

Movie Screening – *The Great Debaters*

Course: MBA (Finance) Semester: II

The screening of *The Great Debaters* (2007), directed by Denzel Washington, was integrated as a pedagogical tool to understand elements of persuasive communication. The film — based on the true story of a debate team from Wiley College in 1930s Texas which was selected for its rich content related to argumentation, resilience, teamwork, and ethical courage, all of which resonate deeply with the challenges and opportunities students will encounter in professional and managerial roles.

The activity was not intended as passive viewing, but as an experiential learning exercise. Students were encouraged to actively observe and later analyze the communication styles, debating strategies, and group dynamics portrayed in the film.

Students were given a viewing prompts: How do the characters construct and deliver arguments? What role does voice, posture, and emotional tone play in persuasion?

Following the screening, a structured group discussion was conducted. They analyzed the scene through the lens of communication theory and management learning focusing on aspects such as ethos, pathos, logos, and emotional intelligence.