

Department of Women Education
In Collaboration with
Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies
Organises
Two-Day National Conference
On
Women Writing and Literary Cultures in Urdu and the Deccan:
Contemporary Perspectives
Report

**Anveshi**
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
in collaboration with
Department of Women Education,
Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad
&
Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana
organizes
Two-Day National Conference on
"Women Writing and Literary Cultures in Urdu and the Deccan:
Contemporary Perspectives"
10 – 11 October 2023 (10.30am – 5.30pm)
S. H. Library Auditorium, MANUU, Gachibowli, Hyderabad

اردو اور دکن میں خواتین کی تحریریں و ادبی ثقافتیں: عصری منظر نامہ

وقت: 10:30AM -- 12:00PM افتتاحی اجلاس

سدارت : **پروفیسر سید عین الحسن**، وائس چانسلر مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی

مہمان خصوصی : **شری مامیڈی ہری کرشنا**، ڈائریکٹر پارٹننگ آف لنگویج اینڈ گنر، گورنمنٹ آف تلنگانہ

مہمانان اعزازی : **پروفیسر سوزی تھارو**، سابق پروفیسر ڈپارٹمنٹ آف کلچرل اسٹڈیز، انقلو، حیدرآباد

ڈاکٹر کے۔ **للیتا**، ایڈیٹور ریسرچ، ٹرانسلٹیو، قلم نیک، حیدرآباد

کلیدی شہید : **پروفیسر شہناز می**، سابق پروفیسر ڈپارٹمنٹ آف اردو، ڈائریکٹر اقبال چیمبر، کلکتہ یونیورسٹی

آپہ تمام سے شرکت کی درخواست ہے

ڈاکٹر اسماعیل شہید
(سکرٹری انویسٹی)

پروفیسر آتشین
(صدر شعبہ تعلیم نسواں)

Two days National conference on "Women's Writing and literary cultures in Urdu and the Deccan: Contemporary perspectives" was organised by Department of Women Education, MANUU, in collaboration with Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies on 10th & 11th October, 2023.

The conference brought together scholars, writers, and enthusiasts to explore the dynamic contemporary perspectives of women's contributions to Urdu literature and to celebrate the rich literary contributions of women through literature. In the two day national conference the inaugural session began at Syed Hamid Library auditorium MANUU. Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor, MANUU, delivered Special address and expressed that the role of women in Urdu literature and language in India has been significant and influential throughout history. Women have made notable contributions to the development and enrichment of Urdu literature and language in various ways. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping the literary

landscape, enriching the language, and championing important social and cultural causes. He highlighted women's contributions in Urdu poetry and literature are not just limited to the words they penned; they have also been trailblazers, breaking barriers and challenging societal norms. Women have been fearless advocates for change, and their works reflect the diverse experiences, perspectives, and emotions of humanity.

Prof. Shahnaz Nabi former Chairperson of Urdu Department and Director Iqbal Chair, University of Calcutta delivered her keynote address that sounds like a fascinating and significant subject for discussion. Her insights would have undoubtedly enriched the conference and provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the contemporary dynamics of women's literary contributions in the Urdu language. She provided valuable insights into the contemporary perspectives on women's writing and literary cultures, and discussed the historical contributions of women writers in Urdu and the Deccan and their impact on literature and culture. Further she analyzed how women's writing in Urdu has evolved in contemporary times, including the themes, styles, and issues that are currently being explored. Prof. Ashraf Rafi, former Chair person of Urdu Department, Osmania University, participated as a chief guest. In her address, she highlighted about the great culture of the Deccan state and paid tribute to the Urdu achievements of women and appreciated the organization of the conference on an important topic. While as Guest of Honour, Prof. Susi Tharo, former chair person, Department of Cultural Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad, sent a video recorded message on women's role in Urdu literature.

In the beginning, Prof. Ameena Tahseen, Head Department of Women Education, delivered a lecture. She gave a brief outline of the contemporary trends of women's Urdu writings and drew attention to the importance of women's literature. She dedicated to the exploration and celebration of the rich literary traditions shaped by women writers in the Urdu language. On this occasion, Dr. Asma Rasheed, Associate Professor, Department of English, EFLU secretary Anveshi Research Center, delivered a complete introduction and highlighted aims and objectives of the conference. Convenor Dr. Shabana Kesar, Assistant Professor, Department of Women Education conducted the proceedings of the conference. This conference was attended by delegates from all corners of India, and they presented papers on a different themes.

The first session of the conference was held under the title “Novel writing and women in Urdu: A review”. Prof. SarwatKhan, Visiting Professor, J. A. Rane, Rajasthan, Vidya Peth, Udaipur (Rajasthan), Fiction Writer and Critic, presented a brief paper on women's Urdu novels and among other features of women's novels as well as their contemporaries. They discussed as contemporary voices of women whose works have reshaped the narrative of Urdu literature. The session offered a comprehensive review of the unique contributions of women authors to the world of Urdu Novels. They highlighted how the novels penned by women in Urdu have had a profound impact on society and the evolution of Urdu literature. Their comments and insights on women writings were more relevance in the theme. The session was Chaired by Prof. NaseemuddinFareesand described women's novels as a thorough reflection of social life.

The second technical session was chaired by Prof. Ashraf Rafi, Former Chairperson, Department of Urdu, Osmania University. In this session, three speakers - Dr. ArshiaJabeen (Urdu Department, University of Hyderabad), Dr. NooriKhatun (HOD of Urdu Department, MahilaVasavadyalayam) and Dr. RafiaSalim (Urdu Department, University of Hyderabad) presented the paper titled “Genre & Gender in Urdu: Some Aspects”. Speakers highlighted the ground-breaking works of female poets and the remarkable feminist prose in the 20th century. These presentations underscored the enduring and influential presence of women in Urdu literature. The discussions centered on how women writers have used their literary prowess to challenge societal norms, advocate for gender equality, and address issues of patriarchy. The convenor of this session Dr. BibiRazaKhatun organised the session. The third session of the conference, titled "Literary, Socio-Cultural Contexts of the Deccan, and Women's Writing," provided a profound exploration of the intricate relationship between the literary and socio-cultural contexts of the Deccan region and the contributions of women writers. In this session, Dr. GulRana (Chairperson of Urdu Department, Telangana University), Dr. BibiRazaKhatun (Urdu Department, MANUU), Dr. Humaira Sayeed (Principal, Government Degree College for Women, Zaheerabad), Dr. AtiyaMujeebArifi (Government Girls High School, Hyderabad) and Professor AzizBanu (Dean of the Department of Linguistics and Al-Sunnah), provided a comprehensive review of the remarkable contributions of women writers from the Urdu literature and Deccan region, within the backdrop of their unique socio-cultural and political contexts. They showcased the depth of their engagement with regional heritage and linguistic diversity,

further enhancing the diversity and richness of Urdu literature. Prof. ShaughftaShaheen, Head, Department of English, MANUU, chaired the session and Mrs. RafiaNausheen, Writer, Counselor, Social Activist was in charge of the session.

The fourth session was held on the second day of the conference. The guest speaker of this technical session was Ms. HumaKhalil (Editor, Translator, Filmmaker, Archivist), who spoke on the topic "Women's Writings: Archives and Anthologies."She presented a paper and sheds light on the importance of creating and maintaining archives of women's writings. She highlighted the importance of recognizing the challenges and triumphs of these efforts and the role they play in preserving cultural heritage. This session was chaired by Dr. AsmaRasheed.

Fifth session of the conference, titled "Translation and Women's Writing in Urdu, "Speakers Professor ShaghutaShaheen, Ms. HumaKidwai (Writer, Translator) and Ms. Purnima Tami Reddy (Writer, Translator, Publisher, Bangalore) focused on the significance of translation in disseminating women's writings in Urdu. Prof AminaKishore chaired the session and expression gratitude of the session. Dr. Ayesha Uzma performed the duty as a convenor of the session The sixth session was based on a panel discussion titled Women Writing in Urdu: Feminist Scholarship and Research Focus". Prof. ShahnazNabiSahiba, Prof. Sarwat Khan and Dr. ShefaliJha (Faculty, DhirubhaiAmbani Institute of Information and Communication, Ahmedabad) participated in the discussion. While the moderator of this discussion was Prof. AmeenaTahseen. The moderator provided an overview of the key discussions, themes, and insights shared of this interesting session. She discussed various questions regarding feminist research and criticism in Urdu. The panelists discussed the need for continued exploration and analysis of women's writing in Urdu to keep pace with evolving gender dynamics. Recently there has been a positive change with regards to research and criticism on women's literature in Urdu, but not much attention is paid to contemporary women's literature. For criticism, the young generation of scholars was advised to study various subjects as well as think theoretical perspective. The panel discussion session concluded with a forward-looking perspective, highlighting the importance of nurturing feminist scholarship and supporting research in this field. The 7th session of the conference "Translation, archives and women writing in urdu", Dr. Ahmad Khan (Centre for Cultural Studies, MANUU), Dr. Kahkshan Latif (Department of Translation, MANUU) and Dr. C. Yamini, Krishna (FLAME University, Pune) presented their papers in this session. The speakers presented research papers on various genres of literature,

especially the importance of preserving women's oral literature and writings. Dr. Shabana Kesar performed the duty of organizing this session. In the valedictory session, Prof. Ismat Mehdi (Former Chairperson of Arabic Department EFLU) participated as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Udhish Rani (Expert in Vershin Language and Translator) participated as the Guest of Honor and Prof. Rama Malkote (Former Chairperson, Center for Area Studies, Osmania University) was participated as a chairperson. These eminent speakers expressed their views on language, literature and women's writings in the social and cultural background of India and expressed gratitude to the organizers for conducting a much needed conference. In the closing session, Prof. Ameena Tahseen presented a comprehensive report of the two-day national conference. Dr. Asma Rasheed began the proceedings and announced the end of the conference with vote of thanks. The two-day conference was attended by a large number of delegates from various states, teachers, research scholars and students

Few glimpses of the Two day National Conference:





**(Prof.Ameena Tahseen)
Head, DWE-MANUU**