

## Career Education Fair

Planning a career is always fraught with challenges. Most students on the threshold of making a career choice are ignorant of the plethora of career options available to them. Don Bosco Nerul has always been sensitive to the needs of the student community. Keeping in mind the pressing need for career guidance, Don Bosco, Nerul hosted its first ever Career Education fair on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022, from 9 am to 1pm which was a public event.

The registration desks were opened at 7.30 am and delegates and guests started streaming in right from the beginning. The guests were directed to the courtyard of the newly opened Don Bosco academy where the inaugural ceremony was to happen. The Chief Guest Mrs. Geeta Ajit Pillai arrived and was escorted to the courtyard by the student volunteers.

The inaugural ceremony started at 9.15 am with a short prayer invoking the blessing of God on all the proceedings of the day. Dr. Priya Alphonso then introduced the Chief Guest, Mrs. Geeta Ajit Pillai, who is the Chief General Manager(transport) of CIDCO. This was followed by a short skit highlighting the need for career by the students of class XI. Mrs. Sangeeta Battacharya, the Principal of the school then spoke emphasizing the need for career education. Thereafter the Rector Rev. Fr. Dr. Barnabe addressed the gathering. He highlighted the various community outreach programmes of Don Bosco Nerul and how the new academy was aimed at catering to the needs of all strata of society. The chief guest in her address exhorted the students to have perseverance, curiosity and motivation so as that, they could reach for the stars. The programme concluded at 9.45 with the vote of thanks by the school counsellor Ms. Kimberly Pereira, who also briefed the crowd about the remaining programme of the day.

As the fair commenced, the guests were directed to the first and second floors of the academy where various universities, both Indian and foreign delegates represented their colleges. More than 55 different universities from USA, UK, France and Canada in addition to a number of Indian universities showcased their professional programmes and courses at this fair. One of the major highlights of the career fair was the panel discussion from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. The panelists, Dr. Kavita Kathare, Dr. Arun Pillai Mr. Pramod Kumar Gupta and Mrs. Suparna Deepak, were eminent personalities from the field of education and research. They put forth their views on topics as varied as linear and non-linear professions and how to grow your career globally. The entire discussion was moderated by Mrs. Vivena Rodrigues, supervisor of the secondary section. The panelists also addressed the queries posed by both students and guests and it was an eyeopener to many, especially those seeking answers to the benefits of going abroad for further studies.

From 10 am to 12 am various universities had their presentations on the ground floor. A good number of parents and students visited the fair and got the expert guidance from professionals with access to latest information and technical expertise. Students of classes 9 to 12 immensely benefitted from the fair as it gave them clarity about the road ahead in their professional lives which would help them decide the future course of action. The students had a chance to interact with representatives of institutions from all over India and abroad, and to get know about the prospects of different courses, said Alzaina Anjum, a class 11 student of Apeejay, "I got to know of many scholarship courses available in foreign universities. I think I will study abroad." Harbajan Kaur Rebello, a parent said, "The fair is extremely informative." Speaking about the new academy building she said, "It's so nice to have everything under one roof. I am looking forward to joining the course in baking once courses start here."

Gauging by the crowds that thronged the fair and the animated discussions that students and parents had both with the panelists and with the representatives of different universities, it could be said that the fair was a resounding success.