

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Department of History

Prof. Rajendran Endowment Lecture

by Dr. A. R Venkatachalapathy

The Department of History organized the Prof. Rajendran Endowment Lecture in Lawrence Sundaram Hall, on 7th December, 2017 from 11:30 a.m to 1:15 p.m. Dr. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Professor, Madras Institute for Development Studies, Adyar, Chennai delivered the lecture on “BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY”. The lecture was began with a prayer song. Dr. L. Selvanathan, Head, Department of History welcomed the gathering.



Prayer Song- Department Choir



Welcome Address- Dr. L. Selvanathan

Rev. Dr. Arockiasamy Xavier, Principal, Loyola College and Dr. Fatima Vasanth, Deputy Principal, Loyola College felicitated. Dr. V. Yesubhakthan, Co- Ordinator (Shift II) honoured the speaker with a shawl and Mr. R. Suvendhar, I M.A (Shift II) presented a memento. Dr. A. Arputha Selvi, President, History Association (Shift I) introduced the speaker.

Felicitation



Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier S.J.



Dr. Fatima Vasanth



*Presenting Shawl
Dr. V. Yesubhakthan*



*Presenting Memento
Mr. R. Suvendhar I M.A (Shift II)*



*Introducing the Chief Guest
Dr. A. Arputha Selvi*



*Chief Guest Address
Dr. A.R. Venkatachalapathy*

The lecture began with a controversy raised by T.M Krishna in his article about M.S. Subbulakshmi. He highlighted the struggles she had faced throughout her career because of her family and social background. Dr. Venkatachalapathy went on to talk about Mahatma Gandhi and the simple life he led and eventually became the Father of the Nation.

Dr. Venkatachalapathy spoke that, if not the train incident of South Africa, we may have never seen Gandhi who lead India to freedom. He also spoke about how M.S. Subbulakshmi, who came from the Devadasi community, went on to perform at the UN General Assembly, despite all the hardships she faced. Through these examples, Dr. Venkatachalapathy highlighted how certain incidents shape the destiny of an individual. He also explained how a biography is not the method to find out a person's place of birth, but it means a critical analysis of that certain individual through their memoirs.



Dr. Venkatachalapathy then explained the difference between biographies of the West and its Indian counterparts. He stated that Indians tend to look at these famous personalities, less like human, and more like at the status of the Almighty. This is the reason why Indian biographies are not very honest as compared to its Western counterparts. He went on to complement Gandhi's 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth' and called it as one of the most honest pieces of literature in India.

Through the lecture, Dr. Venkatachalapathy made sure that there was interaction between himself and the audience which made the lecture interesting to all. Overall, the lecture was enlightening and gave the students a new perspective on biography writing.

Students Interaction



Mr. Siva Shankar I B.A (Shift I)



Mr. Vidyadharan III B.A (Shift I)



Mr. Balaji I B.A (Shift I)

The lecture went on for about an hour. It was an interesting talk which threw art of glimpses to the biography and clearly defined the relevance of biography in history. The lecture gave a new insight of History. Dr. Chalapathy responded to a series of questions posed by the audience and our students.



*Student Response
Mr. George Varghese II B.A (Shift I)*



*Vote of Thanks
Dr. Louis Mushary*

Master of Ceremony



Mr. M. Abishek Joseph III B.A (Shift I)



Mr. Kannu Vigneshwar II M.A (Shift II)

Mr. George Varghese of II B.A History gave the student response. Dr. Louis Mushary, President, History Association (Shift II) proposed the vote of thanks and the session ended with the singing of National Anthem. The Masters of Ceremony were Mr. M. Abishek Joseph III B.A (Shift I) and Mr. Kannu Vigneshwar II M.A (Shift II).