

BracU CEII hosts art competition for students to explore empathy

Tribune Desk

Published at 12:43 am July 1st, 2019



A total of 87 Class 5 students from four Brac schools participated in an art competition, with the theme 'Empathy,' organized by Brac University Centre for Emotional Intelligence and Innovation (CEII) on June 28-29, 2019 **Courtesy**

The winners of the competition will be showcased during a national-level event by CEII in November

The Centre for Emotional Intelligence and Innovation (CEII) of Brac University, in collaboration with Brac Social Enterprises (Education), hosted an art competition among fifth graders from four selected Brac schools in Savar and Gazipur on June 28-29.

The aim of the event was to provide a platform to fifth graders from the Brac schools to explore their deeper emotions and express themselves through art.

All art supplies were provided by Brac University CEII. Both days' events were hosted at two Brac schools in Chapayin, Savar and Sreepur, Gazipur, a CEII statement said.

On Friday, June 28, representatives from Brac University CEII and Counselling Unit held an activity session and dialogue about empathy with the school students

at both locations, as well as a dialogue with their parents about involved and informed parenting.



Four tiny artists are busy drawing to express their idea of empathy during the art competition organized by Brac University CEII on June 28-29, 2019 |**Courtesy**

The art competition itself was successfully conducted on Saturday, June 29, with a total of 87 students from the Brac Schools taking part. The students were told to depict empathy as they understand it.

One of the students at the Savar school, Md Fahim Rahman, said: “I like that they gave us snacks, colour pencils, sharpeners and scales. I was very excited to participate in the art competition.”

Md Faisal Hossain, another participating student, summed up how his classmates were feeling: “Yesterday, we had to play an interesting game at school. It was a lot of fun. Today I had to draw a picture on the theme ‘Empathy.’ It [drawing] felt good as well. ”

The winners of the competition will be showcased and awarded during a national-level event hosted by the Brac University CEII in November, titled “Reimagining education for society: A symposium for change-makers.”

The event was sponsored by Aarong Dairy and Brac University cafeteria, Shazam.



Students in a Brac school show their finished artwork during the art competition held by Brac University CEII on June 28-29, 2019 |**Courtesy**The event was the first step in CEII's School Outreach Program titled "empARThetic: Art for empathy, expression and social change," where art competitions are being hosted in three levels: selected Brac schools, Dhaka-based English and Bangla medium schools, and Brac University students and support staff.

Entries will be divided into two fields – literature and performance arts, and visual arts – with five subcategories in each.

The larger goal of the School Outreach Program is to start the much-needed conversation about the correlation among education, empathy and innovation, and how introducing emotional learning into early childhood teaching can lead to raising Bangladeshi children as empathetic future leaders.

The Centre for Emotional Intelligence and Innovation is a centre that is dedicated to transforming society by embedding human values, empathy and emotional intelligence in the education system.

CEII programs include a research platform, school outreach program, teacher training program and an empathy lab and innovation hub.