

# Report of English Department (2021-22)



**Mehr Chand Mahajan  
DAV College for Women  
Sector-36(Chandigarh)**

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## **Names of Programmes/Courses offered:**

### **Undergraduate Courses:**

- BA (General)
- BA Functional English (Elective)
- BA (Honours)
- BA Elective/ Vocational

### **Postgraduate Courses:**

- MA (English)

### **Add On Courses:**

- Certificate Course in Communicative English

### **Doctoral Courses:**

- Ph. D (English)

## **Research Methodology Workshop**

### **Contemporary Research: Scope, Challenges And Methodology**

**October 4-13, 2021**

Department of English, Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, organized a National-level Online 30 hour Workshop on ‘Contemporary Research: Scope, Challenges and Methodology’ for a heterogeneous group of faculty members, research scholar and Post-graduation students to apprise them of the nuances of research as recommended in the National Education Policy (NEP-20). Nearly 157 participants from different parts of the country enrolled for this programme. Eminent researchers from different universities delivered lectures in this 8-day academic extravaganza.

Principal Dr Nisha Bhargava, Convener of the Programme delivered the Welcome Address on the Inaugural Day and appreciated the Department of English for undertaking this well-structured programme consisting of Live Lectures, Assessment, Feedback and Discussion Forum to make it a holistic academic initiative.

Prof Deepti Gupta, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, enlightened the participants about the linguistic subtleties of research writing in her session ‘ Language Matters’ on 4<sup>th</sup> October. She dwelt upon the idea that a research question must be very precise as ambiguities and presumptions can claim no space in research writing. She illustrated this point by citing various research hypotheses which can be nullified as they do not convey the research question in an unambiguous way. She also exhorted the participants to state very clearly the gaps in research which spur them on to undertake research in that specific area.

Dr Neeraj Kumar Singh, Deputy Librarian, AC Joshi Library, Panjab University, delivered a very stimulating session on ‘Contemporary Research—Use of Open Educational Resources’ on 5<sup>th</sup> October. He apprised the participants about the knowledge resources which can help them navigate their research journey. He gave a very lively presentation on various tools like Jorum, Xpert, Flickr, which the researchers can use in order to substantiate and strengthen their research quotient. Project Guttenberg, MIT OpenSourceWare, Oyester, Core, e-PG Pathshala, UGC-Swayam, Shodhganga, National Digital Library, are useful repositories which can truly make the research a fruitful enterprise, said Dr Neeraj.

Prof Praveen Sharda, Department of English, University School of Open Learning, Panjab University, delivered an interactive lecture on ‘ Literature Review: Challenges and Strategies’, on 6<sup>th</sup> October. She remarked that literature review in the dissertation must be systematic and relevant to the research question being undertaken. It can be based on the concept and theory which the researcher is going to apply on a

specific text or author and it can also be on the methodology which will be adopted by the researcher. Prof Sharda supplemented her very exhaustive talk by addressing the queries of the participants at the end.

In a highly interactive session on 'Research and Research Writing', Prof Gurupadesh Singh, Department of English, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, on 8<sup>th</sup> October. He reinforced the idea that all research is meant to fill the gaps in the hitherto available body of work in a specific area. Therefore, the researchers must pay attention to the language they use while formulating their research question. He suggested that the researchers must use, apart from the library resources, like manuscripts, Books, journals, films, museums, art galleries, field studies, videos, audio-books, blogs too.

Keeping in view the fact that bibliography opens a window to the research work, Prof Aneel Kumar Raina, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, gave a lecture on 'Citations, References and Bibliography as per MLA Handbook' on 9<sup>th</sup> October. He focused on the need for precision in citing one's sources in the research work as this can make or mar the credibility of the researcher. Illustrating his point, he reiterated that, so far as possible, one must cite the original works, because in the age of internet, there is a plethora of fake research available online. Distinguishing MLA style from other styles, such as Chicago or Harvard, he reminded the young researchers that Panjab University, at present, prefers MLA Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> Ed for citing sources for Ph.D theses.

Prof Vivek Sachdeva from USHSS, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University delivered a very stimulating lecture on 'Time and Space in Films: A Narratological Perspective' on 11<sup>th</sup> October. By showing a few snippets from the movies like Sardari Begum and Zubeda by Shyam Benegal, he explained that a film-maker creates a discourse and a literary text and film-adaptation are two parallel mediums and must not be compared. He motivated the students to undertake research in Film-adaptations and OTT as these are very fertile academic fields.

As per the UGC Guidelines, research ethics constitutes a very important component of research work being undertaken by the academicians. India can be a knowledge economy only if we maintain high standards of research. Prof Dilip Barad from MK University of Bhavnagar, Gujarat, delivered a very exhaustive session on this pivotal aspect of research, 'Research and Publishing Ethics'. He guided the participants as to how they can keep plagiarism at bay by using very useful softwares like Orkund and Turnitin. He exhorted them to create their reserch profile to eneable their connectivity in the academic circles.

Prof Sudhir Kumar from the Department of Evening Studies, Multi-Disciplinary Research Centre, Panjab University, delivered the concluding lecture in this series of academic feast. He gave a very enlightening talk on 'Some preliminary Observations on Research and Problem of Non-translatibility with Special References to Indian Literary Tradion and Cultural Studies'. He highlighted the fact that researchers, most often, use words from Indian philosophy in English translation without knowing that the essence of these concepts and words cannot be captured in the English translation. Therefore, those who wish to undertake research in translations must be wary of generalisations. He insisted that the reseachers must read and understand the original works in order to capture the conceptual nuances.

The 8-day Workshop ended with a formal vote of thanks by Ms Neena Sharma, Head, Department of English. Principal Dr Nisha Bhargava, congratulated the Department on the successful completion of this programme.





## **Creative Writing Contest**

**October 18, 2021**

The Creative Writing Club of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in its endeavour to kindle the creative writing instincts among students, organized a Creative Writing Contest on 18th October, 2021. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of students from different streams, with students competing for different categories including essay writing, story writing and poetry. Students exhibited their writing prowess in three different languages – English, Hindi and Punjabi.

In Poetry writing (English), Shreya Prashar of BA III bagged the top position, followed by Jahnvi Sayal of BA I and Athena of BA III securing the second position jointly, and the third position was grabbed by Vinya Singh of BA I. In the Category of English Essay Writing, Kavya of BBA I won the first position; Misa of BA II and Saumyaa Suri of BA II bagged the second and third position respectively. In the genre of Short Story Writing (English), Lavanya of BA III bagged first position and second position was secured jointly by Raavi of BA III and Yasmin of BCom I. The third position was jointly won by Kirpass Kaur of BA I and Yashasvi of BA III.

In Punjabi writing contest, a combined result was prepared for all categories. The first place was secured by Dapinder Kaur of BA I, followed by Harsimran kaur of BA I and Nancy of BA II, who won second and third position respectively.

In Hindi Short Story Writing contest, Ojaswini of BA I was declared the first position winner and Yashvi Gupta of BCA I was adjudged second. In Poetry writing contest, Palvi of BSc III secured first position; Nancy Sharma of BA III was adjudged second; and the third place was jointly bagged by Shrutika of BA III and Ojaswini of BA I

## **Extension Lecture on “Mary Shelley and Birth of Science Fiction”**

**November 28, 2021**

The Postgraduate Department of English at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, in association with Gopichand Arya Mahila College, Abohar, organised an online extension lecture titled “Mary Shelley and Birth of Science Fiction”. Dr. Elisabetta Marino, Associate Professor of English and American Literature at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” was the resource person for this informative lecture. More than 160 participants attended the lecture using virtual mode. MCM Principal Dr. Nisha Bhargava and Dr. Rekha Sood Handa, Principal, Gopichand Arya Mahila College, welcomed Dr. Marino and appreciated her effort to enlighten the participants about the celebrated writer, Mary Shelley and her contribution to the genre of science fiction. As Dr. Bhargava highlighted the importance of science and technology in human life, she also drew attention to the irony of science and technology being a bane to the human society, thereby impressing upon the relevance of study of science fiction as a genre that provides a reflection of our world and its problems.

## Field Trip to Sukhna Wilderness Trail and Nature Interpretation Centre by students of Functional English

March 15, 2022

TV Journalism students of BA II (SEM 4) Functional English along with the teacher-in-charge Ms. Sukhpreet Bhatia, visited the Sukhna Wilderness Trail and the Nature Interpretation Centre for a field trip to give the students, a hands-on training in photography on 15.3.22. These 30 students familiarized themselves with and learnt how to click various kinds of shots with a camera and mobile phone, to be used while reporting for television. The variety of shots clicked by them are going to be shared with the class as presentations, evaluated and the best shots selected.



**Sukhna Wilderness Trail**

## Field Trip by Students of Functional English to the Doordarshan Kendra, Chandigarh March 21, 2022

21 students of Functional English (SEM 4) along with their teacher-in-charge Ms. Sukhpreet Bhatia visited the Doordarshan Kendra, Sec. 37, Chandigarh on 21.3.22 for a Field Visit to gain first-hand information on various aspects of TV Production. The pre-production, production and post-production techniques involved in producing a TV programme are part of the syllabus of these students of TV Journalism. The visit gave them a wealth of practical experience about these processes. The staff at the Kendra very pleasantly and patiently answered all their related queries. The informed them in detail about several types of audio and video equipment employed in the complete procedure. The girls got a rare opportunity of actually reading news from a teleprompter and presenting those in front of a TV camera. A mock-interview was recorded and the footage was used to demonstrate the different techniques of audio-mixing, vision-mixing and editing involved in TV production. The visit was an overall enriching experience for the students.

