Rescue from the evils of the society.

On 27 August 2019, Department of Sociology, Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce had organized a seminar on youth relationships for which Mr. Abhishek Clifford was invited as a lecturer.

Abhishek Clifford is a stats lecturer and social activist from London. Abhishek is founder of Rescue108 NGO which has reached 3 Lakh students in India. Clifford is passionate about social and ethical issues such as human trafficking, female foeticide, immoral and unhealthy sexual relationships and the spread of violent and rape pornography addiction among the youth. Clifford has been featured in over 20 prime time TV programs and debates and over 100 newspaper articles have carried Abhishek's research. Abhishek Clifford is believed to be of British origin and claims to be known by many names.

The session started at 10:30. The main discussion was on youth relationships and rescue from the evils of the society. He explained the students about the hazardous effects of watching violent and child pornography and how it can lead to violence and abuse. India is now among the top 3 countries in porn consumption, even child pornography. This is a disturbing trend especially for a nation that has had strong cultural values. A survey conducted said that about 0.5 million of rape videos are watched by college boys alone in Mumbai every day. 38% boys between the age group of 16-21 years watch violent pornography and 76% of boys surveyed that watching porn gives a desire to rape.

Also how unhealthy relationships lead to abortions and as he spoke about it graphic images of stillborn children were projected on the stage, a bid to discourage abortion.

According to its website, Clifford's NGO Rescue 108 primarily seeks to work with trafficked young girls, and "stop the baby genocide". About 1.2 million girls have been trafficked for prostitution in just one year.

In 2014, he claimed to have reached out to more than 5,000 students over <u>a two-month tour of Goan schools</u> with the message that watching porn caused homosexuality, contraceptives were ineffective, people should marry as virgins for a happy marriage, and that climate change was "God's way of telling us to stop abortions". Clifford then said that the "superior Indian tradition" of abstinence over sexual education was a "solution to the increasing number of abortions".

He explained the students about <u>intelligent design</u> and twisted arguments disparaging evolution. His other areas of interest include 'science' refuting evolution and proving intelligent design, the idea that the world was created by God.

In the same vein, he also claimed to have "enlightened" the faculty and students at science colleges about the "fallacy" that was the theory of evolution, and made them believe in intelligent design.

The 'statistics expert', however, claimed his argument against evolution wasn't religious. Talking about intelligent design, he said, "It is not creationism, which is Christian. Intelligent design only uses scientific evidence, such as DNA, to explain the origin of life. It allows for any Creator from any religion."

The seminar ended at 12 o'clock and then students were asked to fill a questionnaire based on the lecture. It was a great time for the students and also they learned about such crucial and contemporary issues in world.