



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA - GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2024-25

Name of Activity	A Guest Lecture on Revisiting Freedom: An Appreciation of the Aesthetics of Ambedkarism
Date/Duration	21 st August 2024, 10.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.
Venue	St. Xavier's Campus Classroom No. 327
Name of organizing Department/Cell	Department of English
In collaboration with	Museum of Goa (MOG), a Contemporary Art Museum in Goa.
Name/s of Faculty Coordinator	Mrs. Alice D'Cruz Ms. Eden Fernandes
Stratum of Event	College level event
Name & details of Resource Person/s If any	Mr. Siddhesh Gautam, an alumnus of the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology, and a renowned Delhi- based multi- disciplinary Ambedkarite.
Report	<p>The objective of the lecture was to introduce students to Dalit history through first-hand experiences narrated by a Dalit writer himself. Mr. Siddhesh Gautam shared his personal journey, growing up in a Dalit family and struggling with cast identity and acceptance. He recalled feeling ostracized during his childhood, doubting his identity, and facing discrimination from his classmates. He drew inspiration from the life of B.R. Ambedkar and revealed that Ambedkar's writings influenced his art.</p> <p>He shared a demeaning experience of having to introduce himself as a Brahmin to avoid discrimination, but later finding the courage to embrace his identity. Mr. Siddhesh's experiences of living a lie and feeling inferior due to his caste had a profound impact on his life and art. He emphasized the need for equality, acceptance, and social justice, highlighting the contributions of Dalits and lower castes to</p>

	<p>Indian society and the economy.</p> <p>The talk concluded with Mr. Siddhesh showcasing his artwork, reflecting on his journey and struggles. His use of the blue color and graphic imagery was striking, and his messages about community struggles and resilience were powerful.</p> <p>As is the green tradition at Xavier's, Mr. Siddesh Gautam and Ms. Likhita Gurla-Museum Associate, MOG, were presented with potted plants by Mrs. Alice D'Cruz and Dr. Prema Rocha, HoD, English, respectively. The event concluded with students interacting with the guest speaker in a Q&A session, followed by a Vote of Thanks by Mrs. D'Cruz.</p> <p>Mr. Siddhesh's story and artwork left a lasting impact on the attendees, reminding us that we are all connected, regardless of caste, gender or race. He encouraged his listeners to take forward Ambedkarism and strive for equality. Since the Museum of Goa showcases stories through contemporary art across mediums, the participants were invited to 'We the people (Too)', an upcoming exhibition at MOG, curated by Mr. Gautam.</p> <p>08 faculty and 47 students attended the event.</p>
Brochure/Poster	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/brochure-guest-lecture.pdf
Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Photographs-guest-lecture.pdf
List of participants With signatures	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/signature-sheet-guest-lecture.pdf
Certificate	--