



**Two day Workshop on Academic Writing for Ph.D., scholars in Tamil Nadu,
6th and 7th February, 2015 at RGNIYD**

Jointly organized by

**Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur
(An Institute of National Importance)**

and

Department of English, University of Madras, Chennai

Concept Note

Introduction

One of the main problems faced by Research scholars in Humanities in Indian Universities today is their inability to prepare research reports and dissertations in a systematic manner owing to lack of adequate training in the methodology of humanities, critical thinking and academic writing skills. The immediate result of this problem is poorly prepared dissertations, and difficulty to get papers published in international journals. This problem is mainly caused by the lack of proper emphasis on writing skills in general and academic skills in particular at the tertiary level. Unlike Western universities we do not have Writing Centres in our Universities, where students get training and resources to develop their academic writing skills. It is generally felt that Academic Writing should be made compulsory part of the course work for each of the M.Phil., and Ph.D. scholars. As such a system is not in place right now and this issue need to be addressed by offering a special programme for postgraduate students and research scholars in social science and humanities, to equip them with the necessary academic writing skills.

The two days course proposes to refresh the general writing skills before proceeding to give training in academic writing skills. As academic writing is integrated with Research methodology, efforts will be taken to simultaneously present the nuances of research methodology followed in Humanities Research.

Objectives

1. To introduce the academic vocabulary, discourse markers, basics of academic paragraph, structure of an academic essay, and mechanics of writing.
2. To inform the uses of critical thinking for research in humanities.
3. To train research scholars in the methodology of humanities with special focus on MLA style of documentation.
4. To strengthen academic writing skills by practising academic paragraphs using persuasive and argumentative styles.
5. To make researchers prepare model research papers strictly following academic writing techniques and following the MLA style of documentation.

Methodology

The proposed workshop aims at presenting academic writing and critical thinking skills in a graded manner to the researchers and students. The workshop is designed to give theoretical and practical exposure to the participants. Initial lectures will focus on refreshing general writing skills, sentence structures, discourse markers and academic word lists. Methodology of Humanities will be presented in comparison with the methodology of Natural Science and Social Science. Critical thinking

and academic writing will be taught using some standard textbooks available in the market. Resources from internet sources will also be made use of for practice tests and writing samples.

Unit-wise structure of the course

Unit 1- Need analysis test - What is Academic Writing: Difference between academic writing and other writings – Advantages of Academic writing skills – Academic Vocabulary – uses of discourse markers – Academic paragraph - basic mechanism of writing (Punctuation) - sentence structures.

Unit – II - Critical Thinking: Being critical – What does being critical mean – critical thinking for humanities – developing critical thought – logical organising of a critique – critical thinking around texts – converting critical thinking into research ideas.

Unit III – Methodology of Humanities – methods of study followed in different branches of learning – some popular methods – Studying humanities – methods followed in humanities research – Literary research – Using contemporary theories / critical theories in research.

Unit IV – Planning and organising a research paper – interpreting the topic – brainstorming – sources for research – Prewriting activities – writing and revising – structure of a research paper – citing sources in parenthesis – preparing works cited (MLA style) – Persuasive/ argumentative style.

Unit V – Academic Writing Practice: Practising Academic paragraph –thesis statement and topic sentences – types of sentences in an academic paragraph – planning an academic paper. Sample essays will be discussed.

Unit VI - Final Assessment

Expected learning Outcome of the course

The course is expected to develop all the necessary skills needed for the researcher in humanities in conducting research and preparing the research thesis or reports.

About RGNIYD

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering six academic programmes at Post Graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and coordinating Training Programmes for state agencies and the officials of youth organisation across the country. In view of fulfilling its obligations to the disadvantaged youth the RGNIYD established the Department for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth (DSEDY). The DSEDY regularly conducts capacity building/ skills development programmes with a prime objective of enhancing leadership, knowledge and entrepreneurial skills among SC/ST youth in India.

About University of Madras

The University of Madras is a public state university in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Established in 1857, it is one of the oldest and premier universities in India. The University's motto is "Learning Promotes Natural Talent". The university offers various courses and innovative programmes through direct and distance mode and to meet the global challenges and industrial demands. Department of English at the University of Madras was established in 1969 with the mandate to conduct inter-collegiate weekly lectures on certain topics besides guiding research. In 1976, the Department of English, along with many Departments in the University was made into a full teaching Department. The M.A., M.Phil, and PhD programmes are offered by the Department. Initiatives were taken the

department, since 1999 to move MoUs with Universities in Australia and New Zealand such as University of Wollongong, University of South Australia and University of Waikato. Collaborative research projects and theatre workshops are conducted by the department with the support of National and International organizations. A core course on Australian Studies succeeded in making the Australian Government sponsor an academic every year from 2000 to teach the course through the Australia-India Council. The Department is also included in the MOUs signed by the University of Madras with Francois-Rabelais University, Tours, Stendhal University, Grenoble in France for collaborative teaching and exchange in Post-Colonial Studies and Business English.

NOTE:

- The workshop will be conducted exclusively for the PhD scholars belong to SC/ST category which is scheduled on **6th and 7th February, 2015 at RGNIYD**. Interested aspirants shall register their names with **Dr. S. Lalitha**, Workshop coordinator on or before 31th January, 2015
- Registration fee (non-refundable) is **Rs.250/-**.
Registration fee shall be paid through online to the following account;

Name of the account holder: Director, RGNIYD
Account No: 2926101000001
Name of the Bank: Canara Bank
IFSC Code: CNRB0002926
Branch: Sriperumbudur, 602 105.

- Registered participants will be provided accommodation, Food and refreshment, tool kit, course material and Certificates.

Workshop Coordinators

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