

An inter-house debating competition was held in Om Foundation High School in Hindi and English. The students from Classes III to VI took part in it. The topic in Hindi was Vigyan Vardan Ya Abhishaap. Those who spoke for the motion put forth their views very nicely and in an emphatic manner. Manisha of Tagore House made it clear that science is the only means for growth and development. It has changed the scenario as a whole. Prem of Vivekanand House said that only because of scientific discoveries, we have a cure for almost every disease.

Similarly Shikha from Mother Teresa House highlighted its use in transportation and communication by saying that it has made possible for us to go even on the moon. Those who spoke against the motion were also there with points having truth and logic in them. They talked of bombs (specially the Mumbai Taj Hotel) and accidents, etc. Students spoke well in English debate also. The topic was Should English Be The Medium of Instruction in Schools?

Those who spoke for it talked of being the members of the world. Aarti of Tagore House considered it a good medium to help in globalisation.

Kavita from Vivekanand House conveyed the listeners that it being an international language should be taught at school level only, as it is easy to learn it at that level.

Stevan from Mother Teresa House was of the view that it is one such language in which we Indians can interact easily in different states also.

Because learning regional

Ideas exchanged at debating

competition

languages (more than 26) is not easy and English makes it easy for us to converse together with people of different states. Sulekha from Dr. Kalam House emphasised its need to be the medium of instruction to learn about science and technology in a better way and not to feel second to anyone. Contrary to it, the contestants who spoke against the motion put forth equally strong points. Apoorv from Tagore House said that about 70 per cent of Indians are farmers, who live in rural areas and for whom even today English is a foreign language. How can we maintain our cultural heritage and traditional values of which we are proud, if we don't get encouragement even to speak and learn our national and regional language? Raju, a student of Class V from Mother Teresa House focussed our attention towards the developed country in spite of the fact that

they speak their local language. We can make our national identity by national language not by English. Vaidehi, a student of Class VI from Dr. Kalam House emphasised on the need of national language as the medium of instruction because then only the real talent would come to the surface. Hindi is more phonetic than English and language is not a means for growth and development. It is our hard work, dedication and clear understanding of the concept that makes us grow. Dr. R. D. Shukla (retd. Head NCERT), and Dr. V. K. Sharma were the judges. They were so impressed by the children's effort. Addressing the students, Dr. Shukla agreed that English is not the only means of growth and development. French Academy of Science made a standard in the world in the field of science and technology but not because of English. He shared his

experience of his visit to Japan and said that there 99 per cent people know only Japanese. Dr. V. K. Sharma asked the students to walk like a lion, confidently, to walk like Rama who broke the bow and then there were claps. Gaurav, maryada and sanskriti of a country come above language and science. Others who were present included Sanjay (trustee, Om Foundation), Sunita Ganju (project manager), Anju Garg (Principal) and teachers.

7.8.09