

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

QUESTA FORUM

Narration & Creative Writing on Social Business

Event No: 5

Date: 15.09.2022.

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Venue: Incubation Centre

Faculty Organiser: Prof. Agnes Roshini.

Student Organiser: Ms Taj Rasha

Documented by: Ms. Taj Rasha

Total Participants: 38

Organised by: QUESTA forum

The workshop started with the welcome address with Ms.Taj Rasha introducing the resource person for the day. Ms. Aparna Kathikeyan

Ms. Aparna karthikeyan is an author, independent journalist and senior fellow, People's Archive of Rural India (PARI). Her non-fiction book, Nine Rupees an Hour, documents ten disappearing livelihoods of Tamil Nadu. It made it to the the Green Lit Fest Business Honours award in 2021.

She has written five books for children and has produced text articles, photo essays and video documentaries for various platforms, including The Hindu, PARI, The Caravan, The Wire and Scroll. Ms. Aparna is currently working on a new series, 'Let Them Eat Rice', on seven crops in Tamil Nadu, with a grant from Azim Premji University. She lives with her family and three dogs in Chennai, the city she calls Home.

Ms. Aparna read out excerpts from her favourite books to help our students understand the nuances of writing and learn new tips to improve our writing skills

She talked about the first principles of writing :

- Omit needles words

- Use authentic information

She emphasised that every piece of writing needs to have three parts :

1. Narration
2. Description and
3. Dialogue

She also emphasised the importance of the beginning of any piece of writing, the starting point is the most important.

The entry into the story could be anything not just the obvious, it can be dramatized and out of the box, but keeping the facts intact when its non-fiction .

She went on to read an excerpt from a book called Ram Rao by Jaideep Hardikar wherein we learned about these key points :

- Make your subject your hero and pull your audience in.
- If you're talking about an individual person we don't always have to start with the person's name build your reader's curiosity
- When you data and number to your story it adds depth and breadth to the writing.It moves from a singular person to a big group of people.
- Explore the problem and not just the solution.

Some other very important tips we learned through the workshop from various books include :

- Each paragraph has to say something new and each paragraph should have a central idea.
- The first paragraph needs to pull the audience in and also needs to be gentle and not aggressive.
- To make your writing stand out it needs to be nuanced and well researched, we need to go beyond just the facts and finance and include a personal/human touch to make it more appealing to the audience
- Respect your reader's time
- Your objective should be to get something new and unusual for your audience.
- Add little details and bring your story to life.
- always tell the truth.
- Choose one word to tie your entire piece together.
- Writing comes with a lot of responsibility, we need to respect the privacy of our subject at all times.
- Be very careful and be sensitive and use appropriate language

- When you write a piece stay neutral, don't take sides or write with a bias
- Set your writing in context and be truthful

The workshop ended with Ms. Sonia delivering the vote of thanks.

The workshop was one of the most informative sessions

Photos of the Event:





Conclusion:

In conclusion, the workshop conducted by Ms. Aparna Kathikeyan was a highly informative and insightful session. She shared her experiences and tips to improve writing skills, including the importance of omitting needless words, using authentic information, and including narration, description, and dialogue. She emphasized the importance of the beginning of any piece of writing and shared various tips to make writing stand out, including adding little details and respecting the reader's time. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for students to learn from an experienced journalist and author.