

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Chairman

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Charity no. 1137083

General Secretary

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Minutes of the NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on 12 Jun 2016 at NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade, 79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ

Present: Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Jayman Mehta; Ramesh Shah; Virendra Bakhai; Kirit Batavia; Saroj Varia, Shashi Shah; Bharat Mehta; Asha Mehta; Bhupendra Vasa; Vijay Sheth, Bharat Parekh; Rajnikant Shah; Sudhaben Mandaviya; Prakesh Mehta

Apologies: Usha Menta, Shailesh Patel; Jayesh Shah; Chirag Bajaria; Kiran Mehta; Harshida Mehta; Chetna Desai; Anil Parekh; Navin Sheth; Harkishan Mehta, Bina Holden;; Jaykumar Shah; Harshad Kothari; Renuka Mehta; Harshad Mehta

1) Prayers

The meeting started at 11:50 with all present reciting the prayer.
All attendees were welcomed to the NCVA's office.

2) Approval of Minutes of 28th Feb 2016

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman and General Secretary.

3) Matters Arising

None.

4) Treasurers Report

Accounts for 31/12/2015 have been submitted to the auditors. Accounts were reviewed at the meeting. Majority of cash is invested in deposit accounts. Discussions around restricted funds and where they can be spent was discussed.

Question was asked about subscriptions that have not been paid. Rameshbhai indicated that we should show debtors for those who have not paid. This will be reviewed in the future.

Regional Vice Chairmen

(North Region)
Mr. Kiran N..Mehta

(Midlands)
Mr Rajnikant Shah

(Greater London)
Mr. Vijay H. Sheth

(South Region)
Mr. Harkishan D. Mehta

Treasurer

Mr. Jaykumar T. Shah

Deputy General Secretary

Mr Bharat Mehta

Executive Committee Members

Mrs. Asha Mehta
Mr. Bharat Mehta
Mr. Chandrakant Mehta
Mr. Kirit Batavia
Mr. Ramesh Shah
Mrs. Roopal Punater
Mrs. Saroj Varia

Co opted:

Mr. Chirag Bajaria
Mr. Jayman Mehta

e- News Letter :

VANIK VOICE
Editor:
Mr Anil Parekh

Hon. Auditors

P.S.J. Alexander & Co

Website: www.ncva.co.uk

Newsletter: www.ncva.co.uk/newsletter

Affiliated Associations

Aden Vanik Association of UK, Digamber Jain Visa Mevada Association of UK, East London Bhagini, Jain Association of UK, Jain Network, Jain Samaj Europe, Jain Samaj Manchester, Jain Sangh Birmingham, Mahavir Foundation, Nari Vrund, Navnat Vanik Association of UK, Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj, Navnat Bridge Club, Navnat Vadil Mandal, Navnat Youth Association, Oshwal Association of UK, Shree Jain Sangh East London & Essex, Shree Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal, Shree Sidhpuria Vanik Samaj, Shrimali Soni Mandal London, Shree Sorathia Vanik Association (UK), South East Jain Association, Vanik Association UK, Vanik Samaj Coventry, Vanik Samaj Leicester, Vanik Samaj of UK Brighton, Vanik Samaj Southampton, Veerayatan UK, Young Jains

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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Gift aid list for submission is also being prepared and the aim to have it completed by end of this year.

5) Secretary's Report

Emails continue to be received from members requesting changes to the data held in the on-line directory. These continue to be addressed, when possible.

Distribution of information that is useful to our community continues to be circulated to members when requested from affiliated organisations. More and more organisations have started to use this facility. More recently the following has been circulated to all members in the NCVA database.

- Volunteers for NCVA's Jain Spiritual Health Care programme
- Invitation to 108 Parshwanath Bhavyatra Monday 30 May 2016 - Jain Centre Colindale
- Bhagini Mandal – East London & Essex to support production of a Triveni Sangam Souvenir
- Ram Navami Celebration from Navnat Vanik Association of UK
- National Council of Vanik Associations - Vanik Voice March 2016

Following installation of broadband in our office we have incurred installation charges by the company who we have taken the contract with. Following various emails to the company and having escalated to their complaints department progress is very slow. Therefore, the complaint has been raised with the ombudsman who is now investigating the case.

A suggestion has been made to create a "WhatsApp" group for NCVA. This will be reviewed in the future, however for this to be effective all members must be happy to join and thereafter use it.

6) Speed Dating

- The last speed dating event was held on the 22 May 2016 with 278 participants and the feedback received from those candidates who attended has been very positive. Possible areas for consideration into the next event are as follows:
 - Those who are very young and those who are old only get to sit for one round. This is being reviewed and therefore the suggestion is to only have girls over 37 and boys over 25+ only.
 - Consider including a candidates photograph in the list distributed prior to the event. Currently the candidates are finding it difficult to remember individuals they have seen.
 - After two rounds need a break.
 - Eventbrite is a great help and Rameshbhai indicated that this is already proving useful with effort on administration now being reduced considerably. However charges are much higher (£622) and in future this will be charged to the candidates.
 - In future limit number of tickets offered at the lower fee.
- Analysis of speed dating 2016 has been carried out and was shown to those who attended. This is attached at the end of the minutes. Discussions around those who are vegetarians/Non vegetarians etc occurred. Also, the speed dating was attended by individuals who have previously been married and have children. This possibly should be made known to individuals who may otherwise not know. After some discussions, It was decided that these points are best discussed by the speed dating committee and report back to the council meeting.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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- Rameshbhai is also considering having a follow-up meeting to speed-dating. This has been arranged for the 24nd Jun from 20:30 to 21:30. This is a free event for those who attended the speed dating event. The event will only go-ahead if there is sufficient interest.
- Next event will be at Sattavis Patidar Centre on the 20th Nov. 2016.
- The committee thanked Rameshbhai and his family for a well organised function.

7) Matrimonial Register

- Have 200 members in our register.
- Overseas applicants are also included in the register.
- It appears currently the matrimonial register does not appear to work. For e.g only 4 candidates have registered following the speed dating event, even though it was for free.
- Possible Improvements
 - Dialogue via emails for those who have registered, rather than by telephone.
 - Appears to be more oriented towards parents and consideration should be given to target youngsters.
 - Ask affiliated organisations to invite NCVA to attend their meeting and allocate 5-10 minutes to promote NCVA activities.
 - Promote members of affiliated organisations to register on the Vaniks Database.
 - Promote Matrimonial services via email to all those who have registered on the Vaniks Database.
 - Ask affiliated organisations to promote matrimonial services to their members.

Jaymanbha was asked to provide metrics at the next council meeting. E.g. how many people ring, new registration etc.

The terms and conditions on the Matrimonial Registration forms needs to be placed on our website/form to allow the coordinator to pass details of candidate's information to others. Jaymanbhai will liaise with Chirag.

8) Spiritual Care and Community Care

Spiritual Care

- Lot of changes happening within NHS England. Religious/Non beliefs laws are changing. There have been instances where hospitals authorise individuals to volunteer directly. Discussions are taking place with NHS England to ensure authorisation is sought from NCVA before placements are made. This will make sure the support that is provided is well coordinated.
- Many meetings being attended by MM/SS to find out services that are being offered by NHS England. This will allow NCVA to be involved in services that will benefit our community.
- NCVA recently organised a session on 'Talking Therapies' at Navjivan Vadil Kendra where individuals can make an assessment on their health. These sessions mainly encourage people to become aware of services that exist and help it can provide.
- National Council of Hindu Temple also provides a chaplaincy service to hospitals however is more targeted to Hindus. NCVA chaplaincy service aims to target Jains.
- NCVA continues to look for volunteers to join hospital chaplaincy department for at least half a day per week. Any training that is required will be arranged by NCVA. NCVA is therefore seeking committed volunteers for hospital placing. Recently information on volunteering has been circulated to all members registered on the Vanik's database.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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- Discussions took place around how we could include further services that could help our community. A system in Leicester (LORUS) is already available to the community. Similar service should be reviewed for introduction within London.

9) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

- The public facing website (www.ncva.co.uk) will not be supported by Microsoft from 9th Mar 2017 and therefore will be closed. Bhupenbhai has initiated the migration the progress of which was recently discussed. This work is almost complete. Bhupenbhai will liaise with Chirag to make it live.
- Vanik Directory
 - A meeting has been held with CBJ Digital where we discussed our requirements and we were shown the operation of the Oshwal directory. Subsequently we have received a quote from the company, however there are a number of areas that have been estimated and the desire it is to have a firm price. However we need to ensure the requirements are clear at the outset. Further discussions will take place once an NDA is in place.
 - In addition, we have also approached the developers of our current database. Initial discussions are positive however we need to make sure any new requirements are clearly communicated at the outset. Chirag has been asked to specify these new requirements.

E-Newsletter

- The last Vanik Voice was published in Mar 2016 and Anilbhai is working on the next release.
- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.

10) Health Seminar

South East Jain Association was supported by NCVA in a recent health seminar. Report summary detailed at the end of the minutes.

Another health seminar is being planned with Navnat Vanik Association for a talk by Dr Ameet Bakhai. This is under discussion with the possibility of it being scheduled in Nov 2016.

11) Area Chairmen's reports.

Summary from Jain Network - Prafula Shah

Development of Jain Centre

Phase 1 works have been completed on site and we have successfully completed works to meet the requirements of our planning permission for a new 3 storey Jain Centre and 108 Parshwanath Jinalay.

Jain Centre development /108 Parshwanath Jinalay

Launch of 108 Parshwanath Jinalay murti scheme/brick donations. The team has started taking nakras for the 108 Parshwanath dada murtis – to date we have around 40 of the 108 murtis sponsored. We are also working with 'local ambassadors' throughout the UK to raise funds via the Centre's brick donation scheme to reach our target of 10,000 sponsored bricks.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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We are working with a range of organisations and people across the globe on the realisation and redevelopment of the current site to deliver a new Jain Centre and 108 Parshwanath Jinalay. A number of nakras for various 'labhs' within the Jinalay have already been received and we are continuing to find sponsors for the remaining labhs. We recently held two Uchhavani events so that Jains across to the globe have the opportunity to participate in various vidhis.

Phase 2 development works will begin by the end of this year. Jain Network will continue to deliver our regular activities from alternative premises whilst we work on the development with the Pratishtha Mahotsav scheduled to take place in 2018.

Regular activities at Jain Centre

Weekly Yoga

Snatra pooja takes place in the Jinalay every Sunday

Pathshala - Regular pathshala classes have taken place at the Centre during the year including classes for children and adults.

The Centre has also been used by Shrimad Rajchandra Magic Touch to teach children and Young Jains regularly use the Centre to deliver a range of activities to young people.

Young Jains Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Celebrations

A beautifully choreographed dance piece was delivered to an audience of 700 people at the JFS school – all participants are regular Jain Centre volunteers and included a team made up of people of all age groups.

Preparations are underway for the Bhoomi Poojan/Khanan Vidhi and Shilanyas vidhis to take place on 4 and 7 August 2016 respectively.

Summary from Navnat Vanik Association – Kirit Batavia

- Janmashtami Mela Celebrations 7th Aug 2016
- Paryushan 29th Aug 2016 – 5th Sept.
- Priti Bhojan 11 Sep 2016
- Navratri 1st Oct 2016
- AGM 2016 – 24th Apr 2016

Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj – Sarojben Varia, Ashaben Mehta

- Changes to committee have taken place. Names to be provided.
- Triveni Sangam & 25 Years Celebration 18th June 2016
- 17th Jul Picnic – Milton Keynes - £12 breakfast/lunch
- 24/25th Sep Antwerp trip being planned.
- 2nd Dec Christmas

Shree Sorathia Vanik Association UK – Sudhaben Mandaaviya

- Father's day planned on 18th June
- 11th Sep – Mataji Celebration
- 1st Oct Navratri

Summary from – Navnat Vadil Mandal – Ramesh Shah

- Coach trips being planned.
- Mrs Surbhi Khona is now president.

Summary from Jain Samaj Europe – Rajnikant Shah

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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- On June 3rd and 4th we had grand celebration of Shantinath Bhagwan Kalyanank at the Jain Center Leicester, On Saturday we had over 400 people attending the event at which time the inauguration of Pichwani took place and it looks so great.
- The religious activities are taking place like Satsang on first Sunday of the month, Aymbil Olyi took place in April, religious classes on each Monday evening and on Tuesday morning, regular groups visiting temple etc.
- On 10th July we have Dhaja Badli and are preparing for the Pajoyasan at the end of August for eight days.
- Three coaches are already booked to go for Jatra to Antwerp on 16th and 17th of September

Summary from Jain Samaj Manchester – Dr Pranav Shah

- Elections were held on 22/05 and below are the new committee details.
 - Dr Shailesh Patel (President)
 - Dr Hardik Bhansali (Vice President)
 - Mr Pranav Shah (Secretary)
 - Mr Nehal Mehta (Jt Secretary)
 - Mr Narendra Vora (Treasurer)
 - Mr Mahesh Shah (EC Member)
 - Mr Nitesh Shah (EC Member)
 - Mr Dipesh Mehta (EC Member)
 - Mr Prakash Mehta (EC Member)
 - Mr Mukesh Mehta (EC Member)
 - Mrs Saroj Mehta (Religious Secretary)
- JITO Function.

Jito representative from India have visited our samaj on 01/06 and were recd with a warm welcome by and our president and other EC and samaj members. Had a good insight about the JITO, their merits and the work they are currently doing in India and their future plans about expanding beyond the indian soils.
- Dhaja Badli - planned for 25/06, day event at JSM.
- Shri rajubhai from Dharampoor is coming for 3 days to Manchester
- Planning to arrange sports tournament for JSM members. Sports committee working on this and dates to be published soon.
- Planning to arrange health mela in feb 2017
- Mahila mandal is organising cultural program
- Planning to arrange patriotic night either 15/8/16 or 26/1/17

Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex – Harshad Kothari

- We had a very successful Mahavir Jayanti at Nagrecha Hall. A coach load from Leicester came.
- We also had members from North West London attend.
- In total about 200 attended.
- We were blessed by a visit from Sadhvi Shilpiji Maharaj and Sadhvi Sumedhaji, accompanied by Trustees of
- Veerayatan Uk. We presented them with a cheque for £2001 for their work in Nepal
- We attended Jain Network event in April and presented them with a donation of £5001 for the new Derasar
- Next Saturday, 18th we are hosting Triveni Sangam at Nagrecha Hall. Some 450 ladies will be attending

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

- We are all involved with the organising. We are producing a Souvenir for this event and to commemorate
- Our 25th Anniversary.
- The Emails and Forms for our Booklet went out to all affiliated bodies of NCVA, whose Committees/Heads must have seen them.
- We are disappointed that none of them contributed anything, not even a goodwill message. We simply did not have time to chase
- For adverts/messages. Close Organisations such as NCVA and Navnat should have taken the lead and supported us, even without
- us asking for it, since they are long established associations.
- Soon after Triveni Sangam, we will be preparing for our AGM and Elections of a new EC on 10th July, 2016.
- We now have a new Constitution in place. Sanjeev Shah, a Solicitor, assisted us in preparing it.

South East Jain Association – Virendrabhai Bakhai

- Report attached in the minutes.
- Community very well impressed with the function and would like more sessions in the future.
- Virendrabhai thanked NCVA for the support that was provided.

11) AOB

- Honour individuals yearly within our community.
- Hire someone to help with administration.
- Consider involvement of NCVA as part of Jain Centre development.
- Rekhaben Shah has been appointed as Major of Harrow. A letter of congratulations will be sent by NCVA
- Sachin Shah has been appointed to lead the Harrow Labour Group. A letter of congratulations will be sent by NCVA.

16) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

9th Oct 2016 – NCVA Office.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Health Awareness Day

Report from Health Seminar held by South East Jain Association.

By Dhaval Bakhai

When was the last time you thought about your own health and gave it the same level of time as you do to catching up with friends, families or watching TV?

On 16 May almost 75 members of South East Jain Association, did just that and utilised their Sunday afternoon to learn more about several topics including blood pressure, cholesterol, men's and women's health as well as the importance of eating and being healthy. This was the first time a health awareness day has been run by the association and judging by the discussions during and feedback afterwards it was well received. There appears to be a distinct gap in educating our own despite the advances in various technologies to deliver information to the grass roots level and hopefully this journey will now continue on as part of the national council in the respective regions.

The afternoon started with Dr Ketan Desai playing host and co-ordinating all the guest speakers who said their knowledge in an informative and engaging manner. First up we had Dr. Khyati Bakhai-Shah, who is very close to the community, having grown up with most of it's members and therefore was able to rekindle their affection. She provided a captivating discussion in Gujarati allowing all members to be informed and truly grasp the concept of blood pressure with her hose pipe and watering plants analogy. The audience appeared to have bought into the spirit of the day straight away with various questions and topics being discussed throughout making the session appear as if it was very much needed in the community.

Next up for debate was Dr Rekha Shah, who has been practising in Brighton for many years and covering the important topic of women's health. Dr Shah delivered her talk in a very professional and educational manner ensuring the audience remained well informed in best practise as well as what is available to them through the NHS. This topic rarely gets the importance it deserves in an open environment within our community yet the challenge was taken on and delivered well.

Dr. Miland Jani took the floor next tackling the topic of men's health in a very visual and distinct style. He delivered a very comprehensive overview citing various references including his own personal stories to connect with the audience, whilst relying on his natural jovial personality to win them over, even adding a couple of proverbs in Gujarati that helped to bring a lighter note at times to the detail and theory being shared.

Dr. Jani was followed by Nitin Mehta (president of the Vegetarian Society in the U.K.) who shifted the focus from medical health care onto diet and the art of healthy eating as well as Jain dharma. Nitin also informed the audience of the growth in not just vegetarianism but also about being vegan whilst reminding us that there are over 5 million vegetarian people within the English community as well. Furthermore, the society recently presented Mahavir awards for work undertaken by a couple of people exhibiting key principles of Jain dharma by risking their own safety by highlighting the issues of fox hunting.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Following on the healthy eating theme was Jean Parris-Attfield from West Sussex council advising on healthy weight management alongside the fine balance of exercise, correct eating and maintaining the right diet. Jean also shared details of classes available via West Sussex Council and also offered members to consider creating a group to keep fit and if required the facilitators would be provided by them. Alongside the fitness and weight management topics, advice was also shared on healthier eating such as using olive oil instead of the traditional sunflower oil or others used in most of Gujarati cooking. In addition, other examples of what may be perceived as healthy options may not necessarily be the case such as innocent smoothies which are actually high in sugar content and owned by parent company, Coca Cola.

After almost three hours of various topics and informed discussion, the discussions part of the day drew to a close with the final speaker being the chairman of National Council of Vanik Association, Mr Manhar Mehta. The talk comprised of several key messages including Jain chaplaincy as this is distinctly missing throughout the UK. As part of the NHS system, during the unfortunate event of losing a loved one we should be able to stipulate the relevant Jain rituals are performed but due to lack of information and recognition of the community this isn't provided nationwide. In order to ensure this is enabled and Jains get a stronger voice across the country it is critical that during any census or other official documentation such as hospital documentation when asked for religion, we enter Jainism as oppose to Hinduism to highlight the level of Jains in the country as well as enabling a fairer reflection of the size of community.

Representatives of the National Council of Vanik Associations attended this event and they presented a cheque to South East Jain Association to support the Health Talk event.

With the final talk completed the health awareness day was drawing to a close but only after the delicious meal organised by the committee. There was a good selection of items available with the vegetable soup being a particular highlight for most members who were quick to enjoy the feast whilst engaging in conversation with the speakers as well as time to digest the information shared along with their food.

In summary, the day was informative, educational and enjoyable with active participation from members helping to show the importance of the event. A special thank you is required for all the guest speakers who travelled from various areas to be able to attend and this was appreciated by all. The committee were also very thoughtful and showed their appreciation by presenting all the speakers with a lovely bouquet each.

Thank you to everyone for participating, reading and attending the event with a special thank you to both the NCVA and SEJA for setting up and coordinating the event.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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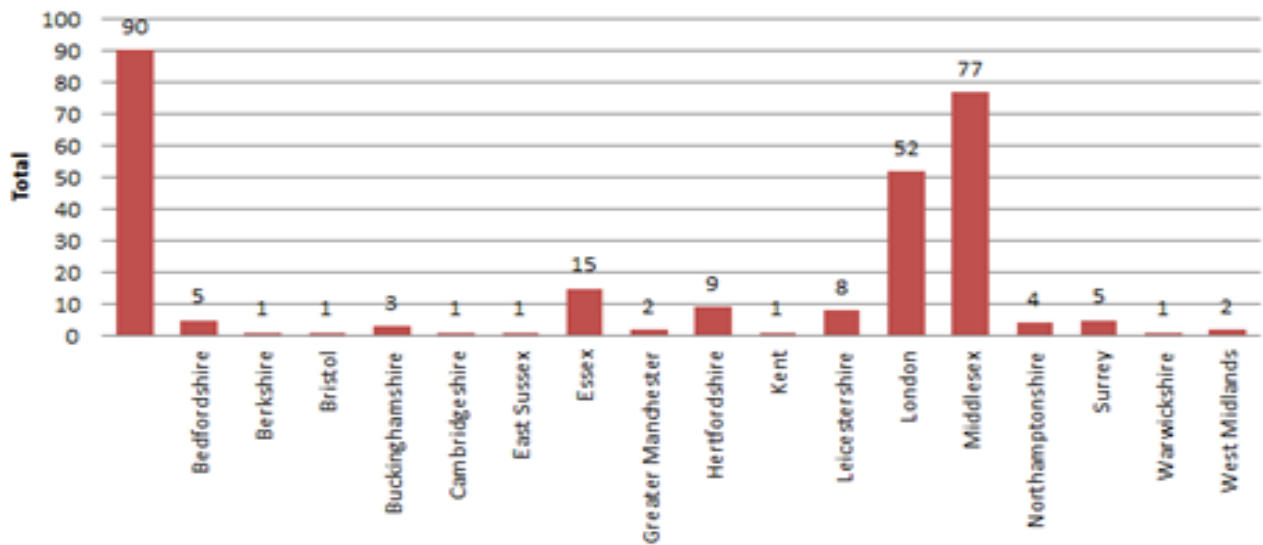
SPEED Dating May 2016 Analysis



Speed Dating May 2016



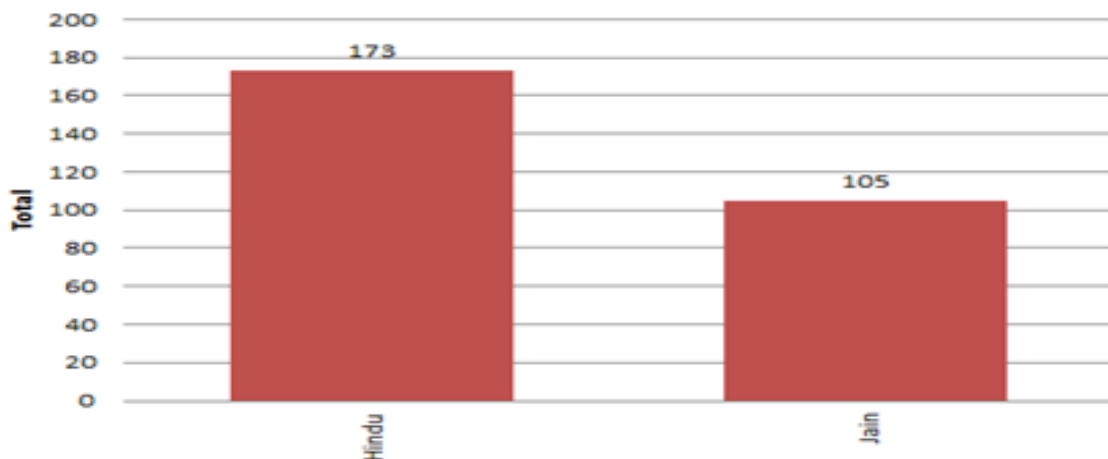
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Speed Dating May 2016



Religion

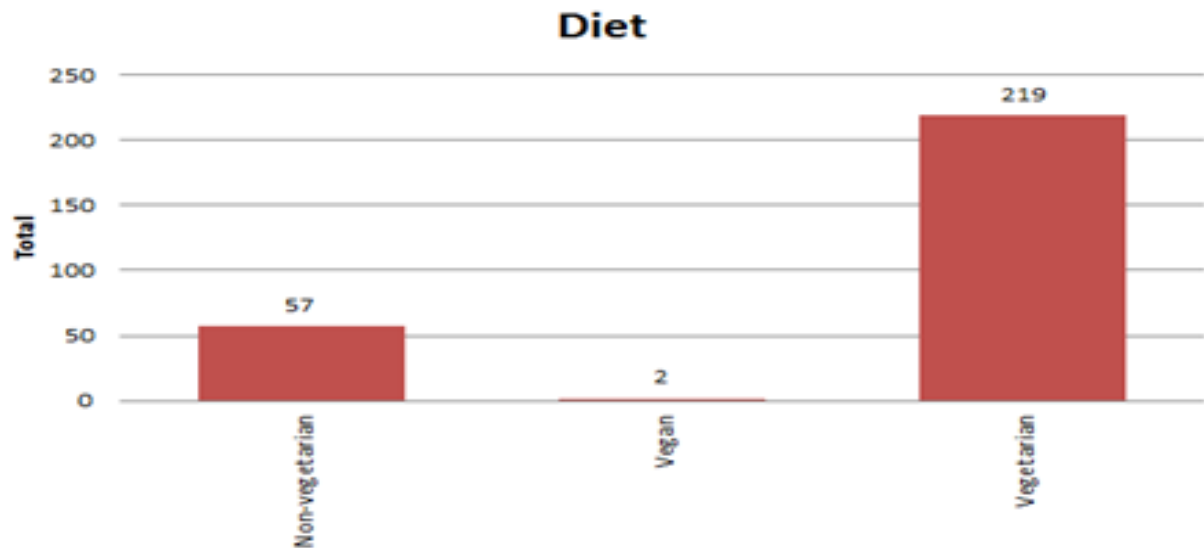


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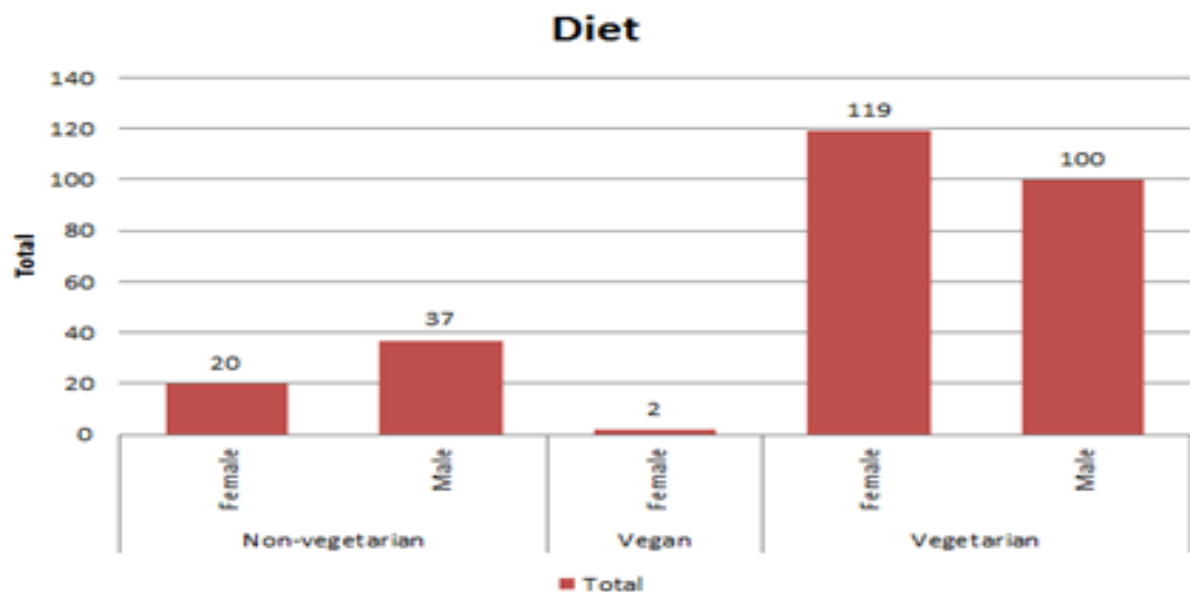
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Speed Dating May 2016



Speed Dating May 2016



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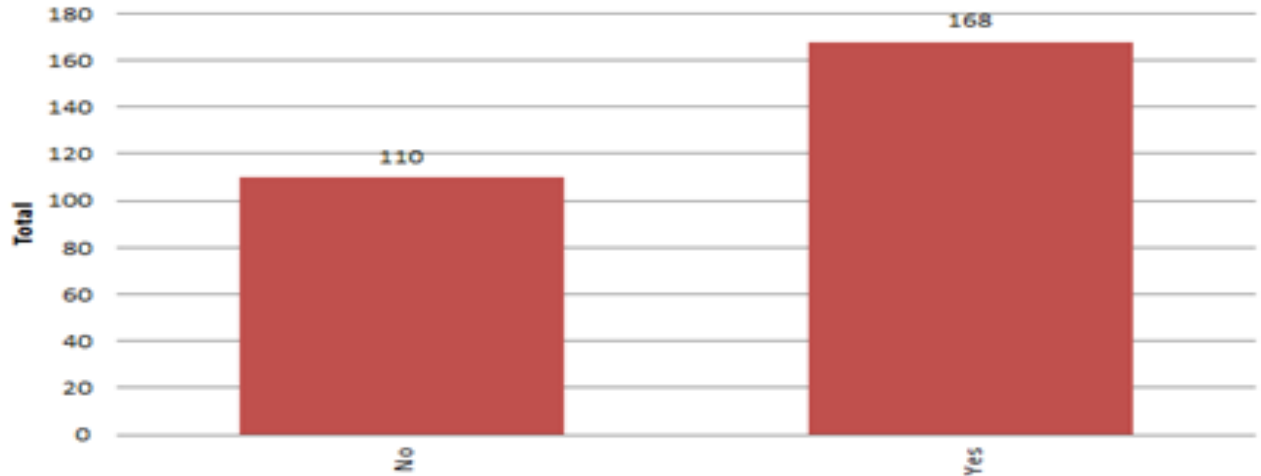
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Speed Dating May 2016



Is this your first time?



Speed Dating May 2016



Education

