

MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Academic Audit (NAAC)
June 2019-Dec 2020

The prime focus of the Department of English has been on academic excellence, research oriented teaching-learning process, and inclusion of information technology in teaching methodology. The activities and programs conducted between August 2019 and December 2020 reflect this vision.

- **Remedial English Classes**

The department of English conducted **Remedial English classes** for the students of BA Programme from **19th August to 11th September 2019**. The course was designed to help the students work on their spoken as well as written English. Students were provided with worksheets, typed notes as well as various hand-outs for ready reference. The students practised and their responses were evaluated in the session itself. Feedback forms were distributed that mentioned the teaching methodology and recorded the suggestions of the students for better organisation of classes. Through this program, the faculty tried to inculcate language learning skills in the students. Ms Praveshika Mishra was the convenor of the programme and Ms Shweta Duseja was the co-convenor.

- **Creative Writing Workshop**

Creative Writing Workshop was organised on **14th September 2019** for the students of all three years of BA (Hons) English. Renowned poet **Dr. Akhil Katyal**, who is faculty at Ambedkar University, Delhi, was invited to facilitate the workshop. The focus of the workshop was on writing City Poetry. Selected poetry of Ravish Kumar, Agha Shahid Ali, Malikzada, Michael Creighton and Aditi Rao was read and analysed, in order to understand language, sound and visual space. Through poetry reading, students were encouraged to think about Delhi, the politics of place and identity, as well as the construction of the city through memory and experience. Exercises through the Delhi political map were done to understand what the city means for each of them. All students wrote their own Delhi poem at the end of the workshop, which were then shared and discussed.

- **Eighth Edition of the Department e-Magazine**

The department launched its eighth issue on e-magazine on the topic “**Vamp or Victim?: Revisiting the Villainous Woman**”. The journal aimed to examine the binary of a woman’s classification as the Angel in the House or the Madwoman in the Attic, through poetry, prose and visual art. It saw impressive contributions from the students. The faculty editor of this issue was Ms Avantika Pokhriyal and Dr Suprita Jha was the Editor-in-Chief.

- **Film Screenings and Paper reading sessions**

The films *Frankenstein* (1931), *Beloved* (1988), *Motorcycle Diaries* (2004), *Schindler’s List* (1993), were screened monthly for the students of Hons and Programme courses in January,

February, March and November. For third year students of the Women's Writing paper a screening of *The Color Purple* (1985) was organised in order to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the eponymous text. Since these narratives form part of the course, the films helped in fostering a holistic understanding of the various aspects of the texts. In other courses and classes, too, such initiatives were taken by the faculty. In addition to this, fortnightly informal paper presentations were held to encourage the students to apply the theoretical concepts they learnt within their classroom lectures to socio-cultural phenomena that they encounter within their own lives. Some of the topics presented were, "How can students contribute to solving the environmental problem today?" and "Death penalty is no solution to crime against women". The inter-disciplinary approach helped them regardless of their respective specialisation.

- **Academic/Research output, Higher Education, and Internships**

Besides teaching, the faculty members have been engaged in the field of research as well as publication. In December 2019, Ms. Menka Ahlawat wrote a book chapter on angry woman of the 1970s published by Palgrave Macmillan in the book titled '**Bad' Women of Bombay Films: Studies in Desire and Anxiety**'. Papers of four faculty members of the department— Ms Praveshika Mishra, Dr Manisha Mathur, Ms Gurpreet Kaur and Ms Inderpreet Kaur— were published by Shri Sahitya Prakashan in the book titled **Sahitya our Vimarsh**. These papers reflected the wide research interests of the faculty and ranged from Eighteenth-Century British Literature to Cinema Studies. In addition to this, Ms. Priyadarshini Bhattacharya completed and submitted her PhD thesis to School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU.

Two students of English Hons II year Ashmeet Kaur and Nandini Dogra presented papers in the **National Student Seminar 2020** on "**Translation: Theory, Contexts and Praxes**" organised by Zakir Hussain College (eve) on 3rd March, 2020. They were awarded **I and II prizes** respectively. Not only presentations, a number of **internships** have been undertaken by the students across several platforms. They successfully contributed to institutions and organisations such as India Today (channel production), Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), British Council, YES FOUNDATION Media for Social Change to name a few.

The students' progression to higher education too reached newer heights. Many students from the department are currently pursuing their post graduation in English from colleges like Gargi College, Kirori Mal College as well as from universities like Shiva Nadar University, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

- **Lecture by Guest Speaker, webinar, and career counselling session**

In the month of March 2020, the Department organised a lecture on Autobiographical Literature for third year students. The purpose of the talk was to introduce the history of autobiography writing. The guest speaker was **Prof. Manish Sharma** from **Ambedkar University**. The Q&A session saw enthusiastic participation from the students and also broadened their engagement with their texts.

A webinar titled **Indian Classical Literature: Pedagogic and Research Dimensions** was organised by the department which was presided over by **Dr. Namrata Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, School of Language, Literature and Culture, SRM university, Sikkim** in the month of July, 2020. The webinar discussed the possibilities of research as well as explored newer

ways of teaching-learning process in the context of classical scholarship. Faculty members from various universities and research scholars participated and received e-certificates for the same.

For guiding the third year students so that they are prepared to face career challenges, a **career counselling session** was organised in September 2020. The talk titled **Fine Print: Navigating in the World of Publishing and Print Journalism** was given by **journalist-writer, Ms. Sanhati Banerjee**. Her experience as a writer in print and social media helped the students in exploring a wide range of career options.

- **Technology and its application**

Efficient dissemination of knowledge has been the main thrust of the department in teaching processes. Teachers have participated in **MOOC platforms like NPTEL** and its FDPs to hone their skills. E-content has also been organised for students. **Ms. Menka Ahlawat developed e-module on European Classical Literature for SOL** in Nov 2019. To equip both the teachers and the students for effective interaction esp. in COVID times, a variety of **Information and Communication Technological tools** were utilised. Webinars and sessions were conducted to illustrate the functions of **workspace learning and conferencing in Zoom and Google Meet**. For students, **data management tools like Google Classroom** have been used for effective distance learning. Various media applications and online research tools have been consistently used to compensate for the lack of physical textbooks and library. Use of **Google Scholar, Jstor, Project Muse** benefitted students immensely in their projects. The department also provided ebooks, typed notes, recordings, google docs as well as several links to e-resources developed by learning management systems of other universities so that the students could access a range of ideas and materials. Creative use of **power point presentations** and **audio-visual clippings** in the lectures generated interest and saw improved response from the students. Peer mentoring sessions have been initiated since October 2020 through online meetings. Based on their experience and exposure, the third year students have guided the students from second year thereby helping them deal with both academic and non-academic struggles of student life.