

Report on the Theatre Workshop – 'The A in STEAM'

Organized by: The Department of English, in association with the American Centre, Chennai

Date: 27th February 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Venue: SM BLOCK SEMINAR HALL

Convenor: Dr. AyunKhan Dawood Dean/SSSH & Dr. P. Ratna, Professor, HOD/English

Coordinators : Dr.T.Mangaiyarkarasi Asst.Prof/English & Dr.Swetha Ravindran Asst.Prof/English

The Department of English, in collaboration with the American Centre, Chennai, successfully conducted a theatre workshop for the students of science and technology. Adding 'A' in STEM as part of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) initiative. The workshop aimed to emphasize the role of Arts in STEAM education and foster creativity and expression through theatrical practices. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of more than 40 students who registered for the program with great interest.

Inaugural Session

The workshop commenced with the recitation of *Quirath*, setting a reflective tone for the day's proceedings. This was followed by a warm welcome address delivered by Dr. Mangaiyarkarasi, who expressed gratitude to all attendees and highlighted the significance of integrating Arts into STEAM education.

Dr. P. Rathna, Head of the Department of English, then presented a memento to the esteemed resource person, Ms. Sunandha Ragunathan, as a token of appreciation for her invaluable contribution. Following this, the session was officially handed over to Ms. Sunandha Ragunathan, who led an engaging and interactive theatre training session.

Workshop Activities and Key Takeaways

Ms. Sunandha Ragunathan, an expert in theatre and performance arts, captivated the participants with an immersive and hands-on approach to theatre training. Through various interactive activities and practical exercises, the students gained valuable insights into theatrical performance, including:

- Fundamentals of theatre and stage presence
- Improvisational techniques and character development
- Effective use of voice modulation and body language
- Building confidence and expressive communication

The workshop provided a platform for students to explore and develop their creative abilities, fostering an environment that encouraged self-expression and teamwork. The participants actively engaged in the exercises, demonstrating their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn.

Conclusion and Certification

The workshop proved to be an enlightening and transformative experience, successfully bridging the artistic aspect of STEAM education with practical theatre training. At the conclusion of the session, all participants were awarded certificates from the American Centre, recognizing their active involvement and commitment.

Furthermore, a few outstanding students were encouraged to participate in the next-level theatre workshop, scheduled to be held at the American Centre the following day, offering them an opportunity to further hone their theatrical skills.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Swetha Ravidran, expressing gratitude to the resource person, organizers, and participants for their enthusiastic contribution. The Department of English, in partnership with the American Centre, looks forward to organizing similar initiatives in the future to continue fostering creativity and artistic expression among students.



