

## Department of Media Studies

### Report

#### Workshop on ‘Community Radio and Introductory Audio Production’

**Date:** 28.1.2020

**Venue:** Seminar Hall, PU Block

**Faculty in-charge:** Dr Rajesh A

An introductory workshop on community radio, its role in the public broadcasting sphere and radio/audio production was conducted by the Department of Media Studies at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Central Campus in collaboration with RadioActive, a Bangalore-based community radio for the students of 6JPEng. The 2-hour workshop conducted on January 28, 2020 was an interactive session wherein skewed notions and obscurities about community radio, its functioning and its relevance in an era of digital media were clarified and resolved.



The resource people included Pinky Chandran, the founder and director of RadioActive, Beula Anthony, office manager of RadioActive, Ashish Sen, an independent media consultant and visiting faculty at Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication, who played a pivotal role in bringing community radio to Bangalore in the 2000s and Ms Vijaya, India’s oldest community radio RJ from Namma Dhvani, a community radio based in Kolar.

The workshop helped students reconceptualize the meaning of the word ‘community’ in community radio. By tracing the historical legacy of radio as a medium, and the emergence and need for community radio in a 3-tiered system of public, private and community, it introduced concerns and subjects/topics of discussions that are addressed through such a format. The discursive role of having and using a ‘voice’ to propagate a system of equity and democracy through community radio was discussed at the workshop in purview of journalism.

Ms. Chandran elaborated on the convergence of broadcast media like radio and digital formats like podcasts as an adaptation scheme for contemporary community radios today. The placing of

emphasis on content creation by the community for the community defines the crux of community radio.



The students were exposed to the various roles and functions at a community radio whose key feature is flexibility. The workshop was concluded with an activity requiring students to propose ideas for possible radio projects (shows, features, documentaries, etc.,) on the topic of Lakes. As the students have a course on Development Journalism, the workshop was directed to help the students understand community radio and its emphasis on local stakeholders as creators of content which is also one of the fundamental principles of developmental journalism. A follow-up workshop was proposed by RadioActive to engage them with hands-on training and equipment management.

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