

Report on Hack Kochi #2

Hack Kochi #2, an intensive 24-hour, all women hackathon exclusively for engineering students was conducted on 2nd & 3rd November '19 by ORE women in collaboration with IEEE Kochi Hub and IEEE WIE Affinity Groups of Kerala.

ORE-Women:

To bring up a technological advancement to humanity, IEEE Kochi Hub has put forward the idea of a tech community inside the present community, which is wholly maintained and mentored by fellow students namely, ORE -Outreach for Resources, being a technical professional organization with a majority of its members as students has its foundation laid upon the technical interests and skills of this student community.

ORE-Women is a branch of ORE, which gives importance to impart technical knowledge and develop skills exclusively for the girls in the community. The activities under this branch are aimed at upbringing women into the different roles of managing groups and to share technical knowledge. It opens resources to all enthusiasts who wish to acquire knowledge, skill, moreover to develop them to become a more globally responsible citizen. Various events and activities are conducted to encourage, empower and engage them with current technologies

Demographics:

There were 42 participants, constituting 12 teams. Breakdown by IEEE membership is as follows:

IEEE Members: 24

Non-IEEE Members: 18

Event Timeline:

The checking-in process commenced at 2:00 pm on 2 November '19. Post settling in, two problem statements were defined and explained. The teams were asked to distil their visionary concepts and identify actionable solution for any one of the given problems. The participants were filled with zealous enthusiasm and made good use of this platform set as an innovative proving ground for new ideas. Tea and snacks were offered amidst this focus driven session which continued on until dinner which was served at 8 pm. The attendees utilized this time to connect with other like-minded, dynamic techno enthusiasts and create building blocks of diverse, professional network. Following this, all the participants assembled back to their team's working space to continue developing their inventive solution and reinvigorate their capabilities. When the clock struck 12 at midnight, an engaging quiz based on web development was conducted via Kahoot to energize the audience, let them unwind and take a breather. The quiz was extensively edifying and tested one's quick thinking skills. It ended on a highly spirited note. At about 2 am, discussions regarding the failures one has encountered

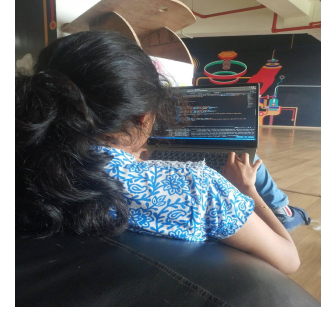
during their lifetime took place. Participants and volunteers talked about the setbacks that defined their future choices and how their missteps helped them learn how to tackle the various challenges and obstacles they came cross.

3 November '19 marked the continuance of Hack Koc hi#2. Morning was marked with the participants' zest to continue with the hackathon following breakfast which was served at 8 am. Excluding the short break at 11 am for tea and snacks, the entire morning was spent on reinforcing their ideas and making their innovative fixes on the given persistent problems a full-fledged vision. Half an hour from 1:30 pm onwards was assigned as lunch break. Buffer time was set from 2 pm to 3:30 pm and provided the teams leeway to make final changes or modifications to their codes.

Glimpses of the Event:







Winners:

The team Deep Matrix , from College of Engineering, Trivandrum were selected as winners. The team Deep Matrix were really very thankful to the ORE community for giving a nice opportunity and guidance to take participation in this event. The winners were officially announced on 27, November 2019. The fourth year- Divya Balakrishnan was given a job opportunity in LetsApp and the remaining (Maria Paul T, Ruhi Thomas and Haseena Hassan) were given an internship opportunity in the same.

Sponsors:

Event space was provided by Kerala Startup Mission- Maker Village. Beverages were sponsored by Red Bull India Pvt. Ltd. Placement and internship opportunities for the winners were provided by LetsApp.

Feedback from Students:

We sent out a post-event form for feedback to all participants, 13 of whom responded.

When asked about the favorite part of the event students said, they enjoyed the food and the problem statement which was little twisted. Several of them appreciated the spirit of energy at the event. A few quotes:

"Actually my team didn't succeed to achieve the target, but we learned a lot of new things."

"The problem statement at the first glance was very difficult, but when we started research- it wasn't a hard nut to crack, thus the time was effectively utilized. Thank you."

“The RedBull and bingo was the best part. We learned a lot”

“It was really a great opportunity to learn and network with more female students with technical capabilities”

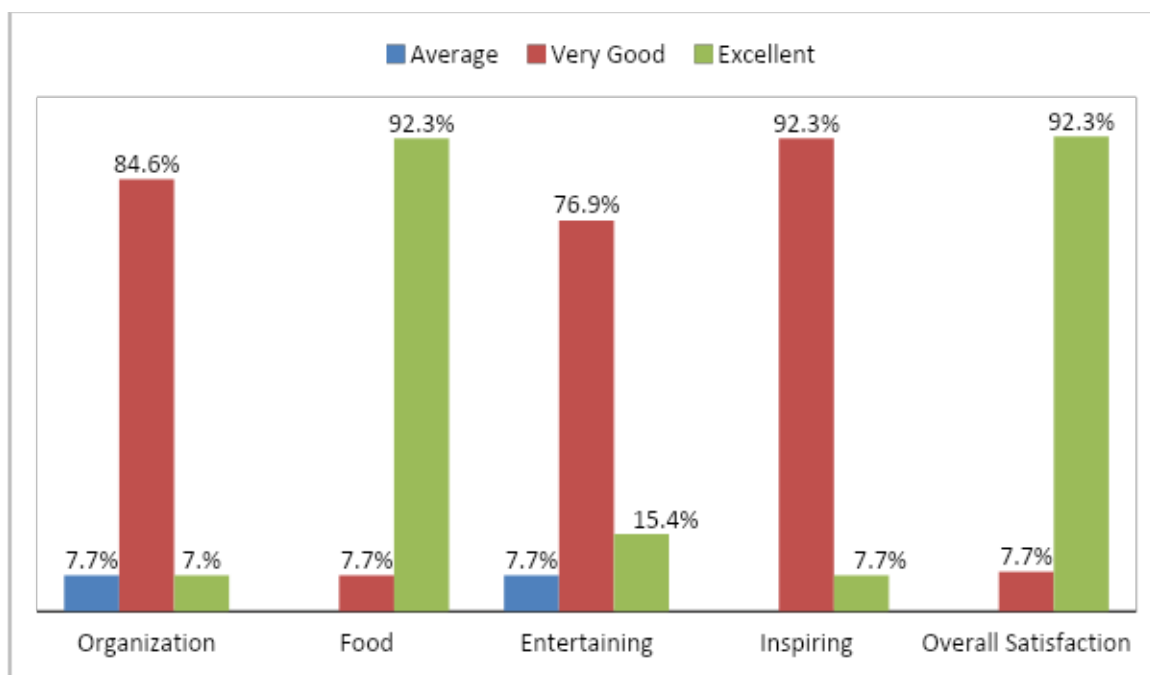
The evaluation was done on a 5 point scale

5-Excellent 4-Verry Good 3-Average 2-Below Average 1-Poor

Overall satisfaction of the Participants



Overall Evaluation by Participants



Acknowledgements / Personnel:

Organizers: Ajay Philip(lead), Ameera Sherin, Devika Nair, Poornima M and Elsa.

Student Volunteers: Vishnu KO, Sreehari N, Mukund C Menon and Menny Thankachan.

Judge: Radhaprasad(Director, LetsApp)

Planning:

Planning for the hackathon began at the end of September. An internal call for sponsors was sent out mid-October, confirming venue and beverages. Planning meetings were held throughout via social medias and conference calls, with an hour-by-hour timeline available to the organizers team and judges before the event.

Conclusion:

Hack Kochi #2 has catered to bringing together a vast community of technically empowered women who have embraced innovation and shortlisted ideas for technological development under their wings. The primary goal of this event was to raise awareness of technical talent among women and foster a competitive, yet cooperative, and congenial for talented female engineering aspirants. The enthusiasm and participation that the event inspired demonstrated that student culture at IEEE goes beyond just football. The energy and passion for coding and development was clearly visible amongst students. The headcount at 2AM was 42 students , powering through the work with their teammates, building out their vision. We believe this passion is strong indicator that ORE-Women needs to actively foster this hacker culture and sustain this vibrant community.