

Centre for Medical education Technology
All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bhopal

breaking patterns, creating change

Theatre of the oppressed workshop

1st & 2nd October 2016

CMET of AIIMS Bhopal organized a medical humanities workshop in Theatre of the oppressed called breaking patterns creating change *for* students and faculty of AIIMS Bhopal on 1st and 2nd October 2016 respectively. Thirty five students and twenty faculty attended the workshop.



More about Theatre of the Oppressed

Created by the Brazilian theatre legend and visionary Augusto Boal, Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is a form of theatre that is used worldwide for community education. Using a wide arsenal of theatre games and exercises, it helps build community, and deepens our understanding of ourselves and others. Spectators are turned into *spect-actors* in interactive, problem-solving theatrical structures such as Forum Theatre. TO starts a process of dialogue, reflection and action, and promotes critical thinking.

In the Indian context students have to shut out all ‘distractions’, and focus on bookish preparation for exams for several years, in order to obtain a seat in a medical college. Their development as caring and sensitive human beings is deeply impacted by this.

The workshop helped students to *demechanise* themselves, and rediscover their potential to be human beings, fully engaging with the world around us. The workshop used games and exercises and theater to encourage students to put their bodies to work, and in a fun way learn & explore themselves and the

world around. The games created opportunities to become critical thinkers and problem solvers- in short, to *act*, instead of just talk.

Forum Theatre

On the second day of the workshop the *forum theatre* was organized. The faculty presented five skits on issues that concern them. The skits addressed the day to day problems faced by them and sought to seek solutions to those.

The resource person for the workshop, Dr Radha Ramaswamy has a PhD in theatre research, and received training in Theatre of the Oppressed at the Seattle-based *Mandala Center for Change*. In March 2011, she founded the *Centre for Community Dialogue and Change* (CCDC), an organization dedicated to promoting the use of Theatre of the Oppressed in India.

