

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI**

**Department of English (Shift II)**

**Title (of online activity/program):** Webinar on “Understanding Technical Writing”

**Participants (number):** 142

**Resource Person/s:** Dr. Shoba K.N., Assistant Professor, Anna University, Chennai

**Date/s and Time:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 | 10.30 am – 12.00 noon

**Brief Note (including feedback):**

The Department of English (Shift II) organized a webinar under the coordination of Dr C.L.Shilaja on “Understanding Technical Writing” on 8 June 2020 from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Dr Shoba K.N., Assistant Professor, Anna University, Chennai who has tremendous expertise in the area served as resource person. All the faculty members of the department were diligently involved in the various aspects of organizing the webinar, like poster designing, registrations, e-mail communication, technical support, designing and issuing of e-certificates, collecting feedback etc. The webinar received overwhelming response, with participants from both UG and PG levels, spread across various disciplines ranging from arts and social work to science and commerce registering for the same.

The resource person focussed on the following areas during her presentation:

1. Features of Technical Writing,
2. Essential Language Skills for Technical Writing,
3. Analysing Sample Excerpts and
4. Technical Writing as a Career

The content of the webinar was therefore exhaustive and the samples aided better understanding. The participants’ comprehension was also assessed by means of a quiz in which their performance was commendable.

At the close of the session, the participants’ feedback was collected via a Google form designed for the purpose. They were asked to offer their responses regarding the content, the resource person, the duration allotted, the learning experience and the possibility of future association with similar initiatives. A consolidation of the same is given below:

1. On a linear scale rating, 97.6% of the participants either strongly agreed (49.7%) or agreed (47.9%) that the session met their expectations.
2. On a linear scale rating, 98.8% of the participants either strongly agreed (52.7%) or agreed (46.1%) that the content was informative and beneficial.
3. A vast majority of the participants strongly agreed that the resource person had good subject knowledge, had applied updated information and consistently retained their interest and had good communication skills. The quality of the presentation was also rated very high.
4. 98.8% of the participants agreed that the duration allotted for the webinar was sufficient to cover the thrust areas.
5. The participants opined that their major takeaway from the webinar was an effective understanding of all aspects of technical writing and the skills required for the same. The webinar also opened up new opportunities and avenues and offered the motivation to pursue it as a career.
6. Almost all the participants expressed their willingness to join future sessions organized by the department, with 58.7% showing interest in a session on creative writing.

E-certificates were issued to the participants by 9 June 2020. The webinar was a successful endeavour and has given the department the impetus to organise many more events in the future.