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साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

Meet & Interact with your favourite Children Writer,
Session on
"Challenges before publishing Children's Literature" and
Cultural programme - Azadi Ke Rang Bal Kalakaron Ke Sang

New Delhi, Thursday, 17 November 2022, the seventh day of Sahitya Akademi's Book Fair *Pustakayan* highlighted two literary programmes - *Meet & Interact With Your Favourite Children Writer - Paro Anand* and *Challenges before publishing Children's Literature* - Discussion and Readings followed by a cultural programme. The first programme with renowned children's writer in English, Paro Anand, who started with a question answer session and also read one of her stories which greatly enthused children. While recalling her school days, she responded as to how she became a writer when she first realized her ability to imagine and tell stories. She said writing is an act of flowing of ideas – some times very fast and on occasions, very slow. To aspire something one has to be honest in his efforts. To be authentic one need to imagine the character truly and immerse in it fully. She further said that a story is a product of creativity, imagination, ambition and aspiration but as a writer there is some social responsibility which should be reflected in his writings by way of discouraging social evils and curbing blind faith besides imparting moral teachings to the children. The session saw a lot of excitement among the children and others.

The second programme had discussions and readings on "Challenges before publishing Children's Literature" in which the speakers were eminent children writers - Manjulluri Krishna Kumari, Chandana Dutta, Balram, Pankaj Chaturvedi and Sushil Shukla. Speaking on the topic, Manjulluri Krishna Kumari talked about some of the key challenges being faced in publishing children's literature. She said children don't have access to books because of proper circulaion, they don't have time to read books other than their curriculum books. On the other side, authors need to have proper contents for their books which is relevant today and having suitable illustrations with their poems and stories. She emphasised that we should inculcate reading habit among children. Chandana Dutta who had much experience in organizing many workshops for children, said that writing for children demands both passion and devotion. Books for children are not meant for imparting information only, they must be produced to arouse interest in children to read more such books. There is scope for lot more to happen in this area. There are so many children who can't afford to buy books for which, we may have common space where these children can read books. While expressing his view on the subject, Balram said that children writers need to think in the changed scenario where technology is playing a major role in almost every field. The space for children's column is shrinking in newspapers. We must think of bringing out more magazines for children and find ways to deal with the challenges. Pankaj Chaturvedi, currently associated with the National Book Trust, India said that writing for children cannot be taken for granted and the authors must come out of stereo type story writing for children. The illustrations must match with the stories as much as possible and we should make these books easily accessible to children. As the last speaker, Sushil Shukla from *Iktara* publishers said that children writing is a full time job. He said that eminent and established writers in different languages must contribute and write for children also besides their work in other genres. The Session was chaired by Prabhat Kumar, the proprietor of Prabhat Prakashan. He expressed similar views and said that there are too many challenges but we must find out and come up with all possible solutions to deal with these challenges. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi welcomed the speakers with a packet of books and angvastram and also briefly introduced them in the beginning of the programme.


(K. Sreenivasarao)