

Report of World Bioethics Day 2019 Celebrations

GSMC MUHS UNESCO Unit
Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, INDIA

The GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics Unit celebrated the **World Bioethics Day** on Monday, 14th October 2019. The World Bioethics Day 2019 Celebrations began in the morning with a poster exhibition on the theme "**Respect for Cultural Diversity in Health**". The poster competition for staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students and non-medical employees of the institution was held earlier as a part of World Bioethics day Celebrations. There was 'Rangoli Competition' on the theme which was organized on 14th October 2019 for teaching staff members and students. The beautiful rangolis depicting interpretation of the theme and the relevance to healthcare adorned the corridors of our college building. Theme based photography, street play and short film competitions were also organized for the undergraduate students. The winners were felicitated during the main event. All students received the participation certificates.

The main event was organized in the afternoon. Dr Padmaja Marathe, Head of the Unit welcomed all, introduced the theme and spoke about the events planned to celebrate the World Bioethics day. Dean Dr Hemant Deshmukh addressed the audience. The prize winning short film prepared by undergraduate students, "*Blues and Blacks*" was played which conveyed a beautiful message that there is no disparity when healthcare is provided to patients of different cultures.

The key note speaker Dr Armida Fernandez, renowned Neonatologist, Former Dean of Sion Hospital engaged the audience with her interesting and thought-provoking speech. She spoke very well about the concept of respecting diversity, celebrating the differences in healthcare fields and gave pertinent examples from her own life experiences. Following the speech, the annual bulletin of the Bioethics Unit 'Inarch 2019' was released by the Dean Dr. Hemant Deshmukh. Dr. Padmaja Samant, the editor of Inarch spoke about the unique title of our bulletin and also about this year's issue of Inarch which has covered a range of topics related to the theme of this year..

In the following session, there was a symposium based on the theme. There were three invited guest speakers who touched upon different aspects related to cultural diversity and healthcare. Dr Jayita Deodhar, Psychiatrist for Tata Memorial Hospital, heading palliative care unit presented a few case scenarios about patients seeking palliative care. The session was liked by the audience. The next speaker Mrs. Sujata Ashtekar sensitised the audience about need for organ donation and shared her experiences about how cultural beliefs about organ and body donation have to be sensitively handled. Ms Surabhi Mittal from IIT

Mumbai shared her experiences in the following session about the NGO, 'Healthcare solutions' which offers services in tribal/ rural/urban areas. She shared how urban and rural settings are culturally different and language being a huge barrier with tribals when services like home based delivery care are offered. All the sessions were appreciated by the students and the staff members. There was a street play performance by nursing students. The prize distribution ceremony was held for felicitation of the winners of the bioethics competitions. The judges invited for these competitions from within the institution and outside institution were also felicitated. Dr. Mariya Jiandani, Head of Steering Committee presented the vote of thanks. She specifically appreciated the student wing members' efforts in making the event successful. The programme ended with the recitation of the national anthem.

