NEWSLETTER (JANUARY - MARCH)

DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY



PSYCH READER



Swami Vivekananda University imparting knowledge and values and providing students, an excellent learning experience through research & innovation in the field of Science, Technology, Management and other areas that will meet the aspirations of world community.

Swami Vivekananda University stands for academic, professional and ethical empowerment of the youths by using the state-of-the-art technology, time-tested and innovative concepts, excellent infrastructure and internationally acclaimed facilitators.



OBJECTIVES

One of the primary objectives of **Department of Psychology of Swami Vivekananda University** to provide rigorous and comprehensive academic programs that promote excellence in learning. We strive to maintain high education standards and ensure that students understand their chosen disciplines deeply.

Swami Vivekananda Universities began embracing innovative teaching learning approaches focused on studentcentric learning, experiential learning and interdisciplinary collaboration. Instead of remembering facts and memorising, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, communication skills. This shift in focus helped students develop a more holistic understanding of the world, allowing them to apply their knowledge to further their professional life.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - Dr. Nilanjana Mitra, HoD – Dept. of Psychology, SVU

Uses of Al in Research - Pros & Cons

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool in academic research has brought about significant transformation in how knowledge is produced and managed. Al technologies are now assisting researchers with data collection, statistical analysis, literature reviews, hypothesis generation, and even manuscript drafting enabling greater efficiency and productivity across disciplines.

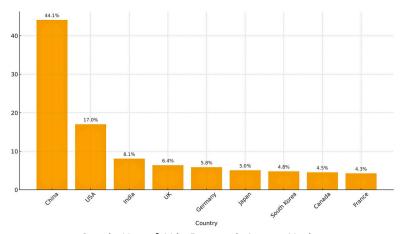
While these advancements are promising, it is crucial to recognize the accompanying concerns. The use of Al raises important ethical questions related to data privacy, intellectual authorship, academic integrity, and algorithmic bias. Over-reliance on automated systems may also limit critical thinking and reduce the originality that is fundamental to scholarly work.

As the academic community continues to explore the potential of AI, it becomes essential to balance innovation with responsibility. A thoughtful and ethical approach must guide the integration of AI into research practices, ensuring that technological support enhances, not replaces human insight and academic rigor.





Moreover, there is a growing need for institutional policies and educational frameworks that promote digital literacy and ethical awareness among researchers and students. The effective use of AI should be accompanied by continuous dialogue, interdisciplinary collaboration, and an emphasis on human oversight. Only then can AI become a true ally in advancing research that is both innovative and ethically sound.



Graph: Use of AI in Research Across Nations



CONFERENCE

International Conference on Advanced Psychology & Disability Management

The **Department of Psychology** at **Swami Vivekananda University** successfully hosted the International Conference on Advances in Psychology & Disability Management from 4th to 6th February 2025. Organized in collaboration with Netaji Subhas Open University and the Nabajatak Child Development Centre (NCDC), this prestigious academic gathering brought together scholars, practitioners, educators, researchers, and students from across the country and abroad to engage in meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange.

The conference was inaugurated distinguished panel of esteemed dignitaries, including Prof. (Dr.) Subrata Kumar Dey, Prof. (Dr.) Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Prof. (Dr.) Shorosimohan Dan, Prof. (Dr.) Chakrabarti, and Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta. Their words set a tone of inspiration and academic curiosity for the days that followed. The session was further enriched by the presence of respected figures such as Prof. (Dr.) Anuradha Mukhopadhyay, Malayendu Saha, Prof. (Dr.) Mita Banerjee, Prof. (Dr.) Nimai Saha, Dr. Santanu Goswami, and Prof. (Dr.) Pinak Pani Nath, Registrar of Swami Vivekananda University.

A key highlight of the conference was the series of keynote addresses delivered by leading experts from India and abroad. Eminent speakers such as Prof. (Dr.) Manas K Mandal, Mrs. Aloka Guha, Prof. (Dr.) Mallika Banerjee, Dr. Pushpa Mishra, Dr. M. Tariq Ahsan, Dr. Rima Mukherji, Dr. Prasanta Kr. Roy, Dr. Anjan Bhattacharya, Prof. (Dr.) Bishnupada Nanda, Dr. Sanjoy Ghosh, M.A. Khalid, and Dr. Manasendu Kundu shared their rich insights on evolving themes in psychology, inclusive practices, and disability management. Their lectures were intellectually stimulating and paved the way for deeper engagement with psychological research and interventions.











An important segment of the event was the presentation of research papers by scholars, students & professionals. A wide array of topics was explored, including clinical and counseling psychology, special education, neurodevelopmental disorders, community-based rehabilitation, psychological resilience, mental health policy, and technological innovation in psychological assessment. These sessions encouraged academic exchange and helped young researchers receive valuable feedback from experienced mentors. The conference successfully created a platform multidisciplinary discussion highlighted the urgent need for inclusive, evidence-based mental health disability services.

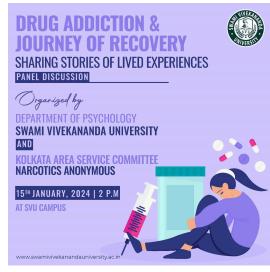


SEMINAR

Drug Addiction & Journey of Recovery: Sharing Stories of Lived Experiences

The **Department of Psychology** at **Swami Vivekananda University**, in collaboration with the Kolkata Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, organized a thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Drug Addiction & Journey of Recovery: Sharing Stories of Lived Experiences" on 15th January 2025 at 2:00 PM, held at the SVU Campus. The event aimed to shed light on the harsh realities of substance addiction and the powerful, often untold stories of recovery and resilience.

The session brought together individuals who have personally experienced the journey from addiction to sobriety. Their candid narratives offered attendees an emotional and eye-opening perspective into the challenges, turning points, and triumphs that mark the road to recovery. These shared experiences helped humanize addiction, breaking down stigma and inspiring empathy among the audience. Alongside these lived stories, psychological insights were shared by professionals to better understand the behavioral and emotional dimensions of substance dependence rehabilitation.







The interactive nature of the event encouraged open dialogue, allowing students and faculty to ask questions, express concerns, and reflect on how society can be more supportive of those struggling with addiction. The presence and participation of Narcotics Anonymous reinforced the message that support systems play a crucial role in recovery and that no one needs to fight this battle alone.

The Department of Psychology extends its sincere gratitude to the speakers, guests, and participants who contributed to the success of this event. Through such initiatives, Swami Vivekananda University continues to promote mental health awareness, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the human experience.

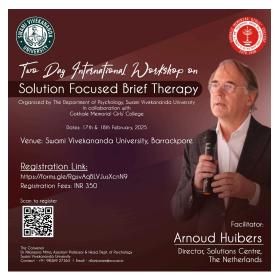


WORKSHOP

International Workshop on Solution Focused Brief Therapy

The **Department of Psychology**, **Swami Vivekananda University**, in collaboration with Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, successfully organized a Two-Day International Workshop on Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) on the 17th and 18th of February, 2025 at the university campus in Barrackpore. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Arnoud Huibers, Director of the Solutions Centre, The Netherlands — an internationally acclaimed expert renowned for his practical and engaging approach to Solution Focused practices.

This enriching event provided an invaluable opportunity for students, researchers, and budding mental health professionals to gain direct insights and hands-on exposure to one of the most pragmatic and effective counselling approaches used globally today. Participants were guided through interactive sessions, live demonstrations, and role-plays, enabling them to develop practical skills that they can incorporate into their future counselling and therapeutic practices.







Solution Focused Brief Therapy is a short-term, goal-directed therapeutic approach that stands out for its simplicity and effectiveness. It is widely applied not only in individual counselling but also in schools, community mental health, organizational coaching, and social work. By emphasizing solutions rather than problems, SFBT empowers individuals to build confidence in their own capacities and fosters a hopeful, constructive mindset.

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WORKSHOP

One Day Workshop on Research Methodology

Department of Education, Swami The Vivekananda University, in collaboration with South Calcutta Girls' College, successfully organized a One Day Workshop on Research Methodology on March 11, 2025. This academic initiative aimed to enhance the research capabilities of undergraduate postgraduate students, research scholars, and academicians by offering practical insights into both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The workshop witnessed active and enthusiastic participation from students and faculty across various disciplines, including notable involvement from the **Department of Psychology**, reflecting a shared commitment to building a strong research-oriented academic culture.

The workshop featured three highly informative sessions conducted distinguished experts in the field. Dibyendu Bhattacharyya, Dean and Professor, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, led two sessions. The first session, titled "Qualitative Research through Coding and With Some Related Attributes," focused on coding qualitative data and identifying key patterns and attributes. The second session, "Quantitative Research: Standardization of a Tool," provided insights designing and validating tools such as questionnaires and surveys. The third





session was conducted by Dr. Nabin Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, titled "Understanding Quantitative Research: Measuring and Analyzing the World." It emphasized key skills in data collection, analysis, and interpretation within quantitative research frameworks.

Overall, the workshop proved to be a valuable platform for learning and academic growth, significantly contributing to the participants' understanding of foundational and advanced research methodologies.



International Kolkata Book Fair 2025

On 3rd February at the 48th Kolkata International Book Fair 2025, the **Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University**, Barrackpore had the privilege of hosting Ms. Paromita Mitra Bhaumik as a distinguished speaker. She addressed the audience on the highly relevant topic, "Role of Social Connection in Mental Health of Students," shedding light on the importance of interpersonal relationships in promoting emotional well-being and academic resilience. The insightful session was well-received by students, educators, and mental health enthusiasts alike.











Ideathon 2025

Students from the **Department of Psychology**, **Swami Vivekananda University**, demonstrated exemplary innovation and creativity at Ideathon 2025, held on 14th and 15th February, where they secured 3rd place in the Competition. This interdepartmental and interdisciplinary event provided a platform for young minds to showcase solutions to real-world problems through technological, psychological, and social innovation.

"Inerhouse The winning project, titled Telecommunication," was developed under the expert mentorship of Dr. Nilanjana Mitra, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University. The project was presented by Siddharth Kumar, Pratyush Pal, and Rupam Ghosh (a student from the Department of Management), representing a collaborative effort disciplines. Their model offered innovative approach to enhancing psychological communication systems within domestic and institutional environments, aiming to strengthen interpersonal understanding and mental wellbeing through streamlined telecommunication techniques.













In addition to the winning team, another group of students from the Department of Psychology showcased a thought-provoking model titled "Psychology and Mind Care," also under the guidance of Dr. Nilanjana Mitra. This project was presented by Ruplekha Kar, Abhishikta Mishra, Rubi Karmakar, and Subhodip Sengupta, and focused on the significance of mental wellness in modern society. Their model addressed key psychological issues and highlighted the importance of early intervention, emotional awareness, and accessible mental health resources.

The Department of Psychology extends heartfelt congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement, creative problem-solving, and commendable performance. Their contributions not only reflect academic excellence but also a strong commitment to applying psychological knowledge for the betterment of society.



Tech Fest 2025

Department of Psychology Participation at TechFest 2025

Swami Vivekananda University

Students from the Department of Psychology made a notable impact at TechFest 2025 (14th–16th February) through their active participation in the Model Making Competition. Guided by Dr. Papia Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, students from B.Sc. (4th & 6th Sem) and M.A./M.Sc. (2nd & 4th Sem) showcased innovative models blending academic insight with creativity.

Key models included:

- Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model
- Sternberg's Love Triangle
- Gestalt Theory (Figure-Ground)
- Mind-Heart Connection
- Basic Emotions (Paul Ekman)
- Colour Psychology
- Psychological Well-being (Carol Ryff)
- Exceptional Children
- Split Brain Theory

These models reflected strong research, design, and presentation skills, making complex concepts accessible and engaging. The event highlighted the department's commitment to experiential learning, with students effectively communicating psychological ideas to a diverse audience.

The department applauds the students for their dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit in making this event a resounding success.













Health Camp 2025

As part of Health Camp 2025, students from **department of psychology**, under the guidance of Ms. Rudrani Mitra (Assistant Professor, Swami Vivekananda University), conducted a three-day mental health awareness initiative from 14th to 16th February.

Each day focused on a unique theme related to emotional and relational well-being:

Day 1: The Love Lab – Exploring healthy relationship dynamics

Day 2: Red Flags & Recovery – Identifying and addressing toxic love patterns

Day 3: Resilience: A Journey to Healthy Love – Building emotional strength and self-worth

The camp was well-received and appreciated by students, faculty, staff, and even visitors from outside the university. It served as a meaningful step toward promoting mental health awareness and emotional education on campus.









Cultural Fest 2025

Sanghati'25, the annual Cultural Fest of **Swami Vivekananda University**, was held from 5th to 7th March 2024 with great enthusiasm and artistic spirit. The event celebrated creativity, tradition, and student talent through a vibrant mix of performances and competitions.

Students from various departments, including the **Department of Psychology**, actively participated in multiple cultural segments, showcasing their talents in music, dance, drama, and fine arts. Their involvement added energy and diversity to the fest and reflected the university's commitment to holistic student development.





Media Fest 2025

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Swami Vivekananda University, organized Concordia'25, a vibrant media fest held from 5th to 7th March 2024.

Akash Roy Bhowmik, a student of the **Department of Psychology**, **Swami Vivekananda University**, actively participated in the Open Mic session. The event was graced by Boidurjyo Chowdhury, noted string player from Cactus and frontman of Distorted Chromosomes, as a special guest.





Invitation at Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee

On 12th January 2025, students and faculty members from the **Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University** were invited to participate in a significant meeting which was organised by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. The meeting focused on advancing the rights and recognition of sex workers in India. The discussion aimed to address the systemic marginalization faced by sex workers and to explore avenues for legitimizing their profession within the framework of Indian labour laws.





The session providing an international perspective on legal reform and social integration. The key objectives of the meeting included:

- 1. Learning from Belgium's legislative journey and its relevance to the Indian context.
- 2. Understanding the scope and limitations of existing labour laws in India concerning sex workers.
- 3. Identifying legal, social, and policy-level barriers hindering the recognition of sex work as legitimate labour.
- 4. Formulating actionable strategies for collective advocacy involving sex workers, researchers, legal experts, and allied stakeholders.

The participation of psychology students and faculty added a valuable psychosocial lens to the discussion, underlining the importance of mental health, human rights, and inclusive policy-making in addressing labour rights and dignity for all marginalized communities.



INTERNSHIP

Completion of Internship: Rise and Shine Foundation

M.A./M.Sc. in Applied Psychology - Semester II

Students of MA/MSc in Applied Psychology (Semester II) from **Swami Vivekananda University** has successfully completed an internship with the Rise and Shine Foundation. This achievement reflects the university's strong emphasis on experiential learning, allowing students to apply psychological concepts in real-world contexts. The internship provided valuable exposure to community-based mental health work and strengthened the student's practical understanding of applied psychology.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Kune Niang

Kune Niang, a student of the **Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University**, secured the 2nd position in the Kata category (54 kg) at the Padma Shri Bimal Roy Open International Karate Championship Series-1, held on 18th and 19th January 2025 at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Khudiram Anushilan Kendra, Kolkata. The championship was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Karate Academy, Baranagar, recognized by the All India Dhammika Kai Shito Ryu Karate Federation, and held in association with the Government of Railway Police. This remarkable achievement reflects her dedication, discipline, and excellence in martial arts.





Akash Roy Bhowmik, Debosmit Ghosh & Ruplekha Kar

Akash Roy Bhowmik, Debosmit Ghosh, and Ruplekha Kar, students of the Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, have successfully completed a structured internship program at Nabajatak Child Development Centre, earning a commendable Grade 'A' for their performance. Over the course of the internship, the students were involved in a range of clinical and developmental activities, including child behavior observation, developmental milestone assessments, intervention strategies, participation and therapeutic play sessions. They also gained hands-on experience in supporting psychologists during case history collection, preparing session reports, and engaging in parental guidance sessions. Their sincere effort, professional conduct, and grasp of psychological principles were highly appreciated by supervising Nabajatak. team at accomplishment reflects not only the students' growing competence but also the Department's commitment to nurturing skilled mental health professionals through experiential learning and practical exposure in real-world child psychology settings.





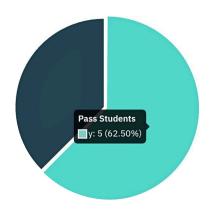






STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

M.Sc. in Applied Psychology, Semester IV



Students of M.Sc. in Applied Psychology, Semester IV, **Swami Vivekananda University**, successfully participated in the NPTEL course "Psychiatry – An Overview and How the Brain Creates Mind." Out of 8 enrolled students, 5 have successfully completed the course and received certification. This achievement highlights their commitment to academic excellence and interdisciplinary learning in the field of mental health and neuroscience.

Fig: Pie Chart of Course Completed Student.

M.A./M.Sc. in Applied Psychology, Semester II

Students of M.Sc. in Applied Psychology, Semester IV, at **Swami Vivekananda University** successfully participated in the NPTEL online course titled "Research Methodology." Out of 20 enrolled students, 16 successfully completed the course and received certification, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence and foundational research skills essential to the field of psychology.

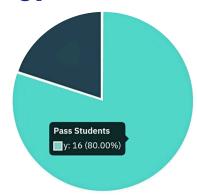
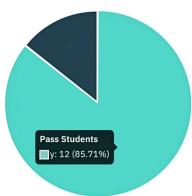


Fig: Pie Chart of Course Completed Student.

B.Sc. (H) in Psychology, Semester IV



Students of B.Sc. in Psychology, Semester IV, at **Swami Vivekananda University** successfully participated in the NPTEL online course titled "Research Methodology." Out of 14 enrolled students, 12 successfully completed the course and received certification, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence and foundational research skills essential to the field of psychology.

Fig: Pie Chart of Course Completed Student.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Pratyusha Pal

Pratyusha Pal, M.Sc. Applied Psychology (Semester IV) student of **Swami Vivekananda University**, scored 83% in the NPTEL course "Psychiatry – An Overview and How the Brain Creates Mind" and was awarded an Elite Silver Certificate, reflecting her dedication and academic excellence.



Shinjini Bhattacharjee

Shinjini Bhattacharjee, a student of B.Sc. (H) in Psychology, Semester IV, at **Swami Vivekananda University**, has demonstrated exceptional academic performance by scoring 81% in the NPTEL course "Research Methodology". Her achievement places her among the top 2% of performers, reflecting her strong analytical abilities, dedication to academic rigor, and commitment to research excellence in the field of psychology.





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

MoU Between Swami Vivekananda University and Solutions Centre, Netherlands

On 19th February 2025, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Swami Vivekananda University**, Kolkata, and the **Solutions Centre**, **Netherlands**, signifying a strategic international collaboration aimed at advancing academic excellence, research innovation, and global engagement. The MoU sets the foundation for a wide range of collaborative activities, including student and faculty exchange programs, joint research projects, curriculum enrichment, internship opportunities, professional training, and the co-organization of seminars, webinars, and international conferences.

This partnership reflects the shared vision of both institutions to promote interdisciplinary learning, practical skill development, and cross-cultural academic exchange. It also aligns with Swami Vivekananda University's ongoing commitment to fostering a globally competitive academic environment and creating meaningful opportunities for students and scholars to gain exposure to international standards and expertise.





Through this collaboration, students will benefit from access to international learning platforms, collaborative mentorship, and practical experiences that bridge academic knowledge with real-world applications. Faculty members will have the opportunity to engage in transnational research, contribute to global publications, and participate in development programs facilitated by experts from both countries.

The signing of this MoU marks a significant step forward in strengthening Swami Vivekananda University's international relations and its role in shaping future-ready, globally aware graduates.



- Dr. Nilanjana Mitra

Project Grant Received

Dr. Nilanjana Mitra, Assistant Professor & Head, Dept. of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, received 1st phase of the seed grants, project funding for her proposal entitled "The Role of Resilience in Mitigating Parental Stress in Families Having Children with Down Syndrome," which has been approved by the T21RS Scientific Committee. This two-year study (2025–2027) will explore how resilience factors in parents influence stress levels when caring for children with Down syndrome, with the ultimate goal of informing targeted psychosocial interventions.



WUR, Helix 124, Stippeneng 4, 6708 WE Wageningen, Netherlands. Email: info@t21rs.org

To The Registrar Swami Vivekanada University. Barrackpore. WB. India

Dear Sir

The T21RS Scientific Committee is please to approve the study proposal entitled "The Role of Resilience in Mitigating Parental Stress in the families having children with Down syndrome" submitted by Dr. Nilanjana Mitra, Department of Psychology, School of Life Sciences, Swami Vivekananda University. WB, India. The committee will fund the above mentioned study by disbursing the grant amount € 1000.00 (Euro One thousand) for two years duration, 2025-2027.

You need to communicate T21TS office the date of commencement of the project. A project completion report supported by utilization certificate and publication (if any) are needed to be submitted to the T21RS office on completion of the project. You are free to contact T21RS Secretary for any queries.

Thank you. 19th February, 2025

Sincerely

Prof. Fabio Di Domenico

Chair. Scientific Committee T21Rs.



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Dr. Nilanjana Mitra

FDP on Ethical Guidelines and Good Clinical Practices For Researchers

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Swami Vivekananda University, Barrackpore, West Bengal				
	This is to certify that	Dr. Nilanjana Mitra	_, of the Department	
	of Psychology , Swami Vivekananda University, has success-			
	fully participated in the Faculty Development Program titled "Ethical			
	Guidelines and Good Clinical Practice For Researchers", held at			
Swami Vivekananda University, on 11th January, 2025.				

Workshop on Research Methodology





- Ms. Ling Sarkar

Mind Matters: A Two-Day Workshop on Counselling and Mental Health Awareness

Ms. Lina Sarkar, Assistant Professor & Coordinator, Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, organized "Mind Matters: A Two-Day Workshop on Counselling and Mental Health Awareness" at Dum Dum Subhash Nagar Girls' High School as part of the department's outreach initiatives on.

The two days session was successfully conducted with the active participation of M.Sc. and B.Sc. Psychology students, focusing on practical engagement, awareness building, and peer interaction on key mental health issues.









The first day focused on understanding mental health fundamentals, including common myths, stigma reduction, and the importance of emotional well-being in adolescence. Interactive lectures and ice-breaking activities helped create a safe and open space for the school students to express themselves. Topics like stress management, peer pressure, and emotional regulation were introduced in an age-appropriate, engaging manner.

The second day emphasized practical counselling skills, empathetic communication, and real-life scenario handling. Group activities were conducted to enhance awareness and offer actionable insights on seeking help and supporting peers. The psychology students served as facilitators and peer educators, fostering a collaborative learning environment that encouraged dialogue and mutual respect.

The event was deeply appreciated by the school faculty and students, reflecting the growing need for mental health sensitization at the grassroots level. Through this initiative, Swami Vivekananda University's Department of Psychology reaffirmed its vision of academic-social integration and community-based mental health promotion.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

- Dr. Papia Mukherjee

Indian patent: an efficient method and system for preparing nutrient-rich broccoli and cashew nut spread

Name of the investors: Mitra Dhara Rupali, Mistry Poulomi, Sengupta Prantika, Das Shreyasi, Dubey Kumari Kriti, Mondal Kumar Kingsuk, Mukherjee Papia, Jaiswal Ganesh Swapnil, Thote Sudam Kalyani, Londhe Vitthal Muktanand, Dagaduappa Manmath Sontakke, Maske Vishwanath Sachin.

Date of file: 08/01/2025

Date of publication:17/01/2025 Application No: 202531001844





- Dr. Papia Mukherjee

FDP on Ethical Guidelines and Good Ethical Practices for Researchers

Faculty Development Programme was organized and anchored by Dr. Papia Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, with the objective of promoting ethical awareness and best practices among academic researchers.









Session on Mental Health & Theatre

On 18th February 2025, Dr. Papia Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, delivered a session on "Mental Health and Theatre" as part of the Binodoni Natya Utsav (Theatre). Her presentation highlighted the intersection of psychology and performing arts, emphasizing how theatre can be a powerful medium for mental health awareness and emotional expression.







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