

## **How to Write an Educational Autobiography**

An enlightening workshop on writing an autobiography was scheduled in our college which was a blessing in disguise for all of us as it changed the way we thought about pursuing a course and procuring a degree. This ray of hope and light was showered upon us by DrVandanaSaxena, Professor at CIE, Delhi University. She told us how important it is to look back upon what we have achieved till date and what are our strengths and weaknesses through those experiences. Whether the path we chose was right or proved to be disastrous for us. And all these probably are the reasons one must know how to write an educational autobiography.

She further guided us that an educational autobiography not necessarily mean only jotting down the educational qualifications one has bagged till date or just writing the names of the degrees procured or courses completed but the moments of introspection hidden in these details. DrSaxena mentioned a very interesting fact that while writing an educational autobiography we must also include negative experiences as they teach us precisely what we must learn. One should also include family members, peers and other people who in some way or the other have helped us reaching our goal or wherever we are today and have been an influential part of our journey.

Further stating the importance of an educational autobiography she mentioned that it expands our vision & defines the goals of our lives. It gives our goals a meaning and a direction to achieve them. We were also informed how western culture is influencing our lives and choices of career these days. She also shared her life experiences as to how children these days know all about Harry Potter, a western fiction and not Chandra Kanta, a popular Indian fiction. This also states importance of writing an educational autobiography which orients the perspective behind pursuing a course. This also provides others a different perspective to live and reach his/her goals. There are no hard and fast rules for writing an educational autobiography, but a good educational autobiography may be written through the following steps:

### **1. Planning**

During planning one should define the purpose and goals, choose a topic, and make a draft. One should always consider who will be reading the paper and what the audience expects to see in the text. After this, start generating ideas for the essay – try to use different techniques like questioning, free writing, listing or clustering to find inspiration.

### **2. Writing**

Draft the paper based on the outline. Introduction should start with a memorable and eye-catching sentence that would immediately take the reader inside the story while stating its main idea.

### **3. Polishing the Paper**

After writing the text, read it to see what mistakes should be fixed and what things can be improved.