

Shyama Prasad Mukherji College (For Women)

Report on English Remedial Classes 2017-18

The Department of English continued the course in Remedial English that it offers for college students during January to May 2018. The course was designed to help those students of the college who wished to improve their basic English language skills (writing, speaking and listening). The classes were scheduled in a way so as not to clash with regular classes/practicals. They were, therefore, usually scheduled on Wednesday/Friday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m. A total of 26 students applied for the classes from various courses (programme as well as honours). The course was a self-financed one and hence a sum of Rs. 500 per student was charged which was collected last semester. However, the fee was waived off in case of the SC/ST students as well as economically backward students. It was to our great help that our former teacher **Ms. Kusum Virmani**, in the capacity of a resource person, agreed to hold the lectures for the students.

As the purpose of these classes was remedial, the course-work was customized to address the varying levels of English language competencies present in the classroom. There was a conscious attempt to innovate with methods so as to find a way to reach out to these students who have not succeeded in developing comfort with the language in spite of many years of exposure to the language at the school level.

Feedback:

- The student response was encouraging in so far as the necessity of such a remedial course is concerned. There was a general agreement amongst the students that such classes that worked on core English language skills could plug an existing gap in their knowledge and also improve their access to other disciplines where fluency in the language is presumed.
- However, since classes were scheduled in the afternoon slot of 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. students often complained about a class of classes such as practicals etc. The attendance in the course gradually dipped after strong initial participation as students began to turn to exam preparations.