

REPORT OF MITRAKSHAR, ENGLISH LITERARY SOCIETY 2021- 22

CONVENER- Ms Monica Zutshi

CO-CONVENERS- Ms Tanu Sharma, Ms L Paveine

MEMBER- Ms Keertika Lotni

OFFICE BEARERS

President- Rama Singh

Vice President- Sakshi Tewari

Creative Head- Samiksha Gosain

Creative Team- Kavya Agarwal, Anushka Bhattacharya, Vrinda Sharma

General Secretary- Rainisha Nautiyal, Satyastuti

Joint Secretary- Drishtika Singh, Vanshika Gupta

Publicity Team- Yashi Bansal

During the session of 2021-22, the English Literary Society held a number of interactive and educational events. The following contains detailed reports of said events

Career Counseling Webinar



Mitrakshar
English Literary Society
Kalindi College, University of Delhi
NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

in collaboration with
IQAC, KALINDI COLLEGE
presents a
**Webinar on
CAREER COUNSELLING**

by
MS. ANUBHA VAID
Founder and Chief Admissions Strategist,
Anubha Vaid Admissions Consulting

DATE- 19 AUGUST 2021
TIME- 2:30PM TO 4:30 PM
JOIN ON GOOGLE MEET:
[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/GAD-ZMCU-ONS](https://meet.google.com/GAD-ZMCU-ONS)

Principal: Prof. Naina Hasija
Convener: Ms. Monica Zutshi
Co-Conveners: Ms. Tanu Sharma and Ms. L. Paveine
Member: Ms. Keertika Lotni

Mitrakshar on 19th August 2021 organized an informative webinar in collaboration with IQAC, Kalindi College, on career counselling under the guidance of Ms Anubha Vaid. She stands among India's leading consultants with nearly two decades of experience in career counselling and overseas higher education counselling. She has worked as a core team member at The Princeton Review's Admissions Counselling Service, Educomp Counselling, and EGE Global before establishing her own admissions consulting and standardised test preparation firm.

The webinar was focused on the future career options for students pursuing their Bachelor's in English Honours. Ms Anubha Vaid started off with introspective questions that would be helpful in evaluating our interest in possible fields of higher studies and career paths. She then proceeded to explain various fields in a comprehensive manner. During this, she highlighted the work profile of particular jobs, the distinct spheres within them and what type of people would be a right fit for them. She also listed the major employers and options for those who wish to try out a certain domain before fully committing to it. The scope of overseas education was also discussed where prerequisite tests and financial details were delineated. The webinar was remarkably informative with its thorough roadmaps for various careers and had a congenial arrangement that opened doors to numerous lesser-known but nonetheless interesting career choices.



Talk On Travel Writing

MITRAKSHAR
ENGLISH LITERARY SOCIETY

SAGACIOUS SCRIBBLERS
& ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Kalindi College, University of Delhi
NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

collaboratively
invite you to a talk on
TRAVEL WRITING

Speaker
Ms. Urvi Mangesh Gupte
Travel Blogger/Content Writer

Date- 25th August 2021
Timing- 4:15 pm onwards
Venue- Google Meet
Link- <https://meet.google.com/ofg-ijmh-bak>

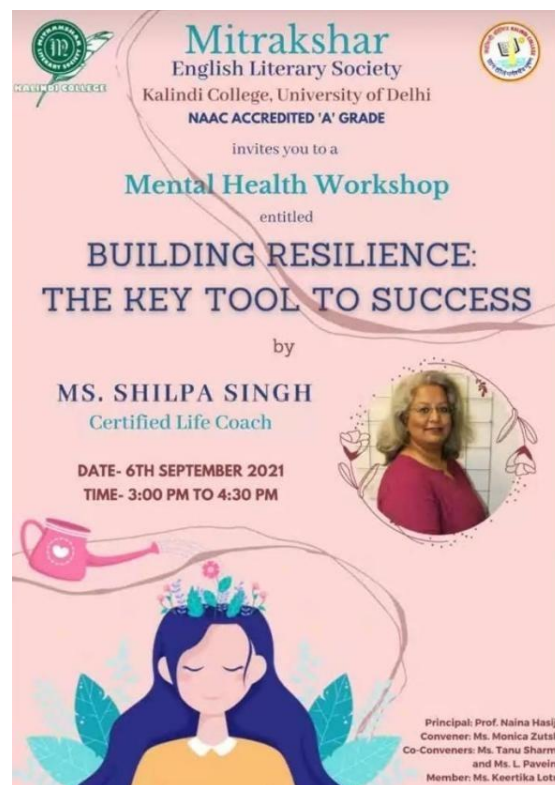
ECA CONVENER - MS. ANSHU CHOTANI			PRINCIPAL - PROF. NAINA HASIJA		
MITRAKSHAR			SAGACIOUS SCRIBBLERS		
CONVENER	CO-CONVENER	MEMBER	CONVENER	CO-CONVENER	MEMBERS
Ms. Monica Zutshi	Ms. Tanu Sharma Ms. L. Pavine	Ms. Keertika Lotni	Dr. Monika Bassi	Ms. Shipra Gupta	Ms. Sneha Sawai Mr. Sushrut Bhatia

On 25th August 2021, Mitrakshar, the English Literature Society of Kalindi College was proud to organize a talk on "Travel Writing" by Urvi Gupte. She is an undergraduate student studying journalism at Delhi University. She also worked previously with Tripoto, a leading travel app,

and has successfully conducted various travel writing workshops and webinars in the past. She will be launching her very own e-magazine, Memorabilia, in the next month in which she uses storytelling as a means to present riveting writings about travel, food, and culture.

She covered many important points and details about what Travel Writing actually means and what it has to offer. She covered the history of travel writing, and different travel features such as destination features, travel guides, and itineraries and explained them all in-depth. She also talked about the preconceived notions like women's safety in this profession, the pay being higher than what is normally expected and the wide range of career opportunities. She gave an insight into her own journey of travelling from a casual travel enthusiast to a full-fledged blogger and owner. Apart from this, she gave some tips and bits needed for Travel Writing and a great extent of motivation to pursue a career in the same. The talk ended with answering students' questions and a cheerful note of thanks.

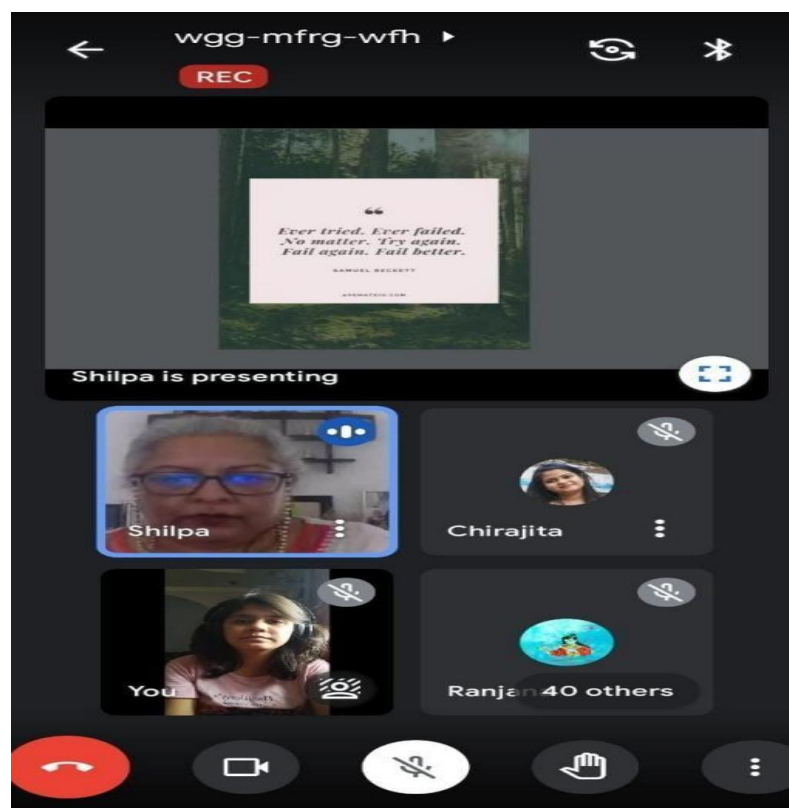
Mental Health Workshop



Mitrakshar, the English Literary Society Kalindi College brought about a webinar focused on mental health on the 6th of September, 2021. The resource person for this event was Ms Shilpa Singh, a certified life coach with 25 years of experience and professionalism. She holds a PGDIM from the International Management Institute (1996) and a Master Of Psychology Degree from the University of Phoenix. She has worked in a national-level law firm with offices in 8 cities in India and a strength of approximately 200 lawyers and 150 support staff.

The mental health workshop started on a great note with a self-analysis of the core problems behind our anxiety, stress, and sadness and moved along swiftly by providing us with the methods that can help us in dealing with the same. Ms Singh cited a few examples from her own personal life and from some other interviews that she heard and helped clear out many

misconceptions about mental well-being. Deep core values, such as forgiving oneself for being anxious, defensive, and frustrated, and what we think matters, were once again induced by this session. Ms Singh connected with the students due to her friendly and conversational approach. She gave some real gems in terms of how the planning of the future keeps our mental health on a pedestal and how separating things that we can control is always necessary, and that the most important thing-the Mantra is to-Plan One day at a time. Other than these, she gave a few pointers on how to deal with daily stress and problems by simple actions, as minor as writing achievable to-do lists, sometimes watching mindless comedies to reduce stress, stopping arguing to make your point or self explain every time. She shared her favorite stress releasing songs and asked everyone to perform breathing activities. She even shared the downsides of self assuming, putting oneself behind others, and not being able to handle criticism effectively. She concluded this extremely interactive, fun, and educational session by answering the student's queries in depth. The conclusion was followed by a vote of thanks from our esteemed professors



Webinar on Fakir Mohan Senapati's Six Acres and a Third



MITRAKSHAR

English Literary Society

Kalindi College, University of Delhi

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE



under the aegis of

AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV

is organizing a webinar on

The Idea of Land in
Fakir Mohan Senapati's
Six Acres And a Third

by



PROF. RAJ KUMAR

HOD, Department of English,
University of Delhi

DATE - 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

TIME - 4 PM ONWARDS

REGISTRATION LINK- [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/AJNDPTKOMGUJ6YSR5](https://forms.gle/AJNDPTKOMGUJ6YSR5)

REGISTER NOW!

Principal: Prof. Naina Hasija
Convener: Ms. Monica Zutshi

Co-Conveners: Ms. Tanu Sharma
and Ms. L. Paveine
Member: Ms. Keertika Lotni

On the 28th of September 2021, Kalindi College was graced with the presence of Professor Raj Kumar, HOD, department of English, University of Delhi. Mitrakshar, the English literary Society of Kalindi College organised a talk on *The Idea of Land* in Fakir Mohan Senapati's **Six Acres and a Third** where Prof. Raj Kumar was the resource person.

Professor Kumar is a well-known figure in academia. He has worked in areas like the Dalit literature, Odia literature, Indian writing in English and post-colonial studies. He is adept at translating literal texts, especially Oriya into English. He has also authored two books on Dalit personal narratives: Reading Caste, Nation and Identity, and Dalit Literature and Criticism, both published by the Orient BlackSwan.

The honorary principal of Kalindi College, Professor Naina Hasija also made a short yet special appearance at the event by felicitating Prof Raj Kumar. A gold medallist, she has worked in areas like demonetisation, non-performing assets in the banking sector and the effect of pandemic on Indian migrant workers abroad.

The talk started with an introduction by the convener Ms Monica Zutshi. Professor Kumar then talked about the sheer brilliance and achievements of Fakir Mohan Senapati, the father of Odia literature. The factor most liked by the participants of the meeting was that he preferred to use the Odia(original) name of the novel instead of the English translation. From giving a glimpse of Senapati's work to explaining deep themes such as national metaphors, landlord culture, the disintegration of feudal culture and privatisation of lands, Professor Kumar beautifully put everything into words.

The audience and the members learnt more about the novel and the circumstances that led to its inception. Barring land, there are other points too in primary focus in the novel like village/city culture, colonial modernity, myths about the Puran, neo-colonialism and gender issues. He talked about the state of Orissa, the changes it faced during the British rule and how it attained statehood in the year 1936. Professor also gave us instances of his knowledge in comparative literature by comparing Senapati with eminent writers like Munshi Premchand's Godan. He exceptionally elucidated how Godan is seen as both a critique of modern Indian society as well as a new political economy. There were numerous more interesting and intertextual comparisons made by Professor Kumar to explain the theme easily. A very detailed history of the land-division system of India was given by Professor Raj Kumar.

The talk was followed by a very interactive question and answer session where both teachers and students participated and Professor Raj Kumar was very kind to answer all of the questions with absolute accuracy.

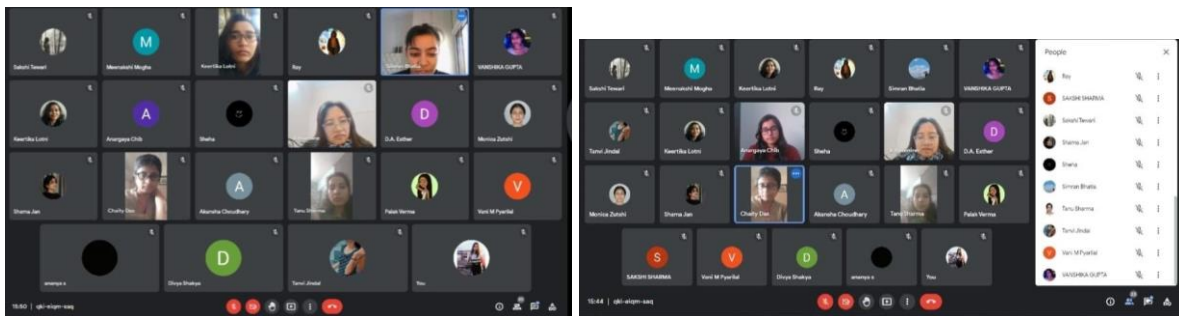
The session was concluded with a warm vote of thanks by our teachers and some more positive feedback from the students as well.



Intra-College Fest

During the month of November, Mitrakshar organised an intra-college fest, where students were invited to showcase their talent and try their hands at multiple creative events. The events included short story writing, photography, painting, comic strip designing and slam

poetry. The department teachers were invited as judges to select a few students in every competition and award them with prizes. The student volunteers circulated messages and distributed posters throughout the college. Mr Sushrut, Ms Vani and Ms Sneha Sawai were the judges for the short story event. Ms Bharti and Mr Shashi were there for the photography event, Dr Mukesh, Ms D.A Esther and Ms Tanu judged the painting competition, Ms Paveine and Ms Shipra judged the comic strip event and for the slam poetry event, Ms Chaity Das, Ms Keertika Lotni and Ms Shama Jan were there. The students were asked to give their submissions online in lieu of the lockdown. Most students showcased their skills and left the judges in awe. The slam poetry event was held in an online session, where the budding poets were requested to give a dramatic reciting of their work on the 23rd of November. The students who gave an extraordinary performance were awarded for the showcase of their talent and hard work. The event was a refreshing break for students in the middle of the rut created by the pandemic. It was a fun and fulfilling activity for all the participants and the teachers who all felt surge of energy to channel their creative side.



Alumni Talk




MITRAKSHAR
English Literary Society
Kalindi College, University of Delhi

in association with
Alumni Association and
Alumni Committee, Kalindi College
invites you to a talk on

2 FEET 20 BOATS
Exploring college life during one's salad days

by



Ms. Sumedha Sehra
Associate Editor, Glance Digital Experience

DATE- 22ND JANUARY 2022
TIME- 3:45 PM ONWARDS
LINK - MEET.GOOGLE.COM/POZ-UBXG-HKY

Alumni Committee
Convener: Dr. Seema Gupta
Co-Conveners: Ms. Neelam Bareja and
Ms. Vinita Meena

Principal: Prof. Naina Hasija

Mitrakshar
Convener: Ms. Monica Zutshi
Co-Conveners: Ms. Tanu Sharma and Ms. L. Paveine
Member: Ms. Keertika Lotni

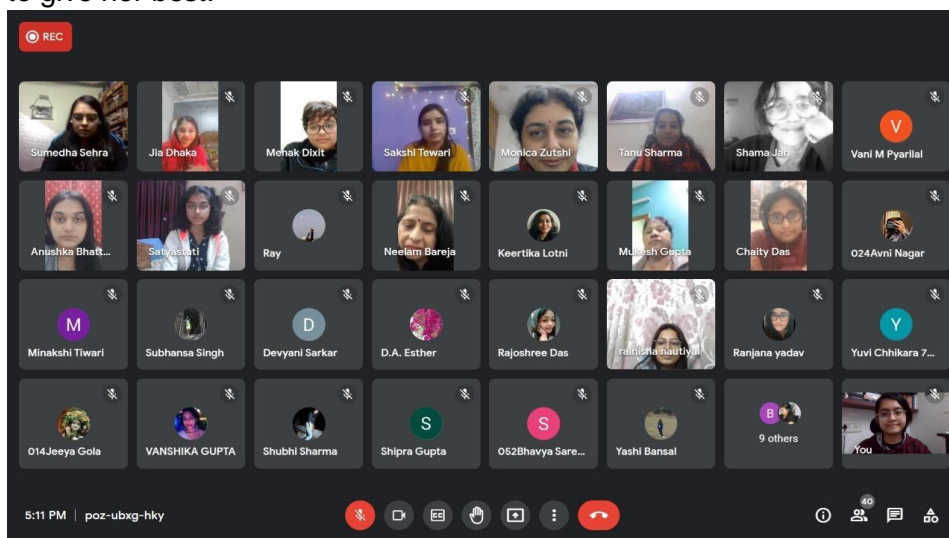
On 22nd January 2022, Mitrakshar, the English literary society of Kalindi College, in association with the alumni committee of the college, organized the talk- "20 feet 20 boats: exploring college life during one's salad days". The speaker, Ms Sumedha Sehra, is an ex-

Kalindi student who is currently working as an associate editor in mobile journalism and an online content company called Glance Digital. The talk revolved around Ms Sumedha's experience in her college years and how it shaped her into the person she is.

She started her talk by explaining how sometimes life does not offer one a lot of choices and one may not feel satisfied with what they have. She quoted her own example by looking back at how she always used to be inactive in her first semester and comparing her college life to that of her friends. She encouraged all the students to put themselves out there and expose themselves to different situations to become the best version of themselves. She was then reminiscing about her days participating in various events. These stories motivated the students to make the best of their college years.

She shared anecdotes of her college adventures and explained how each incident taught her something new. Whether it be deciding to participate in a quiz at the very last minute, or selling chocolates at the college fest, everything turned out to be a great learning experience for her. She explained how she would have regretted not trying new things and that taking risks is an important part of life. She emphasized the importance of always keep trying new things even if one has to risk failure.

During the end, she invited students to ask questions and share their own experiences. One question that was highlighted by a lot of students, was how to stay motivated when their college experience is online. She advised them to take time out for hobbies. Yoga, meditation and other such activities that calm one's anxiety was also suggested. She also spoke about multiple ways to make online classes more exciting. By being interactive, making jokes, and asking questions, even the online college experience can be enjoyed to the fullest. Other questions revolved around time management and how she managed her time and was able to give her best.



Workshop on Academic Reading and Writing

MITRAKSHAR
English Literary Society
Kalindi College, University of Delhi

invites you to a

Workshop on Academic Writing

by
Dr. Poulomi Das
*Critical Writing Faculty
Ashoka University*

TALK 1
*Read to Write: The Craft of
Active Reading*
18th February

TALK 2
*Write to Persuade: The Craft of
Argumentative Writing*
4th March

TIME - 5:50 PM ONWARDS
REGISTRATION LINK- [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/LXHK9JWHSDFEI87](https://forms.gle/LXHK9JWHSDFEI87)
GOOGLE MEET LINK: [HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/YHV-XCPC-BBR](https://meet.google.com/YHV-XCPC-BBR)

Principal: Prof. Naina Hasija
Convener: Ms. Monica Zutshi

Co-Conveners: Ms. Tanu Sharma
and Ms. L. Paveine
Member: Ms. Keertika Lotni

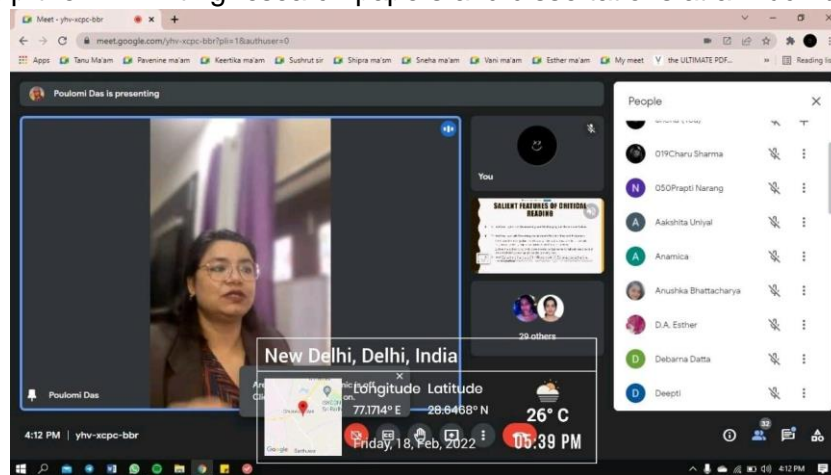
The literary society of Kalindi college- "Mitrakshar" organised a two-part workshop on how to practise academic writing. The guest speaker, Dr Poulomi Das from the critical writing faculty of Ashoka university digressed into the basics of writing an academic paper.

During the first part of the event held on the 18th of February, Dr Das started by asking the attendees of the workshop what they think is included in academic reading. She received a bundle of responses and then she built upon those responses by adding a few more points to essentially define the key factors of academic reading. She explained how these factors are essentially a prerequisite to academic writing. She also busted some myths about academic reading like how slow reading is bad. She then followed by explaining how to make academic reading easier and do it in a more effective manner. She even described the note-making strategies to follow while doing an academic reading of any text. Making a KWL chart that includes notes that answer the questions of "what do I know about the text, what do I want to learn, what did I learn, what more do I want to learn" and explained critical questioning. She ended the presentation by picking out a paragraph and then step by step explaining critical reading through a live example. She slowly went through all the points she had discussed before and how she was putting them into use.

The second workshop was held on the 4th of March, which was about how we proceed with the writing part, by using the points that were explained in the previous workshop. After giving a small recap of the previous session, she proceeded to define academic writing. She then played a clip from the play, Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare. The play is very famous for its extravagant monologues and mesmerising speeches and is filled with characters that have mastered the art of oration. She began by focusing on the famous speech of Marc Antony played by Charlton Heston, in which he was speaking against Caesar. She then correlated the idea of persuasion and argumentative writing with the speech. At the beginning of the session, she asked the attendees what were the first words that came into their mind after hearing the word "argument" or "persuasion". Like she did in the previous workshop, she built

on the answers and explained how Marc Antony's speech is a great example of how to phrase an argument and shows great skills in the art of persuasion. She pointed out peculiar statements and words which made his argument more compelling. Then she later explained how to formally make an argument. She explained the best order to pose your arguments, like placing the weakest argument between the stronger and the strongest argument. She also explained various techniques like the 'Nestorian order' which makes the argument compelling and more persuasive. She also explained the type of language and words to be used as the use of 'trial room language' to make the statements sound more formal and how formal statements are always more diplomatic and get more attention.

In the two sessions, she covered the basics of academic writing and reading to the extent which would greatly help any student in not just framing the answers at the college level, but would also help them in writing research papers and dissertations at a much bigger level.



Talk on 'Media Literacies Using a Gendered Lens'



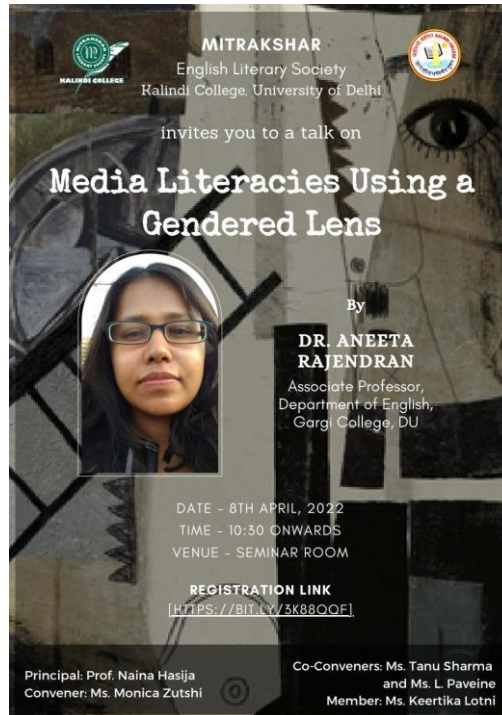
On the 8th of April, the literary society of Kalindi; Mitrakshar organised a talk on 'Media literacies using a gendered lens'. The speaker, Dr Aneeta Rajendra is an associate professor in the department of English, Gargi College, Delhi University. She began her talk by grabbing the audience's attention with a famous dance number from Bollywood; Chikni Chameli. She talked about the choreography, setting of the scene, clothing, and role of males and females

in the video to explain how the social values that pertain to society create the images we see in the media. From the main dancer's body, the background dancer's being depicted as 'lower class men' and how the song promotes the idea of how women invite looks on their bodies, she proceeded to throw light on the problematic side of Indian cinema. She talked about how songs like "Oo Anta Aa...." hide behind the face of pseudo feminism and normalise ideas like men will be men and instead of actually sending a positive message, they claim to be blaming men and normalising toxic behaviour.

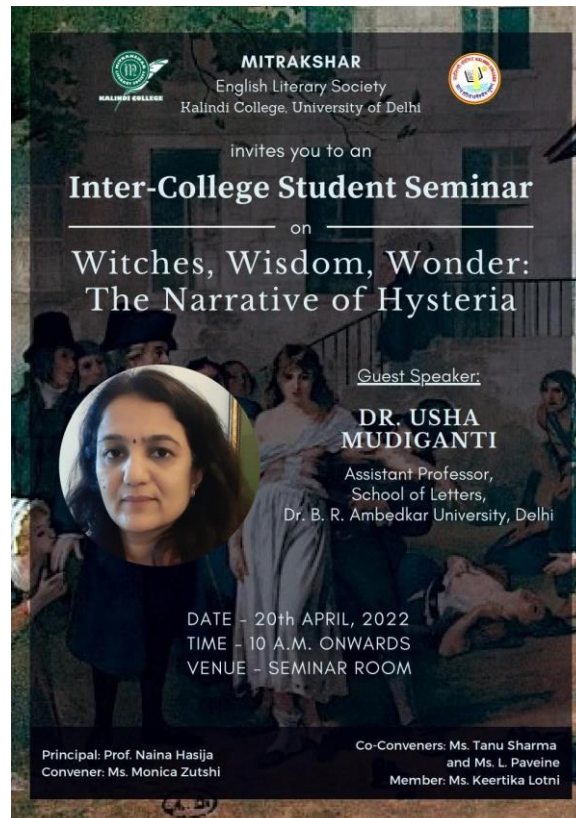
She then showed a very familiar clip, of a Tamil movie called "Manichitrathazu", which is the inspiration behind multiple movies in India, like the Bollywood blockbuster "Bhoolbhulaiya". The movie, especially the clip, followed a self-blaming narrative. The movie prominently focuses on an inherently patriarchal and heteronormative marriage. The wife seemed to have no other choice than to settle back into her marriage. When the husband tries to forbid his wife from doing something, she opposes him, has a fit and faints, as if opposing a male is considered such a taboo that such behaviour is considered borderline hysteric. The movie seems to be a training course on how to show anger as a heterosexual female.

She then shifted to the Bechdel Test, which attempts at defining female representation in any narrative. She talked about movies that provided proper representation and painted a realistic narrative, but then showed the dark side of Bollywood. Bollywood still promotes toxic ideas like how a woman can be looked at with no consequences, heteronormativity, the idea of the male gaze and whatnot. She explained how Bollywood has this trend of following a 'rescue narrative' where a woman is merely shown as a subject there to be saved by the hero. Her existence is based on the fact that she is meant to be saved. She then talked about how this idea of masculinity and femininity is also affecting men. How men are always told to control their emotions and are portrayed as strong stoic figures who do not need any support. She then pointed out that just because movies like 'Kapoor and Son's attempt at portraying a non-hetero narrative, does not mean they will be sensitive towards other issues and show an accurate female narrative as well.

She ended the talk by explaining the same issues but in the context of Indian television advertisements and asked the audience to not be afraid of criticising any narrative that they think spreads insensitivity. She educated the audience on how to be more gender-sensitive and inspired them to not only look out for such content but be ready to scrutinise it so that the media is forced to portray a more relatable, progressive and supportive narrative.



Inter-College Student seminar



On the 20th of April, the literary society of Kalindi college; Mitakshara, organised an inter-college student seminar on the topic of 'Witches, Wisdom, Wonder: the narrative of hysteria'. The guest speaker was Dr Usha Mudiganti, assistant professor at the school of letters, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University. The speaker digressed into the topic by talking about each aspect

mentioned in the topic individually. She discussed the origin of the term 'witch', its association with wisdom and wonder and then related it to how hysteria has been viewed throughout history. She explained how cultural spaces in India dictate how to talk, why to talk and when to talk. She suggested many narratives that can be analysed to understand the position of hysteria in our society, like "Freud along the Ganges". She used examples from old folk tales to explain the good and bad representations of hysteria in Indian history.

Later, the students from other colleges presented their papers in the form of a presentation and were judged and searched on their basis. All the participants picked different aspects of hysteria, whether it be history, treatment, its relation with women and feminism etc. A relationship was established between rationality and its relationship with sanity and common grounds of insanity and hysteria were pondered upon. The current image of witches in social media and other media platforms was also talked about and ideas of trauma and war were associated with hysteria. Shows like "Fleabag" were used as a point of discussion to throw light on the causes and effects of hysteria. Many movies and shows were referred to show how far we have come as a society when it comes to the way in which we portray hysteria among women.

The most prevalent topic in all the papers was the association of female domination and patriarchy with hysteria. Feminism was explained as a key factor for finding the right ways to deal with hysteria, as it was often created as a result of feminine expectations. Some authors tried to portray this ideology by elaborating on how hysteria and madness were often a result of demanding and seeking vengeance against the injustices in society. Jane Eyre became the talk of the seminar, as it was a name common in all the papers, for painting a controversial hysteric narrative. Many new ideas, like the relation between hysteria and racism, were thrown light on and many other topics which had been ignored for a long time, were explained.

All the arguments talked about the misrepresentation of hysteria at any point in history and the need for its proper recognition. The idea was highly frowned upon for being female-centric and being shown as disease throughout history, whether it be in novels, short stories, plays or even paintings from the renaissance. As elaborated by the speaker and talked in detail by the participants, hysteria can be considered as a form of mental state caused by the exhaustion of handling the pressure caused by expectations of being a female in a highly patriarchal society and its labelling as a disease since mental exhaustion, especially in females was never really paid any heed to.



Serial No.	Name of the speaker	Designation/ institutional affiliation
1	Ms Anubha Ved	Founder and chief admission strategist of Anubha Ved admissions consulting
2	Ms Urvi Mangesh Gupte	Travel blogger/ content writer
3	Ms Shilpa Singh	Certified life coach
4	Professor Raj Kumar	HOD, department of English, Delhi University
5	Ms Sumedha Sehra	Associate editor, Glance Digital Experience
6	Dr Poloumi Das	Critical writing faculty, Ashoka University
7	Dr Aneeta Rajendran	Associate Professor, Department of English, Gargi College, Delhi University
8	Dr Usha Mudiganti	Assistant professor, School of Letters, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University