

# Delhi School of Journalism

## University of Delhi

### Intra-Class Paper Presentation Competition

Held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Delhi School of Journalism for the first time conducted an intra-class paper presentation for its English and Hindi departments on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 on the topic '**Power of Media**'.

The rules for the competition and the judges were introduced by DSJ student Apurva Kumar. The judges for the event were **Dr. Prakash Chandra**, Assistant Professor at Delhi University's Ramjas College and **Mr. Keshav Kumar**, a practising journalist with TV9. Later on, **Mr. Adarsh Shukla** of 107FM also joined though he described himself to be only present as a guest and not as a judge.

The first speaker for the day was DSJ English department's student **Bittu Kumar**. He started with the phrase, '*Jab Jaago Tabhi Savera*' and talked about the independence of media, about how media is not making full use of its freedom of speech in the right manner. He further elaborated on the power of media and social media to be particular. By pointing out that today it is possible even for a common man to approach the PMO by using social media, he brought it to the fore how social media platforms have brought the public and the government dignitaries closer. He concluded by saying that "media has always been independent, is independent, and should always remain independent".

The second speaker was **Aparajitha Nair**, who through a power point presentation explained how 'The media influences the society'. She

said that we have had White, Green and Blue revolutions in the past but now is the time for information and technological revolution and that media has evolved as an effective tool of communication and information dissemination. She also spoke about how media affects our belief system by effortlessly manipulating news stories and consequently affecting our decision-making process and providing a number of 'true versions' which in turn inflicts our thoughts and beliefs. She further said that the media is highly pervasive and that through newspapers, television, radio and social media, it has also increased our reach and today more and more people have access to it. She also highlighted that the media is the fourth pillar of democracy and makes the relationship between the government and the people transparent. Lastly, she also covered the entertainment and the advertising aspects of media and spoke on how it at times promotes violence and also endorses what they want us to buy by creating a negative image in the minds of people about the concepts of beauty and body size. She finally concluded with a quote by Katherine Graham, "News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising. The power is to set the agenda. What we print and we don't print matter a lot".

Next speaker was **Gauri Joshi**, who elaborated the purpose of understanding how power structures and communication are related which is imperative to understand the beliefs of people in a society, their actions, and the reason why a social entity changes or has reached where it is. For this, one has to understand the role of power when two minds meet and two people share thoughts through the simplest or most complex mediums. She further discussed on how journalists influence the people opinion, the pattern of power execution through progressing times and the role of media to propagate the influencer's ideas. She also said that there are social scientific sectors of

power and authority, through polity, economy, culture, and society like the Army is often kept sacrosanct but there are negative and positive sides of everything. She concluded by saying who can exercise mass media control is also determined by the propagators of mass messages in the visual, audio, or multimedia format-the theory of Media Access.

After that it was **Kabir's** turn who made his presentation on 'Media and mental health'. He started off by showing two circles, white and purple, and asking the audience to identify the bigger one though both seemed to be of the same size. While the audience kept guessing, he explained that how since he claimed that one of the circles was bigger people took him by his words, even though the circles were of the same size. That is how, he said, the media makes us believe them. He talked about how people suffering from mental problems fear speaking out and that the three most spoken words around the world are 'I love you' but in India it is '*log kya kahenge*', garnering laughs from the audience. Even celebrities like Deepika Padukone and Kapil Sharma who have suffered from depression and have spoken about it was also highlighted by him. He further discussed on the positive and negative effects of media, about how Bollywood films at times cause stigma amongst the people through misinformation and that doctors and mental health experts should come together to make people aware of it through social media. He even clarified that there is a difference between mental health and mental illness and for staying happy it is essential to be mentally healthy. He finally concluded by saying that while we talk of people suffering from mental illness, we often tend to forget about their family who suffer the most.

Finally, it was turn for the last speaker of the day, **Harshita Sharma**, who chose to present on 'Media and Tourism'. She discussed about how the powerful effects of media can bring sweeping changes in attitudes

and behaviour among the key actors in local, national and global tourism for peace, security and sustainable development. That tourism is the fastest growing industry in India and the social, cultural, economic, political and environment beliefs of tourism would usher in monumental changes in the country. She highlighted that media works in tourism through newspapers, magazines, films and photographs etc. Today TV serials, sponsored programmes, films, commercials, documentaries etc. are becoming an important source of tourism. She further elaborated that tourism is widely promoted via advertisement in India. "Incredible India" is the slogan of the Indian tourism board and is an apt one because India is truly incredible. She finally concluded with how even different states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kolkata use the power of media to promote tourism through advertisements in print as well as in electronic and digital platforms.

Then after all the speakers were done with their presentations, as the jury was busy discussing their judgement, DSJ student **Prakash Ranjan**, delighted the audience with his photography skills by showing his photograph collection to the assembled people.

On the request of the faculty, Mr. Prakash Chandra rose to address the students. He talked about the influence of media in current times and how the media becomes the power in itself at a point of time and it also uses it's stand as the fourth pillar of democracy to become judgemental. He even mentioned journalist like Rahul Kotiyal who won the Ramnath Goenka award last year for his Kashmir reporting. He concluded by praising the participants for speaking on a wide range of topics.

Mr. Keshav Kumar too addressed the students and started off by denying the notion that media is the fourth pillar of democracy. He maintained that there are only three pillars in a democracy and media

is just considered as the fourth pillar. He also advised the students to maintain certain eye coordination while speaking because all may not become anchors or editors but most may be a journalist. He further told the students to give current examples, explain the changes that occurred due to media, to synchronize with the power point presentation and since the students are not practising journalists they must not comment but discuss about media, while making a presentation on it. He concluded by praising the participants for their efforts.

The competition concluded by the announcement of the winners by the judges. The first prize was won by **Kabir**, second by **Aparajitha Nair** and the third by **Gauri Joshi**. Also **Shivam Pathak** won the award for his interjection to Gauri about her perception of not questioning the Army. Finally, the event was wrapped up with a vote of thanks to the judges by the OSD Dr. Manaswini Yogi.

Report by **CHITRALI GHATAK** and **VANSHIKHA SALARIA**, II Semester BJ