

## KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019, Mrs. Sukanya, addressed the students of classes 6-8 on the importance of the Indian Constitution. She told them about the importance of Civics as a subject, as that is how one gains knowledge about the Constitution which is crucial. She said that the Constitution was more important and more interesting than a comic book, if one truly understood it and took an interest in it. She then asked questions like:

\*Who is the president of the Constituent Assembly?

\*Who is the chairman of the Drafting Committee?

Mrs. Sukanya talked about the partition and the creation of the Constitution. She gave out several intriguing facts, like how there were 385 original members in the Drafting committee, but after the partition only 284 members remained and signed the Constitution. This was not only because of the partition but also because of death, resignation due to not seeing eye-to-eye about issues and so on.



Another rather unknown fact was that there were only 15 women members in the Drafting Committee, and only 12 stayed and signed. Two famous women among them were Sarojini Naidu and Vijaylakshmi Pandit. Mrs. Sukanya informed the students that the public was allowed to view and judge their own Constitution. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 1929 when the Constitution was completed after 2 years of work, sessions were held to let the public come and criticise the constitution. A total of 166 of these sessions were held.

Mrs. Sukanya mentioned that one of the most important parts of the Constitution was the Preamble. It was the renowned painter Beohar Rammanohar Sinha who decorated and designed the preamble. Mrs. Sukanaya urged the students to treat their school diary as the school's Constitution.

Sukanya Ma'am enlightened the students with the fact that originally, the British has proposed to let an Englishman write the Indian Constitution, but several protests were

made by Indians to let us write our own Constitution. These protests started in 1930. Finally, in the year 1946, we were allowed to write our own Constitution.

Mrs. Sukanya explained the huge process behind deciding who had the right to vote. Various suggestions such as only allowing the citizens belonging to high class or the educated to vote were brought up, but in the end, it was finally decided that any legal citizen above the age of 18 could vote regardless of caste or educational status. She quoted the speech of Mrs. Vasanthi, Principal, NGM on the Republic Day Celebrations at T. Nagar branch, mentioning AIR- Accountability, Integrity and Responsibility.

Mrs. Sukanya pointed out an interesting fact about our Constitution, that no leader's name was included, nor was any particular credit given to certain people like some other Constitutions did. The word 'we' is constantly used in the Constitution, symbolizing the huge feeling and want of oneness. In her slide show, she showed a brief content table of the Constitution.

Mrs. Sukanya ended her speech by telling the students to take pride in our Constitution and to know our Preamble as well as they would know their national anthem.

**IVY SCRIBES – Media Club**  
**PSBB T. Nagar**