

Rabindra Mahavidyalaya

Champadanga, Hooghly

Report on Movie Show Jointly organized by Department of Physics and Political Science

Session- 2024-25

Date: 21-12-24

Time: 11.30 am to 12.30pm

Organized by: Department of Physics and Political Science in collaboration with IQAC

Number of total participants: 24 students along with 3 teachers

Objectives of the programme:

Showing "The Challenger Disaster" to undergraduate students of Physics and Political Science has several educational objectives including students' analytical abilities by improving their reasoning skills.

For Physics Students:

1. **Scientific Integrity:** Importance of adhering to scientific principles and ethical standards, even under pressure.
2. **Risk Management:** Critical need for thorough testing and validation in engineering projects.

For Political Science Students:

1. **Decision-Making and Accountability:** The film demonstrates how political and managerial decisions can impact scientific and engineering outcomes.
2. **Government Oversight:** It sheds light on the complexities of managing large governmental projects and the importance of transparent and accountable governance.
3. **Ethical Leadership:** Students can learn about the role of ethical leadership and the impact of institutional pressures on decision-making.

Overall, the movie will help to instill lessons of integrity, accountability, and the importance of standing up for truth, making it a powerful educational tool for students in both fields.

Programme details: The movie show begins at 11:30 a.m. under the supervision of Dr. Safiul Alam Mollick and Dr. Arpan De from Department of Physics and Prof. Bratati Ghoshal from Department of Political Science. Dr. Mollick from Department of Physics initiated a small discussion on Scientific methodology and compared the use of methodology in Physics and Political Science. *The Challenger Disaster* movie is based on the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986 and the subsequent events that followed.

The movie portrays how an unexpected accident turned space research into a topic of public debate and criticism. The movie follows the investigation led by physicist Richard Feynman, who uncovers the technical and managerial flaws that led to the disaster. Feynman's character, portrayed by William Hurt, brings to light the ignored warnings about the O-ring seals' vulnerability in cold temperatures—a critical oversight that caused the catastrophic failure. It highlights how political influence, negative media coverage, and public pressure disrupted the personal and professional lives of space scientists. Furthermore, it depicts how ethical values were compromised in the pursuit of political interests.

During the Cold War, the American politicians, engrossed in the game of showcasing political power, spared no effort in using space science as a tool. However, after an unexpected disaster, they not only pointed fingers at the scientists but also did not hesitate to put them in the dock for judgment. This movie attempts to explore the interrelationship between politics and science, focusing on the dynamics of power, politics, prestige, and their mutual interaction.

At the end of the movie show, the students expressed their independent thoughts and ideas about the movie and requested that such initiatives be taken again in the future.

Outcomes: Undergraduate physics students can learn from "The Challenger Disaster" about the critical importance of scientific integrity and the ethical responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The movie highlights the consequences of overlooking technical warnings and the necessity of rigorous testing and validation in engineering projects. It underscores the value of questioning and verifying data, even when under pressure from authorities or facing bureaucratic hurdles. For aspiring physicists, the film serves as a powerful reminder to prioritize safety and accuracy over expedience.

Political science students can glean insights into the interplay between science, technology, and government decision-making. The movie reveals the complexities of managing large-scale governmental projects and the impact of political and managerial decisions on scientific endeavors. It illustrates how institutional pressures and political agendas can sometimes compromise safety and integrity. Political science students can learn about the importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership in governance.

Photographs



Figure 1: Dr. S. A. Mollick discussing scientific methodology that are used both in Physics and Political Science



Figure 2: Discussion after the completion of the movie



Figure 3: Students deeply into the movie show

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Notice

Date: 17/12/2024

Movie Screening Event

The Physics and Political Science Departments are delighted to announce a special movie screening event for undergraduate students of the said departments.

Movie: "The Challenger Disaster"

Date: 21/12/2024

Objectives of the Programme: The screening aims to enhance students' analytical abilities and improve their reasoning skills through the viewing of "The Challenger Disaster." This film provides valuable educational insights relevant to both fields of study.

All participating students are requested to be present at the designated venue by 11:15 AM for a smooth start.


We look forward to an engaging and educational experience!


Head

Department of Physics

for Pratati Ghosal
Head

Department of Political Science


Principal

Attendance Sheet on Movie Show (The Challenger Disaster)

Date: 21/12/2024

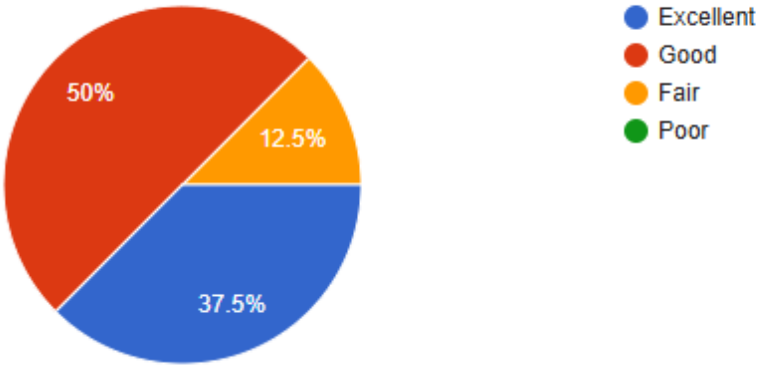
Sl No.	Name	Signature
①	Labani Karmakar.	Labani Karmakar
②	Mausumi Maji	Mausumi Maji
③	Dibya Khan	Dibya Khan
④	Tina Bera	Tina Bera
⑤	Saheji Pandit	Saheji Pandit
⑥	Saroma Das	Saroma Das
⑦	Nibedita Maji	Nibedita Maji
⑧	Sibani Maitri	Sibani Maitri
⑨	Spandana Sar.	Spandana Sar.
⑩	Piyali Khan (2nd sem)	Piyali Khan
⑪	Bristi Sarkar (3rd sem)	Bristi Sarkar.
⑫	Sanjana Karmakar (1st sem)	Sanjana Karmakar
⑬	Dipannita Jana (1st sem)	Dipannita Jana
⑭	Jeusmina Khatun (5 sem)	Jeusmina Khatun
⑮	Disha Maity	Disha Maity
⑯	Rohul Roy.	Rohul Roy,
⑰	Debojit Datta	Datta.
⑱	San Sadhukhan.	San Sadhukhan.
⑲	Dantanu Naskar	

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Feedback

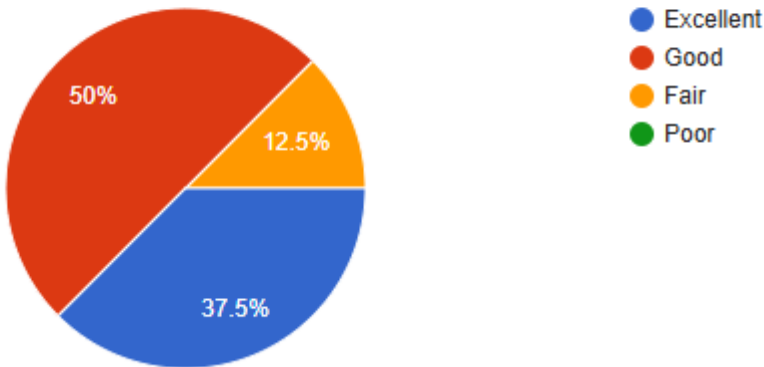
Overall enjoyment of the Movie:

18 responses



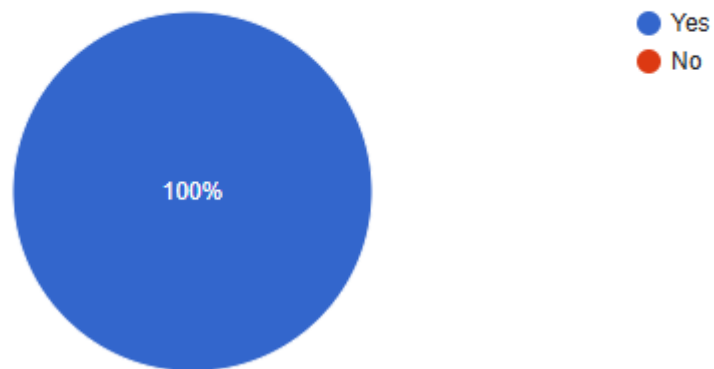
How would you rate the quality of the Movie:

18 responses



Did the teachers take any initiatives to make it an interactive discussion?

18 responses



Comments from the students, what they learn:

- Politics is everywhere, and people often try to cover up their mistakes.
- Science is involved in everything, and there are many challenges to overcome.
- The administration should acknowledge its mistakes and move forward by correcting them.