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K K Sallaja conducting a free lecture on bonsai as part of the summer series activities organised for Young Express Club members on Sunday. Photo by Shrikrishna Paranjape

Varsity 'Nazism' raises students' hackles

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
APRIL 21

DOES Fascism include Nazism? But obviously yes...in fact for Germans, Nazism was a kind of Fascism...However, several students appearing for the First Year BA (FYBA) paper in modern political ideologies don't think so... simply because the concept of Nazism did not feature in their syllabus!

Question number 3 of General paper I - Modern Political Ideologies (revised course) 'Bring out the origin of Nazism and explain its basic principles' incurred the wrath of a majority of students who protested as the concept was not prescribed for study in the June 1996 syllabus.

Ideologies like nationalism, democracy, democratic socialism,

partment of Politics, Sir Parshurambhau College, "The syllabus of subjects of social sciences are never so elaborately spelt out and since the concepts are inter-related most of the senior level teachers at most colleges have taught both topics. The problem unfortunately occurs at colleges where it may not have been taught."

While stating that the questions were not out-of-syllabus, Dr. Vijay Deo did feel that the paper setters could have carefully framed the questions.

Dr Santosh Dastane, Controller of Examinations, University of Pune who admitted to receiving

various complaints said that the issue was thrashed out at a meeting with the paper setters and examiners.

A section of the teachers at the meeting felt that Nazism was part of Fascism, but other teachers quoted rules and felt that since it was not in the syllabus, it should not have figured among the questions, says Dastane.

Principal A S Inamdar who is also the Director of the Central Assessment Programme (CAP) for FYBA currently underway at the Abasaheb Garware College, said that he did receive some letters for reconsideration of the questions.

Even as the first phase of assessment is already over and marking of papers is remaining to be completed, Dr. Santosh Dastane is awaiting the report which will be submitted by the Dr K Shitole Dean of Faculty of Mental, Moral and Social Sciences over the rather vexatious issue.

When contacted Dr Shitole was unavailable for comment.

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