

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### HD - MELA FUN-TASTIC FEST: EVENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The staff and students of the Department of Human Development organized a unique mela named 'FUN-TASTIC FEST' on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024. The event was spear-headed by Ms. Rhonda Divecha and was co-organised by all the staff and students of the department. The preparation for this Mela began with student groups being divided along with designated teacher supervisors. Planning for the events began from deciding which stalls to include, brainstorming ideas to make the event creative, financial planning, marketing the event, etc. The students along with their teachers finally decided about different sections and committees that would be the part of the Fest and it was decided to cover the various domains of Human Development through fun games. A team of students along with Ms. Rhonda Divecha were the Publicity & Sponsorship team, who were responsible for making fliers, getting sponsorships, outsiders' stalls, promoting and advertising the event among people and organizations working with children.



On the day of the Mela, the students as well as the teachers with great energy and enthusiasm welcomed our little Chief Guests, Aanya Maheshwari and Parth Rege to inaugurate the 'Fun-Tastic Fest 2024'. The Chief Guests escorted by our honorable In-charge Principal, Prof. Dr. Vishaka Karnad, visited all the stalls and enjoyed themselves. The department students also placed themselves near the college entry gate to take care of the registration of the visitors from outside the college. It was pleasing to see how the students and the teachers alike, were immersed in the running of the event.

The event took place in the college common room and garden area, spanning from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Its primary aim was to spread awareness about the various domains of human development while offering a range of engaging and enjoyable activities that brought together students, faculty, and the local community. There were the Socio Emotional Development Team, led by Ms. Payal Maheshwari; the Language Development Team led by Prof. Dr. Kamini Rege, the Physical Development Team led by Ms. Khyati Sampat, the Cognitive Development Team led by Ms. Vanitha D'Souza and Ms. Sunaina Sharma, as well as a White Elephant Stall Team led by Ms. Virginia Dias. Each of the above teams focus on Food Stalls as well as their Games Stalls. Each stall featured activities tailored to its respective developmental domain, suitable for individuals of all age groups, including children, adults, and older adults. These game stalls, set up in the college garden area, based on the different area of development were all a huge hit.

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Additionally, there were stalls like "White Elephant," offering clothing, accessories, books, bags, and kitchen items. A photo booth was also arranged for attendees to capture memories and have fun. Zumba sessions were conducted every 30 minutes, adding an energetic element to the festivities.

In the common room, food stalls served various delicacies, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, including pani-puri, missal pav, donut balls, pasta, garlic bread, and mocktails.

The stalls offered a balanced selection of affordable savory and sweet items, along with drinks.

Other than the games and food stalls put up by the department students, the Publicity & Sponsorship Team brought in a variety of stalls sponsored by outsiders as well as in-house students from other



departments and levels of the college. These stalls sold creatively made jewelry, handmade articles, bags, household products, etc. and three of the stalls were run by Persons with Disabilities. There were also a group of Home Schoolers and their parents who put up food/soft drink stalls and stalls selling the handiwork of these young entrepreneurs who ranged from 5 to 15 years. These vendors and small businesses were invited to showcase their products, with the event serving as a platform for some disabled entrepreneurs to showcase their products and explore future opportunities.

A special mention must be made that this year, all the children of the staff of the college were specially invited with invitation cards, and this made them feel really special as they visited their

parents' place of work.

With free entry for all, the event witnessed a significant turnout, with approximately 400-500 attendees throughout the day. People from local community, parents of students, and children of support staff were among the attendees. The event was filled with smiles, giggles, and laughter, accompanied by music, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

This event exposed the students as well as outside visitors, to different experiences that will remain rooted in their hearts and minds as a lifelong memory. Each student had their roles and responsibilities with regard to their own stalls, yet all worked together to make this event a successful one.



- Jennifer James (MSc 2 – HD)