योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्
IN PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

Affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, Recognised by Bar Council of India and AICTE
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Vivekananda School of English Studies (VSES)

VSES organized *Writers' Canvas* on 12-10-18 at Block-B in the auditorium. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Devapriya Roy, who is presently an author, TED_x speaker and faculty at Ashoka University. Dr. Salonee Priya, Associate Dean, VSES, felicitated Dr. Devapriya Roy and then gave a short introduction about Devapriya Roy's versatile personality. She also addressed the students and pointed out at the nuances of creative writing and the elusive joys of writing in narrative fiction and non-fiction.

Dr. Devapriya Roy started the lecture on a friendly and warm note and insisted that the lecture should be a conversation rather than a monologue. In her talk, she emphasized the importance of a writer and narrated her journey as a writer. She talked about the struggles and failure which a writer may face. She discussed in detail about what being a writer means and the process involved in it. Moving ahead, she elaborated the topic, with her journey as an example. According to her, we learn when we write a book and as a beginner, we should write something which is close to our heart, as the people know you through the books which you write and once the book is sold, it no longer belongs to you but to the reader. In her lecture, she highlighted two types of writer, one who plans everything before scribbling down anything and the other who begins somewhere and later finds something else.

Her account included narratives about her own beautiful experiences. She always wanted to write a novel, which would be tragic, preferably with a sad ending. But her mentor advised her to follow her dream of writing novel later, and to identify something which she was close to and write about it. She mentioned her first book *Vague Woman's Handbook* as a reference to this. She further explained about the things which attracts a reader's mind. The first thing which a reader's mind captures is not just the story but the author's voice. She further stated that as a writer one has to face the challenges and especially the problem with the material. While writing a novel we do have to keep the chronology in our mind. We cannot just pour

down our thoughts and feelings in our writings, but what we should also follow is he aesthetic process. It should include interest of the people of our age and must have a pulse about what is going on. She even suggested us to try crazy things in our life to explore the world. In addition to this, she emphasized upon the importance of reading before writing about anything as she said "Gust of words come when we read", easing the writer's block. She suggested the students to not only inculcate the habit of reading but also to expand their choices by reading about the non-fictional and thrillers which could teach them about the art of developing a story or plot.

Another book by the author titled *The Heat and Dust Project* was also discussed in context of writing mechanism. In relation to the same, she specifically suggested to the students to read the fictional account of Joanna Rakoff's *My Salinger Year* and the non-fictional work titled *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth. The next thing which she pointed out was the rejection which one faces in this journey. One should not opt for this profession for glamour or money but at the same time one should not be apprehensive of failure. She gave example of building a house in reference to writing a book.

During the session students kept on asking her questions and with her accumulated experience and knowledge she answered each of them. Personally, she being a hybrid reader put forward the idea of reading on *Kindle* and considered this appealing in terms of both form and accessibility. From a career point of view, she also recommended the idea of becoming an editor which according to her is a great and selfless job.

Apart from her inspirational journey, a motivational word which the students learned was '**SADHNA'** without which it is impossible to get success. After attending this session, the students were aware of the role of writing skill and it also offered a different career prospective. The students were interactive during the session and were inspired to write and read. The session ended with a vote of thanks.


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'A' Grade NAAC Accredited & ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified
Vivekananda School of English Studies (VSES)
welcomes
dr. devapriya roy
(Author, TEDx Speaker & Faculty at Ashoka University)
TO
Writer's Canvas
for
A tête-à-tête with Dr. Devapriya Roy
(12th October, 2018)
11 am, Auditorium (B Block)





