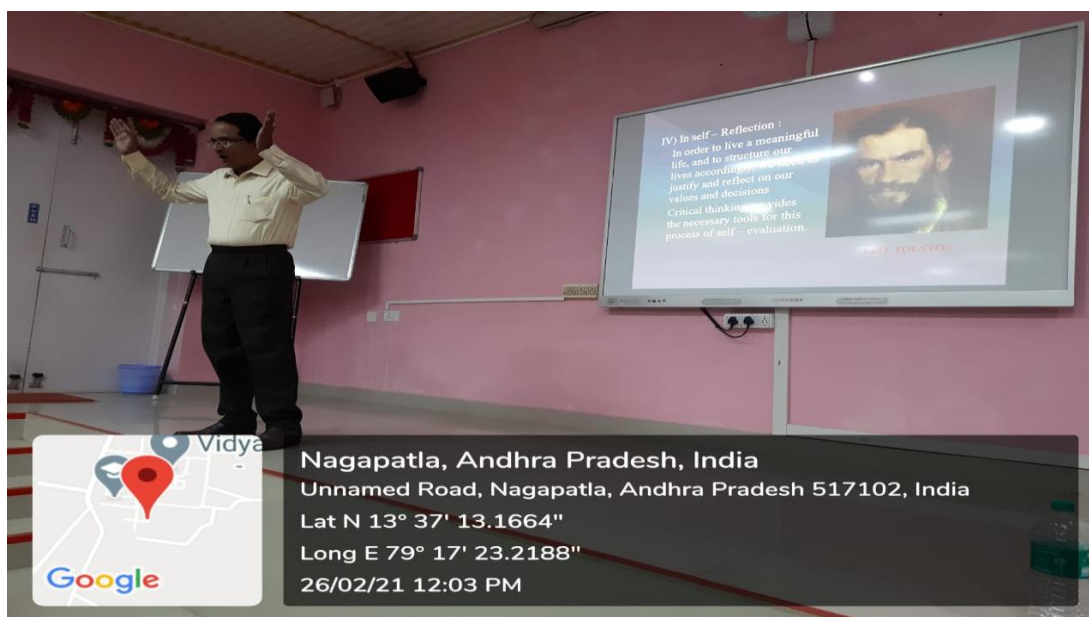


Department: **SKILL AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME CENTRE FOR SC/ST STUDENTS (SPDP)**
(Sponsored by AICTE)

Date: **26th February , 2021**

**An Expert Lecture
on
"Critical Thinking Skills"**

An expert lecture on "**Critical Thinking Skills**" was organized by the College under Skill and Personality Development Programme Centre (SPDP) for SC/ST students sponsored by AICTE on **26th February 2021**. The Resource Person was **Dr. VLVN Narendra Kumar, Senior Lecturer in English, Govt. Polytechnic, Atmakur.**



Dr. VLVN Narendra Kumar Rao, Senior Lecturer in English, Govt. Polytechnic, Atmakur explaining the rudiments of Critical Thinking Skills

At the outset, the resource person emphasized the importance of Soft Skills and advocated the students to develop LSRW Skills. He started highlighting the importance of Critical Thinking - the ability to think clearly; rationally; engage in reflective and independent thinking; and ability to take charge of thinking. He told the students that Critical thinking will enable them not to accept anything blindly and help them to take sound judgment, take decisions wisely and continue the tendency of curiosity. He told that though heredity and environment condition a person, Critical Thinking breaks the shackles of the previous conditioning.

Giving the example of Socrates who used Dialectic Method of teaching (The art of questioning) his young disciples, Dr. Narendra told that Critical Thinking helps to develop sound criteria and raises standards for analyzing and assessing one's own thinking thereby improving the quality of thinking process. Hence, Critical thinkers don't take sides and move away from rote learning; fixed assumptions and conventional thinking. In a nutshell, he highlighted that Critical Thinking is "thinking about thinking". Taking practical examples of a snake chasing a man who hurts him from Nellore to Tirupati, and all women are better drivers, he drove home his point that Critical thinkers don't believe in preconceived notions; don't make subjective judgments; understand the world around him/her better; and improves his/her knowledge.



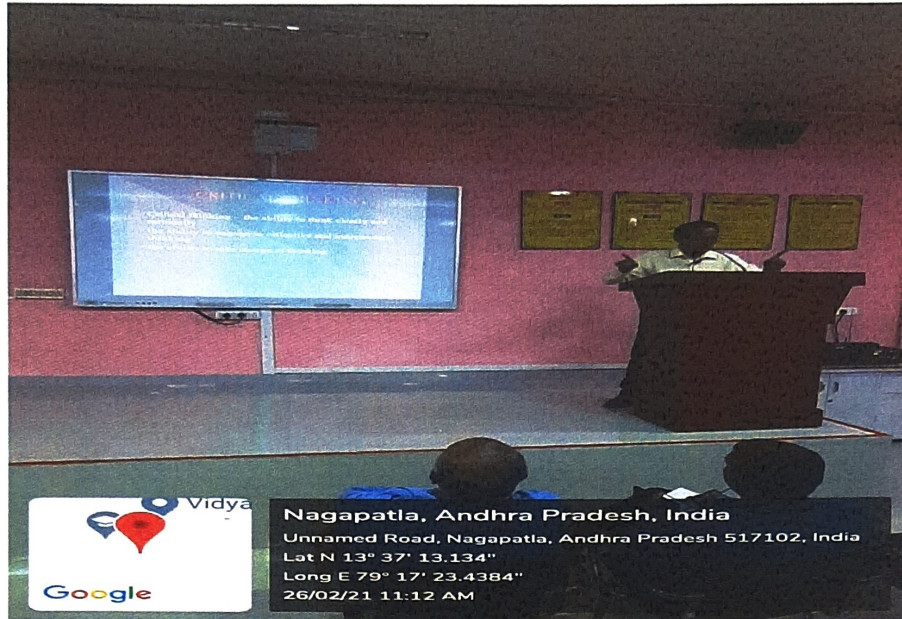
Students and faculty member listening to the session

He further added that Critical Thinking Skills help a person to understand the relevance of ideas and connect them logically; solve problems in a creative way; and use valid arguments to reason or justify one's beliefs. He told the students to read the books of *Agatha Christie*, (considered to be the Queen of Suspense in English Literature); *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes*; *Life of Thimmarasu* (the Prime Minister of Krishnadevaraya); *Tenali Rama*; *Akbar and Birbal Stories* to improve one's thinking faculty and problem-solving capability. The students were enlightened not to run away from problems as for every problem that arises, there would be a solution and if there is a lock, surely there would be a key.

Dr. Narendra elaborating his thought on Critical Thinking said that there is a difference between discussion (which leads to fruitful outcome) and Argument (which simply proves what is right or wrong). He explained that Critical Thinkers distinguish between facts and opinions and ask pertinent questions by making detailed observations based on sound logic and solid evidence. *Socrates' Dialectic Method* and *Karl Marx' Dialectical Materialism* were also highlighted to students. He observed that Critical Thinking is not restricted to a particular subject and it is helpful to educationists, researchers, financiers, managers and also to legal professionals.

Illustrating the examples of *Alexander Fleming* in his discovery of Penicillin (with the help of bacteria developed in his laboratory) and Archimedes (the principle which is a milestone for measuring the volume of irregular objects), Dr. Narendra explored that Critical Thinking Skills play a crucial role in New and Global Knowledge Economy which has to be dealt with quickly and effectively. He said that this skill helps a person in language and presentation skills where the clarity of thought leads to clarity of expression enabling one to analyze the structure of texts and improve comprehension abilities.

The resource person further explained that Critical Thinking promotes creativity by giving an example of a Millionaire who parks his Ferrari, a high-end car for a week by just paying 50 dollars as interest by taking a loan of 5,000 dollars. He further told that Critical Thinkers lead a life of total Self-Reflection by respecting the values of others and in taking wise decisions. He gave the examples of *Leo Tolstoy*; *Bertrand Russell*; CID (A Hindi serial being telecast in SonyLIV); *Agent Sai Srinivasa Aathreya*(Atelugu Movie starring NavinPolichetty); and *Detective Narada* (A telugu movie casting Dr. M. Mohan Babu) to make his point clear to the students in enhancing their Critical Thinking Skills. At the end of the session, students were asked to read at least one leading newspaper to improve Vocabulary, Current Affairs, Knowledge of Grammar and Sentence Construction.



Dr. VLVN Narendra Kumar Rao interacting with students

B.Tech students attended the session and it is expected that students would start questioning everything; develop a sense of curiosity; listen to surroundings with a rapt attention; examine any problem that they encounter closely and don't trust hearsay and become independent thinkers.


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