

“I would give first preference for my subject, Horticulture than to classical music”, said Deepa, the participant for classical vocal (Karnatic) from the Agricultural University, Bangalore. Her outburst might appear a little surprising at first, but the trifle mass of listeners trickling into the B.C.M. Auditorium proved her right.

Who was she to sing for! What was her hard practice for! When there was no one to listen to her. When she sang in her mellifluous voice in her favorite Ragabhairavi, the audience was easing out in their afternoon siesta. In the land of Swathithirunal and Shadkala Govnd amarar, the vocalist might have expected much more.

Another participant from Gulbarga University, a gold medalist, was able gather attention of the audience for sometime when she sang in raga revati. Her modulation of voice while singing “Raghabvi Pada Nanu” was breath taking.

As Rajani of M. G. University began “Janaki Kava Moya Bhairavi” in raga Anandabhairavi it was a joy to find the auditorium filled to one fourth. But the joy subsided very soon when it was found out that they were mostly the vocalists, their companions and relatives.

When asked about their future plans, most of them wanted to simultaneously have an academic and music career. The modern fusion classical and western music was termed as a ‘passing phase’. Once the craze is gone, people will return to Indian classical music, says Ranjini.