

DECCAN HERALD

SUCCESSFUL ACTS

Winners all the way

The students of Jain School of Graduate Studies (SGS) could have not asked for a better platform to showcase their passion for theatre.

And what more can they ask for when their passion is winning them prestigious awards? The recently formed theatre group, *Avani*, has bagged the first place in the 'National-Level Theatre Festival' organised by Bharath Yatra Kendra.

The group of 30 students have taken theatre to a different level through their stunning acts.

With this success, the group has managed to get a direct entry to the 'National-Level Fest', which is being organised as part of 'Prithvi Theatre Festival' and 'National School of Drama Festival', in Mumbai and Delhi respectively.



DRAMATIC A play in progress.

Although the group was formed a few months ago, the students have shown what they are capable of by bringing home numerous prizes.

The first play by *Avani* was *Chammarana Chalukyi Hendati*. It turned out to be a huge success. The play won accolades at the 'Bangalore Youth Festival' and the inter-collegiate fest organised by St Joseph's College.

Grishma, an artist, and a second-year BA student, says, "The concept of theatre was

very fresh in our college campus and not many were sure what we could do. But things started to change after we managed to win most of the competitions we participated in." Grishma, who won the 'best actress award', says that the taste of success has inspired her to take part in more theatre shows.

Avani's second play *Ondu Bogaseya Neeru* was a run-away hit. The play is an adaptation of author Rajappa Kalvayi's novel revolving

around the death of Alexander. This performance too attracted compliments from many.

Uday, the director of the play, says, "The play received a lot of appreciation for its casting and won the prestigious 'Singalooru Puttaswamy State Award', which was initiated by actor Dr Rajkumar. The play won awards in the best director and best actor categories." However, it has not been a smooth sail for these students. Grishma says, "It is tough to get girls to take part in theatre. Female students shy away and the aim of *Avani* is to bring in more girls. No matter how a student looks or acts, there is space for everyone to showcase their talent in our theatre group."

The theatre group will represent the State in theatrical arts at the national level.

DHNS