photograph session with the Directors, the team had lunch and went to IIMK.

After this motivational session the team reached back at PMOC Marikunnu for the halt and thus ended the second day of the motivational visit.

The team had to start early in the morning from Kozhikode as we had to report at CUSAT by 9:30am. On reaching Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), the students were divided based on their respective departments.

The students from the Sociology Department, led by their mentor Dr.Reeja P.S opted to go to Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP). There they had a discussion on the socially excluded and included groups with one of the professors of that centre. Led by Mrs. Shalini Thomas, the students of Economics visited the Department of Applied Economics. It was a good opportunity for the students to understand their career options in research. They had a very active session with the HOD Dr. P. Arunachalam, which was very informative. They also visited the department library. Research scholar P Sanoj explained how to use the library and reference texts for research. They also visited the classrooms and seminar halls of the department.

The students from the Department of English visited the Department of English and Foreign Languages. They met the HOD Mrs. Brinda Bala Sreenivasan who informed them about the various courses offered by the department. She mentioned that they had visiting faculties for French, German, Italian, Russian, Arabic and Japanese. The department has twinning programs with Shimane University, Japan. The students thus get exposure to foreign universities. Then they visited the classrooms and the Language Lab. They also interacted with some of the students there. Following which they had a short interactive session with visiting faculty, Dr. Mathew Joseph, a retired Professor from Maharaja's College who is now a research guide. He gave insights on the scope of research in the areas of Deconstruction, Post Colonialism and Post Structuralism. He informed them about new career options like Professional Communicator. Thereafter the students went to the Inter University Centre for IPR Studies (Intellectual Property Rights), an area which is of much global importance right now.

The introduction to the Department of Physics was done by Dr. Senoy Thomas. Then they visited the lab for Magnetism, where they were doing experiments on Hard Magnet

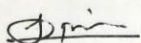
Polarisation of Light due to magnetic field. The students also interacted with the research students in the lab.

The students of BSc Chemistry visited the Department of Polymer Science and Rubber Technology which was established in collaboration with the Rubber Research Institute of India. The HOD Dr. Honey John arranged for them to visit the labs, where the functioning of the apparatus were explained by research scholars Rohini, Irthas and Liz.

The students of the Mathematics Department interacted with the HOD Dr. Noufal. He asked them about their concepts on integration and differentiation which he later explained in a pictorial manner. He also encouraged them to read books related to Mathematics. He also talked of the admission procedures to CUSAT.

The students of BSc Zoology visited the Department of Biotechnology, where they entered the Micro Biology Section. They had a detailed discussion about the plant 'Lakshmi taru' which has anti cancerous properties. Dr. Divya interacted with them and introduced them to the Plastic Degeneration Section. Then they met another faculty Ms Geena who explained to them about the research topics like Metagenomics. They also interacted with Dr. Gayathri who was researching on 'Oncogene Virus' in the Virology Lab.

After a fruitful discussion they left CUSAT by 3 pm marking an end to the motivational visit. The WWS team reached their College by 4pm. All in all, the motivational visit remained true to its purpose. The students were without doubt, motivated, inspired and enlightened by the various institutions and the resources that they had received. With the constant guidance and support from the teachers the students had a productive time. The visit was hence a great success.



Jipin V. Jimmy
WWS Co-ordinator

