



**SILVER OAK
UNIVERSITY**
EDUCATION TO INNOVATION



Silver Oak University
IEEE Student Branch



A REPORT ON **Paperback Pals - Sophie's World**

Date: 27th February 2025

Venue: Apple Lab, B-block, Silver Oak University



SOPHIE'S WORLD

~JOSTEIN GAARDER



Introduction:

A book Review Session done on book “**Sophie’s World**”, organized by **Paperback Pals Club** under the banner of **Silver Oak University IEEE Women In Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group**. This session enlightened attendees about the essence of philosophy—a timeless pursuit of wisdom that explores the nature of existence, knowledge and reality through Jostein Gaarder’s novel. Through its engaging narrative, the book introduces fundamental philosophical ideas, nurturing the attendees' core thinking values throughout the session.

About the session:

Date: 27th February 2025

Time: 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.


Venue: Apple Lab, B-block, Silver Oak University

Participants: 23

The session kicked off with an exploration of the key concepts from the book “*Sophie’s World*”, a philosophical novel that simplifies complex ideas in an engaging and accessible way. The story follows Sophie Amundsen, a 14-year-old girl who embarks on a profound philosophical journey under the guidance of her mysterious mentor, Alberto Knox. Serving as both a book review and a discussion on philosophical concepts, the session explored core philosophical thinking, raising fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason and mind. It emphasized how philosophy nurtures critical thinking and rational inquiry, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around us.

The novel follows Sophie as she receives letters that introduce her to the great philosophers of history. Through these lessons, she explores different schools of thought, questioning the nature of reality and her own existence. The story takes unexpected turns, making philosophy an exciting adventure. Thales, one of the first known philosophers, proposed that everything originates from water. His ideas laid the foundation for natural philosophy, moving away from mythological explanations of the world.

A significant part of the session was dedicated to Indian philosophy, showcasing its rich diversity. Attendees engaged in discussions on Advaita Vedanta, which teaches non-duality, emphasizing the unity of the self with the ultimate reality. In contrast, Dvaita posits a clear distinction between the individual soul and the divine. The session also touched on Jainism’s principles of non-violence and self-discipline, as well as Yoga, a spiritual discipline uniting the body, mind, and soul. These philosophical insights encouraged attendees to reflect on different worldviews and their relevance in modern life.




As the session drew to a close, an engaging activity was conducted where participants matched philosophical terms with their corresponding definitions. This interactive exercise not only reinforced key concepts discussed during the session but also encouraged critical thinking and analytical reasoning. By actively engaging with philosophical ideas, attendees enhanced their ability to interpret and apply these concepts, fostering a deeper appreciation for the essence of philosophy.

Conclusion:

The session provided an insightful exploration of philosophical concepts, encouraging attendees to think critically about the world around them. Through engaging discussions and interactive activities, participants delved into the thought-provoking ideas presented in Sophie's World. The book review session facilitated meaningful conversations, helping attendees grasp complex philosophical themes in a relatable way. By analyzing key concepts, debating perspectives, and reflecting on their interpretations, participants not only gained a deeper understanding of philosophy but also developed critical thinking skills that extend beyond the session.

The success of the session was made possible by the guidance and support of Dr. Satvik Khara, Dean, School of Technology, Design and Computer Application; IEEE Senior Member; Chairperson, SIGHT, IEEE Gujarat Section; Chairperson, Technical Committee, Computer Society, IEEE Gujarat Section; Founding Member, Silver Oak University IEEE Student Branch.



Some glimpses of the event:



Attendees unravelling philosophy of the book through storytelling



Participants exploring great philosophical thinkers and the nature of reality