

<u>Ranchi</u>

IIM Ranchi Hosts a Successful Human Library | Tech Pinata

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Human Library events provide a unique opportunity for individuals to engage in meaningful conversations and learn from the experiences of others. It is based on the idea of a traditional library, where individuals can "borrow" a "book" in the form of a person and converse with them about their life experiences, beliefs, and views. Recently, the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi recently organized a human library event which brought together students, faculty, and community members to share their stories and insights with each other.

The concept of the human library originated in Denmark in 2000 as a way to promote understanding and tolerance by allowing individuals to borrow "human books" and engage in one-on-one conversations with them. These "books" are people who have had experiences or identities that may be misunderstood, stigmatized, or underrepresented in mainstream media.

At the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi's Human Library event, attendees had the opportunity to 'borrow' and engage with people representing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Each "book" was given a designated time slot for their conversations. Readers can ask them questions to find out more about them and learn about the challenges in their lives. The event at IIM Ranchi featured a range of "books", including people from different

professions, religions, cultures, etc., all eager to share their stories and engage in meaningful conversations with attendees. The event was a success, with the participation of more than 32 "books" from different cultures, religions and backgrounds.

One of the "books" was a student from a tribal community who spoke about his experiences, struggles, and journey to progress through each stage of his schooling and work. Another was a staff member who spoke about his own experience with mental illness and the importance of getting help and support. One of the "books" at the event was an entrepreneur who talked about the challenges and rewards of starting and running a small business.

The event was organized by the IIM Ranchi Advisory Cell which wanted to create a safe and inclusive space for dialogue and learning. They worked with the college library staff and faculty to recruit "human books" and promote the event to the community. Professor Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Director of IIM Ranchi, graced the event. He considered the idea after researching several models in other countries where this technique is popular, especially in the Nordic countries, and wanted to introduce it to IIM Ranchi to establish a more comprehensive model of growth and development. students.

The Human Library event at the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi was a resounding success, with many attendees reporting gaining valuable knowledge and forming new relationships with people from diverse backgrounds. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of fostering understanding and empathy in our communities and the transformative power of one-to-one conversations.

Overall, the Human Library event at the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi was a meaningful and enriching experience for all who attended. It is a testament to the power of inclusive and open dialogue and the potential for growth and understanding it can bring. Event organizers said they were delighted with the turnout and plan to hold similar events in the future to promote understanding and acceptance of diversity within the community.