

## **DEMYSTIFYING: RESEARCH WRITING WORKSHOP**

Rapporteur: Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics (LLA)

**23 & 26 Aug. 2019:** ‘Demystifying: Research Writing Workshop’ was organized by the Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. The two-day long workshop was conceptualized and structured considering the need of undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students of humanities at SLS.

The workshop was designed to facilitate students with the fundamentals of research in the discipline of humanities considering their academic requirement of writing a research dissertation/thesis. It aimed at providing students with an insight into how to navigate through their own research ideas, how to frame research questions and write an abstract.

Interested participants were required to register by submitting a working title, keywords, detailed note and a working bibliography (if any) of their research work. To provide guidelines on filling up the registration form, a sample registration form was especially designed by Dr. Susan Vivien George, the invited expert and one of the facilitators of the workshop. Thirty students from undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral program registered for the workshop.

The workshop commenced at 10:15 a.m. with a warm welcome to all the participants and the facilitators. The first session of the day one started with a brainstorming exercise. The session provided students a safe space to gradually open-up with their views on research and research methodology. The discussion provided an insight into the comprehensive and dynamic nature of research and how it contributes to the existing world of knowledge. The session addressed various kinds of research, what research is in the context of humanities, selection of the primary sources and importance of critical reading of the texts. The facilitators of the workshop, Dr. Susan Vivien George, Dr. Annie Rachel Royson and Dr. Niyati Trivedi, shared their personal research journey to encourage young research students and to make them aware of the fact that they need not to struggle alone. By the end of the first session, a small research community started to be formed amongst participants across programs.

The second session of the day one focused on the specific group activity. All the participants were equally divided into three groups comprising of all the three program representatives in each group. The participants were to present their work before their peers in a group. In a democratic manner, the discussion was navigated by the assigned facilitator who had studied in

detail the submitted work of all the participants in advanced. Each student received critical questions and feedback on their research idea by the peers and the facilitator. The said exercise provided students to think critically on their work and re-draft their first draft of the conceptual note. The day one ended with lot of questions, discomfort, realization and a need to re-visit the research ideas. Participants were required to re-write the conceptual note over weekend and re-submit them.

The second day commenced with individual presentations of revised detailed note/abstract in a given time-frame. Each participant had to share how the previous day's feedback helped them to re-work on their earlier draft. Each participant received comments/suggestion by fellow researchers along with the detailed feedback on their written note and presentation by the facilitators. The comments also addressed the structure of writing an abstract.

The second session of day two was led by Dr. Susan Vivien George essentially on the do's and don'ts of qualitative research; detailed understanding on literature review and different structural aspects of research dissertation/thesis. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks which was also a point to learn for the researcher to acknowledge and thank everyone who has been the part of the process.

The workshop concluded with participants providing written feedback on the structure and deliberation of the workshop. The participants found workshop helpful in addressing their research queries and writing concerns. Participants suggested longer duration of the workshop with few days' breaks in-between to discuss in detail their writing in-progress and one intense session on citation is requested.

The workshop indeed demystified the research writing and provided a safe and constructive space for the young researchers for their endeavours.

### **Organizing Team**

1. Prof. Nigam Dave
2. Prof. Pradeep Mallik
3. Dr. Susan Vivien George
4. Dr. Niyati Trivedi
5. Dr. Annie Rachel Royson