Making the right choice...

The CII (Puducherry State Council), in association with The Times of India and SAE college, conducted a successful workshop for class 11 students, helping them to choose the right career option...

The workshop was well attended by students from private and government higher secondary schools in Puducherry. The half-day workshop was conducted in association with The Times of India, the event's media partner.

In his welcome address, T Rajaran, Chairman, CII (Puducherry State Council) and General Manager, Krimati Ltd, said that the team had been interacting with a number of class 11 students who now, for the first time in their lives, are stressed the need for an inclusive approach and concentrated that it was very probable this was the first such workshop in the country.

Dr S Sundaravadivelu, Director of School Education, Government of Puducherry, said that earlier, about 20 to 30 years back, there were fewer career options available. Such a situation, he noticed, was not the case anymore. What we are interested in, the Director said, is the process by which children select from within these options. He believes that they either rely on choices made by their parents or by their friends. It is important to realise that most often these choices are not based on what they are interested in.

S Bagga, Correspondent, St Patrick Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Puducherry, in his speech said that he believed there should be a free discussion between the parents and the child and only then should the child choose a career. There is a danger of a forced career option leading the child to failure, disappointment and depression. He concluded by requesting that parents help their children by identifying their talents, rather than forcing them to do something they don't want to.

Colonel D P Singh, Commandant, NCC Group HQ, spoke about the heritage and tradition that comes with a career in the armed forces, stressing that this was a career which combined the latest technology in the fields of management, engineering and medical sciences. It offers a golden opportunity, he said, to be a part of the world's finest armed forces, even if not as an officer, but as a gentleman.

Vijay Kaur Bhatnert, IAS, Deputy Collector, Puducherry, spoke on the trials and tribulations of appearing for the UPSC. He drew from his own experience and advised students to concentrate and work on their weaknesses and failures if they wanted to excel, not just in the exams but also in their lives.