



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Department of Library & Information Science

School of Professional Studies

(Established by WB Act (XIX) of 1997, Recognised by UGC

Website: [www.wbnsou.ac.in](http://www.wbnsou.ac.in)

## REPORT

### **CELEBRATION OF WORLD BOOK DAY -2024 (26/04/2024)**

As per recommendations of DLIS, SPS and subsequent approval of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU the Department of Library & Information Science (DLIS), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), celebrated "The World Book Day" on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The half-day seminar was held at the 'Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar' NSOU-HQ, Saltlake, Kolkata 700064 from 2.30 pm-5.00 pm.

The programme was attended by more than fifty participants. The participants are from the NSOU faculty members, officers, staff, research scholars and also learners of PG/UG of NSOU. Faculty members and students from other universities also attended the program.

**Theme of the Year-2024: "Read Your Way,"**. This theme emphasizes the importance of choice and enjoyment in fostering a love of reading.

Dr. Anamika Das, Assistant Professor, DLIS, NSOU while requesting dignitaries to come on dais stated the significance of celebration of "World Book Day-2024". She stated that "World Book Day is also known as the World Book Day and Copyright Day and is observed every year on April 23 to spread awareness about the benefits of reading books. You can find activities, resources and advice in different websites to help you enjoy and encourage reading for fun throughout the year.



Prof. Ghosh in his welcome address, welcomed the dignitaries on the dais and off the dais viz. Prof. Indrajit Lahiri, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU and thanked him for encouraging and supporting to organize the program. Prof. Ghosh then welcomed today's invited Speaker Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Academic Head of the Institution, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Senior Director, Kalyan Bharti Trust, he stressed the need for reading books. He told that 'Reading of book' is for the all round development. He also stated that we should also celebrate this programme every year and NSOU may consider to distribute books to needy children on this occasion to promote reading amongst children. He stressed for organizing many such program to promote reading habits in collaboration with NSOU Central Library.

Prof. Lahiri in his Presidential address, congratulated DLIS for taking such initiatives to organize such program. Prof. Lahiri in his erudite speech explained very lucidly the importance of reading. He also cited example stating that if we observe any movie or theatre etc. without reading the main book we find so many missing links, even may be abruptly changed the context. His erudite speech received accolades from audience.



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Smt. Ananya Mitra, Registrar (Addl. Charge) in her speech stressed the need for reading and its benefits for future prospects. She also reiterated Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor's deliberation that reading only opens our mind and eyes. Movies/ theatres/ dramas are based on author's writings but if we do not read original author's script we may miss the originality of that message that the author tried to communicate.

Prof. Basab Chaudhuri in his lecture titled "*Grontho Mononer Mouchak*", stated that "The World Book Day is celebrated every year on April 23 and this celebration has been going on since 1995 as unanimously decided by the United Nations. The progress of the human civilization is intimately linked with pictures and letters that were craved on walls at a very early stage of growth of civilization. Gradually, the expressions transformed into books that consisted of contents on leaves of trees. More recently, papers and printing press opened the vast opportunity of books and their publications. Even a few years ago, when the television and the mobile phones were not so easily available, written words used to entertain us and enlighten us. Today we lament over the fact that the present generation does not find pleasure in books. He added that every day in a year should be the book day because books are never-failing friends of civilized human beings."



The subject on which this lecture has been planned is "*Grontho Mononer Mouchak*". When translated into English, it means books are sources of inner enlightenment. When we think of great authors and their creations, and we read them, we literally sit face-to-face and as if, we listen to their voice, their ideas, their joy, their agony and their ecstasy. We come across characters and they teach us the greatest of human virtues and vices. Books warn us of the impending danger that may be faced by civilization in future because of human action and send us cautionary notes. An example will suffice. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* published in the 1960s sent a grave warning to the human civilization on the importance of environment, ecosystem and interdependence. Today we all understand the gravity of environmental pollution and climate change. In the novel "*Aranyak*", Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, while leaving his material creation at Narha- Labtulia by large-scale destruction of forest wealth, had made a prayer to the goddess of forest, "Do forgive me."

A book like 'The Plague' by Albert Camus reminds us of the horrendous effect of a pandemic and the sentiment expressed in the book echoes in our own experience of the most recent Corona pandemic. The pandemic has passed, leaving for us the memory, experience and agony. Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl reminds us of the oppression in the Nazi concentration camps and in the face of destruction, ultimately the rise of a triumphant man. The stories are in one word mesmerizing. They change man's perspectives of life and a new man is born through books. That is the power of a book and let us take a pledge that we all will read books in greater numbers and enrich ourselves.



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Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, HOD, DLIS, NSOU in his concluding remarks expressed his gratitude to university authorities who have not only permitted but also extended all support to organise the World Book Day celebration.

Prof. Chakraborty in his speech stated that as author's brief CV is mostly written on back of the cover page. As the program is on Book so, we also would like to introduce our author to participants at this juncture. He introduced the esteemed speaker in a befitting manner. Dr. Chakraborty stated in his deliberation --- "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that." — Stephen King.



The reading was not only option and activity available for the leisure time during our childhood may be forty years back. There were other fun-filled activities too at that time as well. The technology was there too for us as well to drag and attract our interest as it was the beginning of the computer age.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." — Charles William Eliot. We being a Librarian or LIS teacher always urges our students, scholars rather all users to read and develop this spectacular habit of reading in their leisure times because the books groom us as a person they provide knowledge to different things and at times provide a code of life as well. But what really saddens us is the lack of interest of the present generation in such a healthy activity of reading. Today our children are tech-oriented and a product of technology. For them sitting at Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat etc. is far fun-filled than sitting in a library with a book at hand and a coffee to drink. They spend hours and hours at social media but never get tired of it but if they are asked to sit and read they feel bored and completely disinterested. It is a sad fact and a sad spectacle of this technological age indeed.

He also stated that for educators and researchers ---- reading is a multifaceted process involving such areas as word recognition, orthography (spelling), alphabetic, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency and motivation.

He concluded by stating that --- Reading benefits us in many ways -----

- it aids in enhancing memory,
- sharpening decision making skills,
- delaying onset of Alzheimer's and Dementia,
- reducing stress and anxiety and improve quality of life,
- sleeping better.





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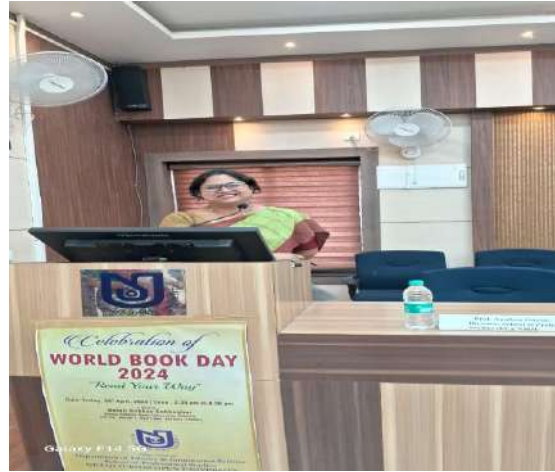
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The power of words can change us, the way we think, the way we perceive things and can broaden the horizon of our knowledge.



Dr. Barnali Roy Choudhury, Assistant Professor, DLIS, NSOU offered formal vote of thanks to the august gathering on this momentous World Book Day. In her address, Dr. Roy Choudhury expressed a vote of appreciation on behalf of the organizing team. The speaker and the attendees are united by a passion for literature that honours the written word and its enormous influence on our existence. She sincerely thanked the honourable speaker, Prof. Basab Chaudhury, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, for his eloquent address, which stoked curiosity and encouraged people to go further into the great world of literature outside the lecture hall.

She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, NSOU and Registrar Department, all the Directors and Officer-in-charge of different Schools of studies for their Cooperation and coordination. She has expressed thanks to Prof Anirban Ghosh, Director (i/c), School of Professional Studies for his constant support and encouragement from planning to execution and for making the event a great success. She extends her gratitude to UNESCO, the driving force behind World Book Day, for championing the cause of literacy, cultural exchange, and intellectual freedom and also to authors, those silent architects of our imagination, and last but not least to the book enthusiasts, for their power of passion for reading, insatiable curiosity and unwavering belief in the transformative power of literature.



---Report prepared by Dr. A.K. Chakraborty