

Team Smart Club win National Debate Fest

KATHMANDU, Feb 5: Team Smart Club with debaters Manjil Gautam from Saipal Academy, Ananta Thapaliya from Southwestern State College, and Uttam Paudel from Xavier International College, was announced winner of the 3rd National Debate Fest after a heated session of finale with runner-up What an Understanding team held at Hotel Radisson in Lazimpat on Thursday. The topic for the debate was 'Federalism in Nepal.'



Organized by Chelsea Debates Club, the competition saw participation of a total of 32 colleges from the valley, out of which only six colleges divided into two teams reached the finale. Each speaker got eight minutes standard time to put forward their views for and against the motion.

World School Debating Championship (WSDC) format of debating was used throughout the workshop and main competition. After a basic orientation on the WSDC format, the trainers conducted a practice debate and also videos on debate were screened in order to give them an idea about how the format works. During the training sessions, students learnt many things like how to present their argument to the next team while debating, how to raise important points, how to stay focused on the topic, and how to hone their public speaking skills, among others.

According to the organizers, the main objective of the competition was to enhance technical skills of debating in students.

In his closing speech during the finale, Secretary of Youth and Sports Ministry, Dipendra Nath Sharma expressed his concern over the low participation rate of girls in the competition. About nurturing the spirit of competition, he said, "It's more important to take such competitions as an opportunity for learning instead of winning them."

Vice President of Human Values for Peace and Prosperity, Sachin Timalisina, remarked that he was happy to see the youth informed and concerned about federalism, which is still one of the most contentious topics of political debate in the country.

(By Republica National Daily | archived at <http://admin.myrepublica.com/lifestyle/story/36480/team-smart-club-win-national-debate-fest.html>)