

BUET BRAINIACS HOSTS POTTERBRAWL 2019

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On February 16, 2019, Brainiacs club from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) hosted their second instalment of Potterbrawl. The daylong event comprised of all things Harry Potter, with three main contests and a fan art exhibition. The program kicked off at 2 PM with around 250 participants from various institutions gathered at the BUET Auditorium Complex.

TEAM QUIZ

This round consisted of 80 teams of three with three rounds in total. The first round was the written round where all the participants answered questions regarding the Harry Potter universe. From here, eight teams qualified to the buzzer round where the teams battled it out to get to the top four. The top four teams then had to represent one of the four houses that were picked for them by the 'sorting hat'. The house with the maximum number of points won the 'House Cup'.

This year, the winners were team *Rectificus Totalus* with members, Ayan Antik Khan, Najibul Haque Sarker and Ramisa Alam who are first year CSE students from BUET. The first runners-up were team *Snape Cute Kodur Tel Makhe*, with members Samiha Alam Mayesha,



Lamia Tasneem and Maliha Ferdaws, while the second runners-up were team *Potterhead* with members Noushin Siddique Adrita, Samiha Mohi Queens, Nourin Siddique Ananna.

FAN FICTION WRITING CONTEST

In this segment, each contestant was given a prompt, using which he/she had to write a fan fiction within 30 minutes. Around 50 Harry Potter enthusiasts participated in this section, among

whom, Farhan Hamid took home the winning title while, Rokaiya Siddika Oshin won the title of the runner-up.

FAN ART EXHIBITION

About 20 participants took part in this with their Happy Potter inspired sketches and paintings. The artworks were submitted on the day of the event, and by the end of the evening, five amateur artists were awarded. Muhaimina Sultana Miva was crowned the champion with

first and second runners-up being Shafqat Amin Inan and Rokaiya Siddika Oshin respectively.

There was also a Meme Contest, where participants had to upload an original Harry Potter meme on Facebook. The memes were then ranked based on the number of likes and shares they received and judges' scores. The winner from this round was Samiun Fateeha who is studying at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College in Gazipur.

Team *Diagon Alley Biriyan House* won the prize for the Name Game (Team with the most interesting name), while the 'House Cup' was received by Gryffindor with teams *Rectificus Totalus* and Team *Quizmentors* of Azkaban.

We spoke with one of the organisers and member of BUET Brainiacs, Nafis Mustakin Niloy, who told us the reasons behind organising this competition. He said, "Our club aims to encourage quiz enthusiasts. We know that Harry Potter is a popular pop-culture subject so we knew we will have a lot of interested participants. This year we had people of all ages and educational backgrounds taking part in the competitions, which is always wonderful to see."

The club hopes to keep organising more events like these in the years to come to cater to all the bright young minds of the country.

Talking menstruation and puberty

On February 12, InclusionX invited parents of the students of Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID Bangladesh, Ramna Branch) to its programme on menstrual health and puberty. Nasrin Begum, a trainer from Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) was the speaker for the occasion.



SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM

Eager parents quickly filled up the room and participated in an ice-breaking session to start things off. The speaker made the session conversational instead of it just being a talk. Everyone completed a short quiz after the introduction. The quiz consisted of many misconceptions relating to menstruation, such as menstrual blood being impure and women not being able to do certain work during their periods, which the speaker swiftly clarified with proper reasoning.

Nasrin Begum elaborated on menstruation, the menstrual cycle, and menopause in full detail. There were some confusion regarding at what age these events take place, which was explained. She also emphasised on the stigma surrounding these phenomena: how people do not openly talk about these bodily processes with others, including their own children. Men were not left out of the conversation as she stated that they too need to take responsibility for taking care of the needs of their children during puberty. She especially highlighted the fact that these events are natural biological processes and should not be treated as illnesses. What is normal and not in relation to factors such as age and the menstrual cycle was also distinguished.

The parents were informed that children need to know about their bodies so that they do not get shocked or afraid when the time comes. The changes boys experience

during puberty were also discussed with similar advice being given. The speaker further instructed everyone on how to handle these situations and what to tell their children when the signs of puberty start showing.

The use of sanitary napkins was heavily discussed as the session carried on. The speaker pointed out how the napkins are seen as something to be kept hidden, and teenagers not knowing how to use them as a consequence. Parents posed questions about the affordability of napkins and possible substitutes and the speaker thoroughly answered. Proper disposal of napkins was a big issue that was brought up. The speaker recommended schools to stock and distribute napkins and provide baskets with lids for disposal, since many sanitary napkins are not disposable.

The final part of the session revolved around why and how menstruation takes place in a biological context. Parents were educated on the female reproductive organs and the changes girls go through during the menstrual cycle, further reinforcing the fact that it is a completely normal part of life.

With the success of the programme's first session, InclusionX plans on conducting these sessions in other schools as well. The organisation primarily focuses on empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities through its initiatives. The eleventh instalment of one of its main programmes, Joy of Computing, is currently underway.