

# **Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur**

## **Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

### **HUM PALS: PEER ACTIVE LEARNING FOR SCHOLARS**

**A report of the session conducted on August 27, 2021**

The Seventh session of HUM PALS was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, from 11:30 a.m., at L-003, VLTC to continue with the rhythm of co-creation and co-learning of knowledge that broadens the foundation of this Nobel and novel ingenuity undertaken under the aegis of department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The session lead on an welcome note for faculty members and research scholars by the student coordinators, Purva Bhatt and Shruti Agrawal wherein they accentuated the importance of adapting the practice of open deliberations and discussions on research practices and methodologies. The discussion motivated research scholars to interact openly with each other in order to invoke Quality research in the field of social sciences. The session was attended by 28 members.

The presenter for this activity was Namrata Bhardwaj, a research scholar from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, MNIT. Ms. Namrata Bhardwaj's research interest includes power sector, financial sector reform and energy distribution. The topic for the discussion was "Post-reform Financial Performance of State Power Sector- A study of Rajasthan Distribution Utilities".

She started her presentation with her journey and her experiences at SBI where she was working as a project researcher. Her experience working in rural settings made her look at the issues faced by the people there, and how power plays an important factor in their lives. She detailed the audience on her research journey, the rigorous process of reviewing the existing literature and selection of her research topic which focuses on the correlation between the power sector's robustness & a country's overall development. She encouraged fellow scholars on how they can reach their potential by a thorough literature review and find the gaps to research upon. She also elaborated on the steps of her research alongside discussing the details of her research. She told the audience about the major players in the power sector in India, and Rajasthan in particular. She explained the reasons for losses the power sector make year on year, and the recent central government scheme, UDAY, it's limited success in cutting down on those losses. She backed her claims with relevant data from the concerned ministries and government reports over the years, 2016-2019.

This was accompanied by a healthy question and answer session, with scholars asking their queries, and the presenter explaining to them based on her knowledge and experience during the research conducted. This peer group based interaction led to a full scale discussion at the end of the presentation where scholars gave their inputs and discussed on various aspects of the topic, from what ails our power sector, to the possible ways to deal with it, from the limited success of schemes to the larger need of awareness in rural population. Issues like role of politics and public pressure on the continuation of power sector companies in making losses was also thoroughly

debated. Faculty members also participated in this learning activity by giving their valuable inputs at the end of the presentation. They also appreciated the depth of the presenter's understanding of the topic, and encouraged other scholars to do the same.



The activity concluded with a token of thanks by the HUM PALS team to the presenter, and the audience for their constructive feedback. The presenter, Namrata Bhardwaj, was felicitated with a certificate of appreciation presented by Dr. Nidhi Bansal (Assistant Professor, Sociology) and a group picture was clicked to capture this moment forever in our memories. The next edition of the activity will be conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

\*\*\*\*\*