

Writing as Resistance: An Invited Lecture

Writing as Resistance: An Invited Lecture was organised for Forum for Academic Excellence (FAX), Department of English on December 17, 2022. The Outlook-Picador Award winning Tibetan poet, **Tenzin Tsundue** visited Loyola College, Chennai not only to renew his bondage with his Alma mater but to sensitise the staff and students on the importance of writing as well. For him, writing is a resistance to the power that puts down the common man and denies his very existence; writing is a history to record the unheard and untold voices; writing is the source of existence and survival; and writing is the means to attain freedom for his country. He said that “globalization and consumerism make human beings as products. Therefore, there is a reason to resist. The best way one can resist the stereotypical representations is by writing”. He added that poetry touches the heart and changes the mind. Writing, more than an expression, is understanding, making sense of things. Writing halts us in the moment of flow and blind acceptance, makes us think again, reflect and review. In the era of globalization such an exercise is the first personal act of resistance by a man's conscience against blind consumerism. For Tenzin, the process of writing undergoes three intrinsic stages: observation, change of perspective and articulation. As a writer, it is the journey that he loved to share and he illustrated the truth by reading some of his own poems.

Introducing the speaker, **Dr. K.S. Antonysamy** said that Tenzin is a story of ‘rags-to-riches’ indicating the phenomenal transformation that he has undergone from a student who was toiling to learn the language to a mature poet now. Finally, the students got vital clues to become passionate writers in their interaction with him. The staff coordinators, **Dr. I. Felicita Mary Praba**, **Dr. N. Preethi Shanthi** and student volunteers were instrumental in conducting it as the routine event of FAX.