



# DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS)

RE-ACCREDITED BY NAAC WITH A++ GRADE

COLLEGE WITH POTENTIAL FOR EXCELLENCE, LINGUISTIC MINORITY INSTITUTION

AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

## PG Department of English

### MA English - Department Activities 2023-2024

The PG Department of English organized various academic and cultural programmes for MA English students in the academic year 2023-2024.

#### 1. Experiential Visit to American Center:

On 6th July 2023, the academic year programmes for PG students commenced with an experiential visit to American Center, US Consulate General, Chennai. The visit was intended to encourage the students in exploring the library resources for producing quality research papers. Students accessed an extensive collection of books, online databases and e-books, journals available in the library. As a result of the visit, 31 students got membership in the library.

#### 2. Seminar on Ecocriticism:

A “Seminar on Ecocriticism” was organised for PG students on 28th July, 2023. The chief guest for session 1, Dr. J. Kalyani Pricilla, Assistant Professor, Anna University, presented a talk on “An Ecofeminist reading of Mahasweta Devi’s Witch”. The session 2 speaker, Dr. Shoba. K. N, Associate Professor of English, National Institute for Technical Teachers Training and Research, Ministry of Education, addressed the students on the topic “Recent Trends in Ecocriticism Research”. The students understood the intricate connection between literature and environment through the seminar.

#### 3. Five-day Workshop on Research Writing and Publication Ethics:

A five day workshop titled “Research Writing and Publication Ethics” was conducted on 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th August 2023 respectively. On the day 1, the speaker for the session, Dr. Vinoth Kumar, Assistant Professor, Vel Tech Institute of Science and Technology, trained the students on three fundamental ideas in research writing with various activities. The day 2 session’s resource person Dr. V. Sivaraman, Associate Professor, Presidency College, trained the students on the topic “Academic Writing”. The speaker for day 3, Dr. T. Prabhu, Assistant Professor, L. N. Government College of Arts and Science, talked on “Literary Labyrinth: Workshop on Research Methods”. The day 4 session by Dr. A. Ganesan, Associate Professor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, provided ways to use AI tools - Chatgpt, Chat Pdf, Mendeley Reference Manager and Research Rabbit in a legible way. The day 5 session by Dr. K. C. Lalithambika, Vice Principal, Thiruthangal Nadar College, presented the basic ideas on research writing through writing exercises for students. The workshop



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explored the nuances of research writing to train the postgraduate students for the purpose of paper presentation and publication.

#### **4. Investiture Ceremony:**

The Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2023-2024 was held for both UG and PG students on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. In the ceremony, students were given their respective badges consisting the posts of President, Vice-President, Joint Secretary, Cultural Secretary and Co-ordinators followed by a vow on performing their duties diligently. The chief guest Dr. K. C. Lalithambika, Vice Principal and Dean, School of Languages and Humanities from Thiruthangal Nadar College, imparted valuable advice to the badge holders encouraging them to serve with dedication and integrity.

#### **5. Guest Lectures on Translation & ELT Theories:**

The guest lectures on “Translation - Weaving Words” and “ELT Theories and Methods - An Overview” were organised for MA students on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. The first lecture on “Translation - Weaving Words” by the chief guest, Ms. Bhooma Veeravalli, a Poet, Translator, and Principal Executive Director (HR) at the Ministry of Railways, elaborated on the art of literary translation and linguistic competence with a broader perspective on understanding cultural diversity through language. The second lecture on “ELT Theories and Methods” by Dr. Chandrakumar, Assistant Professor, Pachaiyappas College, Kanchipuram, elaborated on various methods and theories in English Language Teaching.

#### **6. Entrepreneurial Skill Training Programme -Video Making Competition:**

In collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council, a one-day workshop on “Entrepreneurial Opportunities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners” was organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023. The resource person, Ms. Divya Thilak, Entrepreneur and Chief Executive, Dreams Academy, encouraged the students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities by using and developing their skills productively. As part of the skill training programme, a video making competition was conducted for the students and winners were awarded with cash prizes.

#### **7. Outreach Programme:**

The Department celebrated the Pongal festival on 10th January, 2024, with the students of Chennai Corporation Primary School, Ennore. The students of MA English volunteered for this outreach programme. The event featured a series of engaging competitions like colouring, sack race, Pongal greeting card making, and rangoli, uriyadi for students of classes I to V. A total of 350 students actively took part in the celebration. Prizes were distributed to the winners, recognizing their creative efforts. Adding a touch of tradition, sweet Pongal was prepared and served to everyone present, fostering a sense



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of unity and joy. The programme emphasised the importance of community engagement and collaborative efforts in promoting holistic development.

### 8. Industrial Visit:

The Department organised an “Industrial Visit to The New Indian Express” on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, for MA students. The visit offered an invaluable opportunity for the students to bridge the gap between their academic knowledge and the practical application of it in the real world. It provided a platform for students to interact with senior journalists and editors and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and responsibilities associated with journalistic writing.

### 9. Experiential Visit to Connemara Library:

On 25th January, 2024, the PG Department of English organised an “Experiential Visit to Connemara Public Library” for PG students. The purpose of the visit was to create an awareness on reading activities among the student community. During the visit, the students enthusiastically looked around the collection of books and resources available in one of the oldest libraries in the State of Tamil Nadu.

### 10. Skill Training Programme:

A Skill Training Programme consisting of three sessions was conducted for PG students on 2nd February 2024. Around 150 students of the department actively participated in the event. The session one resource person, Mr. S. James Benedict, Head, Department of Computer Science, Mar Gregorios College of Arts & Science, trained the students on the topic “Technological Advancements and Trendy AI Tools”. He elaborated on the functions of the various AI tools used for enhancing academic research. The distinguished speaker of the second session, Dr. Yasodha Shanmugasundaram, Former Vice Chancellor, Mother Theresa Women’s University talked on “Gender Equity and Sensitisation”. The session encompassed discussions on societal implications, workplace dynamics and strategies for promoting gender sensitivity. Ms. Shwetha Agarwal, Entrepreneur and Motivational Speaker, the chief guest for session three, shared her views on “Ethical Values for 21st Century Learners”. On the whole, the awareness programme imparted practical knowledge to the students for fostering inclusivity, promoting ethical values and understanding technological advancements.

### 11. MA Parent Teacher Meet:

Parent Teacher Meet for MA English students was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, for both odd and even semesters of the academic year 2023-24. Parents and respective wards attended the meeting between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. The class-in-charges discussed the students’ performance, the importance of regular attendance and discipline to be maintained while in college. Parents’ queries related to their wards were clarified. Parents’ feedback and their contact details were also collected.



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### **12. International Conference:**

A one-day International Conference entitled “Global Perspectives in Contemporary English Language and Literature” was organised in blended mode on 23rd February 2024. A total number of 350 participants including students, scholars and faculties actively took part in the event. The keynote speakers Prof. Sumitra Kannan, Former Faculty of English, Christian Albrecht University, Germany and Dr. M. Maniruzzaman, Professor of English, Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh, addressed the audience with their valuable insights on the idea of global perspectives in the contemporary world through English language and literature. The three offline sessions and two virtual sessions of the Conference were chaired by Dr. R. Elangovan, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, A.M. Jain College, Dr. I. G. Aruna Rani, Associate Professor, Queen Mary’s College and Dr. S. Priya Dharshini, Associate Professor, KCS Kasi Nadar College, Dr. S. Krishna, Associate Professor, AMET University and Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Associate Professor and Head, PG Department of English, Dyal Singh College, Haryana respectively. Around 50 papers were presented in both online and offline sessions. The chief guests Dr. Rattan Bhattacharjee, Affiliate Faculty English, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, US and Dr. Harsh Sekaran, Lecturer, Lincoln University College, Selangor, Malaysia, gave the Valedictory Address for the Conference. It was followed by the distribution of certificates to best paper presenters, and all the presenters and participants.

### **Alumni Meet 2024:**

The Department conducted an Alumni Meet “Reminiscence” on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 for the former students. Alumni from the UG and PG streams attended the meeting. The session included activities which involved the students’ active participation. The alumni’s bond with the department was strengthened. They were updated about the progress of the department. They shared their progression in life and the department’s crucial role in their professional growth.

### **13. PG Student Welfare Programme - Kaleidoscope**

A Student Welfare Programme comprising a literary exhibition, “Kaleidoscope”, a Book Review Competition and Competitive Exam Training Programme was organised on 15th March, 2023, for PG students. These three events saw active participation from both UG and PG students. The PG students came up with various projects like, models, chart work, cosplay and many more as a part of their generic skills. The Principal, Cap. Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo inaugurated the exhibition and appreciated the students for their innovative contribution. The guests for the event were, Dr. A. Jothimalar, Associate Professor, Presidency College, and Dr. M.D. Allen Selvakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Madras. The Book Review Competition was



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simultaneously organised for I MA students. Mrs. S. Meena, Librarian, Pachaiyappas College, judged the session. The competition offered an exciting platform for the students to critically analyse the books. In addition, a Competitive Exam Training Programme was organised for the PG students. The resource person, Dr. K. Kannan Prasad, Assistant Professor, Loyola College, gave various strategies to pass NET/SET examination. This programme offered comprehensive study materials, and expert guidance to sharpen candidates' analytical abilities, problem solving skills and familiarise them with the exam pattern and syllabus.

### 14. Reading Club House:

Reading Club House conducted sessions for PG students to provide a platform for young readers in expanding their knowledge through discussion on books.

#### **Clubhouse - A Reading Club:**

In the odd semester, three sessions titled "Clubhouse - A Reading Club" were organised on 25th July, 24th August and 30th September 2023 respectively. Students presented their views on various books, both fiction and non-fiction in all the sessions. The engaging book reviews resulted in fruitful discussion among the students.

In the even semester, a session "Clubhouse - A Reading Club" was organised on 31st January, 2024. Around five II MA English students shared their book reviews in the session. The event informed the participants about various literary works and also motivated them to explore and read different types of books.

These sessions inspired the attendees to discover and read a variety of books in addition to educating them about diverse literary works.

### 15. UGC NET/SET Study Circle:

UGC NET/SET Study Circle organised sessions for MA students to assist them in NET/SET exam preparation.

#### **Teaching Aptitude**

The session on "Teaching Aptitude" was organised by the club on 28th July 2023. The event focused on developing the comprehensive understanding of the students on aptitude for competitive exams.

#### **Comprehension and Communication**

On 23rd August 2023, a session on "Comprehension and Communication" was conducted. The aim of the session was to highlight the importance of reading comprehension and communication for the NET/SET exam.