

# OCTOBER 2016: SEMINAR "FANTASY, CHILD/HOOD AND TRAUMA: NEW DIRECTIONS'

## FEBRUARY 2017: ANNUAL SEMINAR "POETRY: CONTEXT AND CRAFT"

## Report: SEMINAR: FANTASY, CHILD/HOOD AND TRAUMA: NEW DIRECTIONS



**English Literary Association**, Department of English, Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi organized a Seminar on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 in the Seminar Hall.

The seminar had two sessions. In the first session three speakers presented their papers on variant aspects pertinent to children's trauma. Dr.Meenakshi Bharat, Dr.Usha Mudiganti spoke on children, in particular, as victims of Partition and Talibanization of Afghanistan. Dr. Nivedita Sen spoke on children's literature and fantasy especially in context of Lewis Carroll's work Through the Looking Glass.

In the second session the panel was chaired by Dr.Anjana Neira Dev and Dr. Pamela Anwar. Five short films were screened. Each film had as its focus different instances of persecution of children. 'Silence' by Yadin and Bringa focuses on how children were victims of Holocaust, while 'Kikki' was a film which focuses on sexual abuse, parental neglect and children. Another film focussed on scores of children as victims of war in Gaza, whereas Nina Sabnani's short film on Partition 'Mukund and Riaz' offers a perspective on how partition of the Indian subcontinent ruptured the lives of innocent children and distorted their childhood. Yet another filmexplored gender as a social construct and how children relate to gender performativity. The discussion following the films was a heavily charged one as students explored the various perspectives in which child/hood can be traumatized.

Last but not the least, 'Rang Manch' the student's theatre body presented a street play titled, 'Sannatte Ka Shor'. The play won tremendous applause as it very aesthetically represented pain of child abuse. The event was attended by 9-10 faculty members along with 60 plus participants from across the colleges.

Program Schedule:

#### SESSION I: 9:30-10:30

#### CATHARTIC EFFECT OF LITERATURE ON CHILDREN AS VICTIMS

9:00 – 9:55 Dr.Usha Mudiganti, Associate Professor, Department of Ambedkar University, Delhi

9:55-10:30: Discussion

#### **SESSION II 11:12:30**

#### UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD AS A CONSTRUCT

Dr. Meenakshi Bharat, Associate Professor, Department of English, Sri Venketeshwara College, University of Delhi

Dr.Nivedita Sen, Associate Professor, Department of English, Hansraj College, University of Delhi

#### **SESSION III: 1:30 – 3:00**

#### VISUAL NARRATIVES ON CHILDREN AND TRAUMA

Screening of films representing 'CHILD' as traumatized figure followed by discussion

Dr.Pamela Anwar Associate Professor, Department of English, Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi

Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gargi College, University of Delhi

#### **STREET PLAY: 3:15 – 3:30**

Aryabhatta Theatre Society Rangmanch will present a street play.

## A Report on 'Poetry: Context and Craft'

The English Literary Association organised a seminar on '**Poetry: Context and Craft'** was organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017. Mr Binoy Aggarwal, Assistant Professor, Aryabhatta College presented his views on poetry and photography in everyday life.

The seminar was graced by Prof. Badri Raina, University of Delhi, who engaged the enthusiastic students on his understanding of Shakespeare.

The event was followed by the Poetry workshop conducted by Debika Lahiri.

With a participation of over 70 students, the seminar and the workshop became a huge success. The faculty members attended the event in full capacity too.

