



The Department of Education, University of Delhi

Cordially invites you to the

National Conference

on

WRITING IN SCHOOL: PROCESSES, PRACTICES, AND THE WRITER

Organized by

Dr. Shobha Sinha

Associate Professor, Department of Education (CIE), University of Delhi

Sponsored by

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION



and

IASE, MHRD, India

Date: February 21-22, 2018

Venue: Auditorium, Department of Education, University of Delhi

Organizing Committee - The Literacy Group (Rajni, Dr. Sonika Kaushik, Dr. Malvika Rai, Sawan Kumari, Snehlata Gupta, Pooja Bahuguna, Shikha Tripathi, Nidhi Kunwar and Swarnlata Sah)





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Writing in School: Processes, Practices, and the Writer
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Writing is a very important component of language, especially, if one has to survive in the context of school. Children spend a lot of time writing in schools (irrespective of the quality of writing) and assessment, in any subject, makes demands on student's writing. In India, generally, there is a tendency to focus on the outcome of writing (product) rather than how one goes about the task of writing (process). Recent theory and research in many developed countries focus on the procedural aspect of writing. Researchers have described how real writers engage with writing for a wide range of authentic purposes, including writing as a means for learning, personal writing, imaginative writing, and writing in the content area. They have also emphasized on what writers do while writing, how they engage with the complex process of writing, and how they define the task both cognitively and socially.

Literacy in schools is finally gaining attention in India. Unfortunately, writing continues to be a neglected area. A large number of Indian children show poor writing skills in primary grades and are unable to write even after years of schooling. Kumar (2004) observes about Indian classrooms that teaching of writing not only "dissociates purpose and meaning from writing" but also makes them incapable of being an independent writer. Writing is narrowly conceptualized to include only mechanical aspects, such as, handwriting, spelling, and grammar. Other crucial aspects of writing such as concern about audience, purpose, voice, revision, and selection of content are not addressed in the classrooms. Thus, the composing process is compromised.

This conference aims at beginning a systematic discussion about writing in the Indian educational context. It is meant for teachers, curriculum planners, and researchers in the field of school literacy. It will attempt to contribute to understanding about writing processes and pedagogy in India. Additionally, it will feature both traditional and alternative writing classrooms and pedagogy in India. The conference also attempts to consolidate some of the interesting work done here and connect it to existing theory and build theories relevant to India.

The focus of this conference will be on the following question/issues:

- What is involved in the writing process? How do "real" writers engage with it to accomplish various purposes?
- What is the nature of writing instruction in the Indian classrooms? What are the assumptions behind them? How do students respond to writing instruction?
- How do we classify an enabling and problematic context of writing?
- Teachers' perceptions/reflection on writing
- Analysis of children's writing and their concepts about writing.

The two day conference will feature sessions on the current practices of writing in the Indian elementary classrooms, and research related to innovative practices. We also plan to feature a session in which an actual writer will share his/her experiences and processes while writing and another session sharing children's writing in the public space (in magazines and school bulletins). There will also be a display of different types of children's writing and an open session discussing its features and implications for classroom.

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PROGRAMME

Day 1 : Wednesday, February 21, 2018		Day 2 : Thursday, February 22, 2018	
8:45 am – 9:15 am	Registration	9:30 am – 11:00 am	Writing In Classroom Context Speakers : • Dr. Shobha Sinha & Ms. Nidhi Kunwar, University of Delhi Title : Children’s Writing In the Middle School • Ms. Shailja Menon & Ms. Sajitha S. K, Title: <i>Failing To Write In Indian Classrooms : The Oral Factor</i>
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Inaugural Session Welcome Address : Prof. Namita Ranganathan, Head & Dean, Department of Education, University of Delhi <i>Conference Overview: Writing in the Indian Classroom</i> Dr. Shobha Sinha	11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea Break
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Tea Break	11:30am – 1:00 pm	Marginalized Children’s Voices Chair: Prof. Sadhna Saxena, University of Delhi Speakers : Presentation By NGO ‘Ankur’ लिखने की चाहत मजदूर मोहल्ले की रियाज़त : <i>The Urge To Write: Practices From Worker’s Locality</i> Ms. Keerti Jairam, OELP Title : <i>Writing Experiences from OELP</i> Dr. Shubhra Chatterji, Vikramshila Education Resource Society, Kolkata Title : <i>Writing: The Natural Way</i>
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Research In Children’s Writing Chair: Dr. Shobha Sinha Speakers: • Ms. Ekta Goel, PRT, MCD School Title: <i>Process Writing Approach In Primary Classroom</i> • Ms. Nidhi Kunwar, Mata Sundri College Title: <i>Process Writing with Middle School Children : Possibilities and Potential</i> • Dr. Sunita Singh, Ambedkar University Title: <i>Engaging Children in Collaborative Writing in a Kindergarten Classroom</i> • Dr Malvika Rai, Independent Consultant Title: <i>Children as Writers in Classroom Context</i>	1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch	1:45 pm – 3: 30 pm	Children’s Writing In Public Spaces Chair: Dr. Shobha Sinha, University of Delhi Speakers: • Prof. Azra Razzaq, Jamia Milia Islamia Title : <i>Children’s Voices From The Past: Class Bulletins Of The 1930s</i> • Prof. Sadhna Saxena, University of Delhi Title : What Motivates Children to Write: Insights from Kishore Bharati Experience • Prof. Usha Sharma, NCERT Title : <i>Firki : Nanhe Lekhakon ka Manch</i>
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm	Literacy Group In Delhi University: Dr. Shobha Sinha, Dept. of Education		
2:15 pm – 3:20 pm	Author’s Perspective Chair: Mr. Kamal Mahendroo Speaker: Mr. Sushil Shukl, Pluto Magazine Title : <i>Likhne mein Hona</i>	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Tea & Open Session Engaging With Children’s Writing Visit Display Gallery Facilitators and Panellists: Dr. Sonika Kaushik, Ms. Sawan Kumari, Ms. Pooja Bahuguna, Ms. Shikha Tripathi, Ms. Swarnlata Sah and Ms. Rajni
3:20 pm – 4: 45 pm	Teachers’ Reflection On Writing Chair: Dr. Sunita Singh Speakers: • Ms. Snehlata Gupta, PGT, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Title: <i>In Government Schools – Where is the room to write?</i> • Ms. Deepti, PRT, (NDMC School) Title : Task of Writing and the Engagement of Young Writers • Ms. Shruti Pathak, PRT, (Mira Model School) Title : <i>Perception of Pre-Service Teachers about Writing</i> • Ms. Taruna, Mata Sundri College Title: <i>Role of a Teacher and Nature of Students’ Written Response</i>	4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Discussion : Everyone Can Write Concluding Remarks: Dr Shobha Sinha, University of Delhi Vote Of Thanks: Ms. Rajni, Ph.D. Scholar, University of Delhi
4:45 pm onwards	Tea and Visiting Display Boards		