

Day 5 of Prajnya's 16 day campaign against gender violence

The theatre workshop organized by the Prajnya Trust, Confederation of Indian industries (CII) and the Marappacchi Trust on 29th November was all about "Exploring gender through theatre". Theater director, writer and activist Mangai put the participants through their paces in emphasizing the hidden discriminations and inequalities in the gender terrain

Physical gestures, loud noises and copying animals, were some of the aspects that were explored in the theater workshop as part of the Prajnya 16 Days campaign against gender violence. What started off as an introduction session moved on to be a full-fledged characterization of various genders.

Exercises brought about an understanding of the inherent traits and roles played by male, female and the transgender, the stereotypical images people have of the three genders, the unequal distribution of jobs and gender roles and the internalizing process of such oppressive thoughts.

The theater workshop encapsulated various aspects of gender and positive and negative discrimination of the same. The discussion which took place during the day helped to understand the basic aspects of gender and was also helpful in bringing to light various theories based on gender. The informal and positive atmosphere and proactive working culture helped in discussing intimate aspects of such an issue.

The take back from this workshop ranged from aspects such as integrity, sensitivity and understanding at a personal level to mobilizing people and thoughts for collective action. The varied participant group from students of different colleges, professionals from CII, Scope International, to volunteers from Prajnya, enabled depolarized perspectives on this single issue.



Mangai training the participants



Participants enacting a scene from the Mahabharata