

FNU students portray real-life situations at Drama Festival



FNU students during the 2019 Drama Festival

Issues affecting young people were highlighted in the form of short play and skits during a Drama Festival organised by the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Humanities and Education (CHE) at Nasinu Campus on Friday.

Foundation English students from Nasinu and Nabua campus put on entertaining performances which captivated the audience gathered at the Main Hall in Nasinu.

The performances highlighted challenges such as peer pressure, discrimination, violence, suicide and drug abuse.

Speaking at the event, FNU's Programme Coordinator, Film and TV Department, Arun Chakravorty said drama enhances and improves communication and literacy skills.



FNU Foundation students from Nabua Campus performing on stage

"Performing a drama is never easy. These students need to be commended as they wrote original scripts. I believe that even writing a script is not an easy task. It requires a lot of imagination and visualisation," said Chakravorty.

An acclaimed film director himself, Chakravorty said performing on stage requires a lot of courage and self-confidence to face the audience. He said the students worked hard and the performance on-stage was admirable.

"I would like to make a comparison between performing on stage and film acting. Film acting is easy because if you forget a dialogue you can redo it. Contrary to that, when you are performing on stage and forget your dialogue, there's no retake," said Chakravorty.

FNU's Department of Communication, Literature and Language Lecturer, Nushrat Azam said such events enable students to express themselves

and learn new talents and become more creative.

"We have noticed that when students perform on stage they are much more excited and they learn a lot by taking up drama. This gives them a chance to find their creative skills and exercise their talents," said Azam.

FNU student Shradha Kumar who recited poetry during the drama festival said such initiative provides an excellent platform for students to express their ideas and show their talent to the public.

"I compiled a poem inspired by my experiences. It was about living away from home and making your parents proud," she said.

Participating in a drama for the first time, Foundation student Joeli Vueti said he is pleased to have been given a platform to showcase his talent.

"I shared a great bond with our team members while we were doing our rehearsals. Through this drama festival, we were able to identify our skills, and we also realised that all of us is an artist," he said.

Manhar Kumar, a Lecturer at the Department of Communication, Literature and Language, said students were able to captivate the attention of the audience.

"There was a performance on the topic 'My heart belongs to you' which got the audience in tears. It was an emotional drama. I think this already speaks for itself. Audience getting emotional means that students did justice to the role they were playing," said Kumar.



FNU Foundation students with Lecturer Manhar Kumar