

DIY

On November 1st 2019, a science popularisation programme was conducted in Sri Venkateswara College exclusively for school students to promote scientific curiosity and temperament. Physics Department students actively took part in organising the various events to be held on that day. One of the events being organised was the DIY- Do It Yourself to lay emphasis on the fact that performing science experiments is not just limited to large institutions but may also be done with easily available items. Students from different science departments were involved in the DIY as 5 different experiments were being performed relating to different branches of science. The college students prepared the sets required for the experiments to be performed on by the school students. All school students were ushered to the auditorium and made to sit in groups and by 9 a.m. the program had begun. The inauguration of the DIY-Lab was done by Dr. Pratibha Jolly (Former Principal, Miranda House, University of Delhi) and Prof. L.S. Shashidhara, IISER, Pune. After a brief speech about evolution by Prof. L.S. Shashidhara, the DIY lab commenced. The first was an experiment to observe the thermal effects of a greenhouse gas. In experiment number 2, they learned how to make their own lava lamps at home using oil, water, some food colouring and an antacid tablet. The students had a lot of fun doing this experiment as they got to see blobs of colour moving about. They were then taught how to isolate the DNA from saliva. The third experiment was a demonstration of total internal reflection. This experiment was designed by Dr. Piyush kumar of the Physics department. Water was kept in a beaker. A laser light when pointed at the air-water interface from below shows both reflection and refraction. The students were quite amazed to see that when the optical density of the water was increased by adding a small quantity of dettol, the laser light when pointed at the interface was now completely reflected. The final experiment was about pH and how to make pH paper at home using red cabbage as the main ingredient. The volunteers demonstrated how different solutions changed colours when the pH solution was added. The students were quite happy to be learning science by performing experiments. Overall, the organisers, students and volunteers had a positive experience during this event.

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3rd Year

