

February 10, 2014

FIERY STUDENTS, FIERCE DEBATE

Sanjay Menon of Madras Christian College won the top honours in ThinkEdu's inaugural inter-collegiate debate



Pranav Prakash, Kashish Kohli, Sugandh Srivastava, Kavya Narayanan, Aditya Balaji, Aprajita Ghildiyal, Sanjay Menon And Lydia J

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With members of each side playing into each other's hands as ideas kept flowing from one end to another, the inter-collegiate debate organised at the conclave, was a highly entertaining affair. The topic 'We are producing people of business, not leadership' gave plenty of room for different interpretations.

Kavya Narayanan of Stella Maris College, Sugandh of National Institute of

Fashion Technology-Chennai, Kashish Kohli of Vellore Institute of Technology-Chennai and Pranav Prakash of SSN College of Engineering went against the topic and stressed that we are indeed producing people who influence us. Inadvertently, there were moments when this group played to the strengths of their opponents when they picked up people only from business such as the Tatas and Ambanis as examples of 'leaders' and failed to consider other

facets of leadership such as spiritual leadership, social leadership and not to forget, leaders in academia.

The other team comprising Aditya Balaji from Loyola College, Aprajita Ghildiyal from MOP Vaishnav College, Sanjay Menon from Madras Christian College and Lydia J from Women's Christian College led the motion in favour of the topic and largely found comfort in blaming the present education system for not producing leaders. The For team's conviction that we don't

have a Mahatma Gandhi today may not have produced the loudest of cheers but struck a chord with one of the judges Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who while making a small presentation at the end of the debate said, "It is not fair to compare Gandhiji with businessmen." The spiritual guru behind Isha Foundation also pointed out that leadership had many aspects, occurring even at home in the form of mothers.

His co-judges were S Vaidhyasubramaniam, dean-planning and academics, SASTRA University, Thanjavur and V Sudarshan, executive editor, *The New Indian Express*. The trio picked Sanjay Menon as the winner and Kavya Narayanan and Aprajita Ghildiyal as the first and second runners-up. The next day, in the presence of Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Union Minister For Health And Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad felicitated the winner and runners-up, while Tamil Nadu Minister For Higher Education P Palaniappan gave away the participation trophies.

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“ THOUGH WE AREN'T PRODUCING LEADERS, WE HAVE ALL THE AMIABLE FACTORS TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE — SANJAY MENON, MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, CHENNAI