

## **“Report of the 30-hour Certificate Course on Community Engagement through Documentary Filmmaking”**

The Department of English of the MES Vasant Joshi College of Arts & Commerce, Zuarinagar, Goa in collaboration with the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus and sponsored by the Directorate of Higher Education, Goa organized a 30-hour Certificate Course on ‘Community Engagement Through Documentary Filmmaking’ for the students of M. E. S. Vasant Joshi College. The course was held from 05-18 October, 2024. The inaugural function of the certificate course was held on the 05<sup>th</sup> of October in the Raj Tara Seminar Hall, Block V, BBA Auditorium of the college. Film writer and filmmaker, Mr. Saumyananda Sahi was the Chief Guest and the resource person on the occasion. The DHE observer Mr. Sameer Fati was also present on the occasion. The function began with the welcome of the gathering and introductory remarks by the Filmmaker, Mr. Saumyananda Sahi. This was followed by a screening of the film *Remembering Kurdi* directed by Mr. Saumyananda Sahi, to the audience after which the first session – an interaction with the filmmaker followed. After the first session, the formal inaugural function commenced with the welcome address and introduction to the objectives of the course by the Convenor of the Certificate Course - Dr. S. Susan Deborah.

The second day’s sessions on 06<sup>th</sup> of October were conducted in BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus. The session began at 09. 30 with theory sessions by Dr. S. Susan Deborah, Dr. Sayantani Sarkar and Dr. Rayson K. Alex. The students were led through various topics of community engagement, documentary and the nuances of the same. The latter part of the day saw the students shoot an interview with their ideas and mobile phones.

The third day’s session was held on 13<sup>th</sup> of October in the café Chai Coffee at Dabolim, which was also the day of shooting. In the gap of a week, the students were asked to submit their ideas and topics for a probable documentary film which would be conceptualized by the students. An idea from one of the students was to talk about the journey of an alumni of the college which led us to focus on the life and times of Mr. Raj Bhandare, Founder of Nirvana Ltd. Since his journey was incomplete without his spouse’s, it was decided that the journey of both Ms. Sneha Raj Bhandare and his would be documented. The documentary was shot the full day and the following week was devoted to editing the documentary. The next session on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> of October – Mr. Arun Bose, film director from Kochi engaged sessions on editing techniques and

sound aspects following which some students tried their hands on editing the documentary which was shot.

The concluding session and the valedictory function was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at 12. 30 p. m. in the Principal. M. S. Kamat Seminar Hall of the College premises. Mr. Raj Bhandare and Ms. Sneha Bhandare were the guests on the occasion. The function began with the screening of the documentary film *Two Tastes Together* which was made by the students with the guidance of Dr. Rayson K. Alex. The screening was followed by the Principal, Prof. Manasvi M. Kamat, welcoming the gathering. After the introduction of the guests, they were presented with potted plants. This was followed by the report reading by Ms. Jayshree Ghosh, a participant of the certificate course. After the report reading, two students of the course, Mr. Rahul Gupta and Ms. Bibi Sinin shared their feedback on their experience of the course. Then the certificates were distributed to the students for the successful completion of the course. Next, the Chief Guests: Mr. Raj Bhandare & Ms. Sneha Raj Bhandare shared their Felicitations to the audience where they talked about the film and their experience of the same following which Dr. Rayson K. Alex, Dept. of HSS, Bits-Goa, Convener of the course from BITS-Goa shared his remarks about the course and students. The function concluded with the proposing of the Vote of thanks by Dr. S. Susan Deborah, Convener of the Certificate Course from MES Vasant Joshi College of Arts & Commerce, Zuarinagar-Goa. Thereafter lunch was served to the guests and the students who had successfully completed the 30-hour certificate course.



