



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION AND
COMMUNICATION

Skill Training Programme in Science Journalism

Beyond the Boundaries: Science, Media and Journalism

27-29 December 2017



Summary

The Centre for Science Education and Communication (CSEC) organized three days training program on Science Journalism. CSEC is prestigious part of the University of Delhi which is regularly organizing training programs, workshops and activity based learning on varying domains of Science Journalism, Science Communication, Entrepreneurship and Research Methodology. The program 'Beyond The Boundaries: Science, Media and Journalism' was designed to train young students of journalism and science streams as well as the budding journalist about basic concepts of Science Journalism along with research communication.

The program covered varying topics from media, writing, philosophy of science communication and science film appreciation. The training sessions were divided into three days from 27th December to 29th December 2017. On 27th Dec, Er. Anuj Sinha, former director of Vigyan Prasar, and Prof. Deepika Bhaskar, coordinator of CSEC inaugurated the program. The program was not only limited to lectures but also it included hands-on activities in which participants were allowed to produce their own content and take part in the process of various writing tasks such as feature writing and pitch writing.

Participants

Students enrolled in Undergraduate, Masters and PhD programs at Delhi University, BHU, IIT, NBRC etc. participated in the training program. The audience of this program was from a very diverse background including different subjects of science like Genetics, Brain Research, Chemistry etc. and Journalism.

Day Wise Details of Sessions

First Day- 27th December 2017

The first day of the program started with an inaugural lecture on 'Prospects of Science Journalism' by Er. Anuj Sinha. Mr Sinha spoke on the basic concepts of Science Communication and four Models of science communication. He focused on

the philosophy of science communication in an Indian context. After the inaugural lecture, Dr T. V. Venkateswaran discussed the dilemmas of science communication in social system. Dr TVV explained concepts and debates within science communication with different approaches to social marketing and empowerment. He used examples of family planning campaign and MDG of United Nations.

In the second half of the first day, the media and reporting aspects were covered. Renowned Professor of Media at IIMC, Prof. Anand Pradhan gave an idea of media and its functioning with respect to different forms of media i.e. Print, Broadcast and New Media. After him, Vibha Varshney, associate editor of Down To Earth Magazine, distributed the Hindi and English copies of the magazine and with the help of magazine, she taught about the cover story, importance of data in environmental and health reporting as well as the impact of stories done by DTE. She taught the art of pitch writing also. All the participants wrote pitch idea about their story on environment issues. She responded to individual pitch and gave feedback.

Second Day- 28th December 2017

The second day of training session started with activity based learning of methods and tools used in Journalism with special application to Science Journalism. Ayush Shukla, a digital journalist, shared a list of online tools and resources which are open access and useful while reporting. He demonstrated the use Google Tools for storytelling like Google Earth Pro, Google My Maps, Google Charts etc. and Resources for developing story ideas like Google Scholar, Google Trends, Science Daily and Eureka Alert Services of recent research happening around the globe. He also discussed the issue of Fake News in Science Journalism and shared a way of practising fact-based science journalism while reporting from research papers, laboratories, interview of scientists etc.

Vishal Arora, the freelance mobile journalist and former political editor of the magazine The Caravan, exhibited the use of MoJo Kit for producing content by

using Smartphone and associated tools. He shared theoretical concepts of Mobile Journalism in addition to the practical techniques of recording, photography, lighting, editing etc. Next, to MoJo session, discussion on science films was followed by the screening of various types of popular science films.

Mr Vinod Varshney, a former senior journalist of daily Hindi newspaper Hindustan, shared the stories behind his reporting of science-related issues. He articulated miscellaneous aspects of reporting and writing with the examples of his works. He pointed out the diverse themes of science writing for media from popular science writing to higher science or science in future.

Third Day- 29th December 2017

The third day of training program started with a lecture on ‘Science Communication via Marketing Concept’. Dr Firdous Ahmad, a scientist at CSIR-NISCAIR and editor of Urdu Science Magazine discussed the concept with participants and in the second part of his lecture; he unveiled the scope of career in science journalism and science communication. According told that there are multiple roles of science communicator or science writer which can vary from technical writer to editor of journal or filmmaker not only special beat correspondent for media.

Afterwards, Mr. Ratandeeep Banerji who is freelance science journalist and expert in radio production talked on the art of feature writing in science journalism. Through an interactive dialogue, he gave an idea about the requirement of science writing for masses i.e. the style, language, storytelling with factual information etc.

Before the valedictory session, all the participants presented their work by using the practical knowledge gained from the training program. A range of products like cartoons, Powerpoint presentations, Picture Stories, Short articles etc. was prepared by participants.

At the end of the training program, Mr. Dinesh C Sharma talked about the current scenario of science journalism in India and around the Globe. Mr Sharma is veteran

science Journalist and Managing Director of Indian Science Wire. He indicated the need for good ecosystem for science journalism in India.

Dr Deepika, coordinator of Centre for Science Education and Communication facilitated all the participants with the certificates for their active participation in the program.