

DBT/ National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune

NCCS draws huge crowds at the “Kutuhhal” science exhibition

New Delhi, February 17: A unique educative exhibition, called “Kutuhhal”, which means curiosity, on the theme “pre-birth to rebirth”, was inaugurated by the Mayor of Pune, Shri Murlidhar Mohol at the S. P. College ground in Pune, on 7th February, 2020. The aim of this science exhibition was to satisfy the curiosity about the human body and human health-related matters among students and the general public.

The word, “rebirth”, refers to the special focus of this exhibition on creating awareness about organ donation. “Kutuhhal” was organized jointly by Vigyan Bharati Pune, B. J. Medical Government College, College of Engineering Pune, IMA Pune Chapter, Vigyan Prasarak and Shikshan Prasarak Mandali.

National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) in Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, was part of the organizing committee, with Director, Dr. Manoj Kumar Bhat, as well as Dr. Yogesh Shouche and Dr. Mohan Wani having served as Academic Committee members.

NCCS made its presence felt at the exhibition by displaying several exhibits that drew huge crowds. These included animal and microbial cell cultures, cells that visitors could observe with a microscopes, informative posters, etc, which served well to create awareness about how cell biology research contributes to gaining useful insights into the human body in health and disease, the contributions of NCCS to this field, and various other topics related to human health.

The cell cultures available for viewing under a microscope, and the microbiological displays proved to be crowd-pullers. NCCS made special efforts to draw attention to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the burning issue that is increasingly gaining importance worldwide. They collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to display posters on this topic. People were also made aware of this issue through discussions on the causes behind this problem, how each individual could contribute to tackle it, and the role that will be played by the repository of AMR microorganisms at NCCS. The samples of culture plates displayed further helped the visitors learn how antimicrobial susceptibility testing is done.

Visitors also learned about the citizen-science project, “Manav: Human Atlas Initiative”, which aspires to create a virtual atlas of the human body in the long run. Interest in this project was clearly evident when several visitors signed up for participation including students from different academic organizations, interestingly from the arts stream studying psychology as well, as also a few retired professionals.

There were many takers also for the copies of the annual Hindi magazine published by NCCS, “Meemansa”, which were distributed at this event. It includes several popular science articles on

topics relevant to human health, which are written in simple language, and by scientists and other members of NCCS. These articles cover themes like the human microbiome, stem cell therapy, tuberculosis, and also an interview of a scientist couple where the husband donated a kidney to his wife.

The NCCS stall was visited by several hundred visitors from various age groups, from diverse backgrounds, including school and college students, families, and the general public at large. The success could be gauged by the interest expressed by several students in joining NCCS to carry out research. The visitors' curiosity and eagerness to learn was hugely encouraging and NCCS hopes to take science to the public through more outreach events.



Curiosity knows no bounds - The NCCS exhibits at “Kutuhal” drew huge crowds!

Link related to this story -

Event website: <https://kutuhalvibha.in/>

Twitter (retweeted by @NCCS_Pune):

<https://twitter.com/ManavAtlas/status/1225639932904890370>

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