

## **Thesis Writing Workshop**

**15 May, 2019:** A thesis writing workshop was conducted for the School of Technology (SOT), PDPU, on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The day-long workshop was conceptualized keeping in mind the writing needs of doctoral candidates registered at SOT. Doctoral Committee meetings and PhD seminars are designed to provide feedback on a graduate students' work from the perspective of disciplinary research. However, these sessions do not provide much insight into the act of writing the thesis itself, which is a major aspect of successfully completing a PhD. The writing workshop was organized with a view to provide basic insight into the skill-set required to successfully begin and complete the writing process. The workshop was designed as a hands-on writing exercise where participants wrote a section based on their research and one-to-one feedback was provided, in addition to general guidelines.

Registrations were invited from doctoral students of PDPU to participate in the workshop. Thirty-six candidates registered themselves. Out of these, twenty were selected to participate in the workshop, based on their year of registration in the PhD program. The number was limited to 20 in order to facilitate hands-on writing and one-to-one feedback from the resource persons.

### **Photo 1**

The event commenced at 10 am, as per schedule, Dr. T.P. Singh, Director, SOT, inaugurated the event with a speech on the importance of writing skills in effectively conveying research to a wider readership. The first session was conducted by the invited expert, Professor S.R. Joshi. Professor Joshi initiated the workshop by covering some general guidelines and salient points to remember while writing a thesis.

### **Photo 2**

Professor Subhash R. Joshi retired as Group Director, Social Research Group at Development and Educational Communication Unit (DECU), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad, India. He is currently a freelance Consultant for Social and Communication Research. He has held important positions in several satellite based communication projects including Kheda, Jhabua Communications Project, studies on Edusat, Telemedicine. He is a Founder Member of 'Audio Video Communicators for Development and Education (AV-CODE)', an NGO engaged in A/V training, research and content generation programmes, and has numerous publications to his credit.

The second session was conducted by Dr. VSKV Harish, Assistant Professor, SOT. Dr. Harish walked the participants through the process of conducting and writing a literature review. This was followed by a writing session where participants worked on their literature reviews with feedback from the resource persons.

### **Photo 3**

The first session post-lunch was conducted by Professor Pradeep Mallik, School of Liberal Studies (SLS). Professor Mallik explained the significance of identifying the argument of a thesis in order to effectively communicate one's research. He also conducted a short activity where participants had to formulate a thesis statement and an argument for their theses, followed by feedback from Professor Mallik.

The next session was conducted by Mr. Sandeep Pathak, Assistant Librarian, SLS Library. Mr. Pathak spoke about issues of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. He also explained how similarity checks are conducted by the University library through software such as Urkund and Turnitin, and clarified doubts that the participants had about plagiarism checking software. This was followed by a short input from Dr. Harish to complete the discussion on literature reviews. The participants then went on to do another hands-on writing activity with resource persons providing feedback.

### **Photo 5**

The event concluded with participants providing feedback on a form that was provided to them, followed by high tea. The participants found the workshop to be of relevance and helpful in solving their writing problems. They were especially benefitted from the practical writing activities and personalized feedback, in addition to the sessions on literature review and argument formulation. Participants suggested in their feedback that future workshops should devote more time to practical writing sessions.

The workshop was anchored by Dr. Annie Rachel Royson. Aspects of language and grammar in thesis writing were addressed by Dr Niyati Shah-Trivedi and Dr. Royson.

### **Photo 4**

### **Photo 6**

## **Organizing Team**

1. Mentor: Professor T.P. Singh, Director, SOT
2. Professor Pradeep Mallik, SLS, PDP
3. Dr. Annie Rachel Royson, SLS/SOT, PDP
4. Dr. V.S.K.V. Harish, SOT, PDP
5. Dr. Niyati Shah-Trivedi, SLS, PDP