

“Just learning to think in another language allows you to see your own culture in a better viewpoint.”

-Gates McFadden

I have always been drawn towards English language. At an early age I developed the habit of reading books. So much was I interested in the literature of English language, that I pursued my **Honours** degree, and subsequently my **Master's degree** in it. English is mostly used in publishing books, making films, music and multiple media of information. In this digital age, most of the information available to us on the internet is also in English. Therefore, availability and presentation of information in an English medium not only tangibly influences the way people think, rather even the outlook of the current and forthcoming societies (and eventually subsequent generations) is shaped. My university years were a great learning experience for me as they showed me an altogether different world. Charles Dickens' "Hard Times" which surveys English society, satirises the socio-economic conditions of the era, eventually to bring out the significance **authenticity of information** and **role imagination** as a virtue play in development of societies inspired my spirits. Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" set up in the Regency era in England left a lasting impression on my conscience as two people who nearly hated each other could learn to get along – and eventually even fall in love – if they spent some time trying to know each other, even if by accident. This is something that has always been extremely relevant in the context of our Indian society and the role mass communication and media plays in helping people come together instead of furthering their differences – a phenomenon boosted by the spread of authentic non-partisan information coming from various sources through various social groups. Simply spending time and working with people across the spectrum goes a long way in building bridges, developing a sense of **empathy** and **unity in diversity** in an organisation, society or even a country. I have been fortunate to read the Indian, British as well as American Literatures. Shakespeare has been an all-time favourite of mine. I have read a lot of plays of Shakespeare, and given course presentations on the same. His "Othello" is a simple case in point as to the extent conspiracy theories can wreak havoc. The **Literary Theory** we were introduced to in our Honours programme was the topic of my research in my post-graduation. Late cultural critic Edward Saïd's groundbreaking text "Orientalism" argues how a dominant European ideology created the notion of the "Orient" (the "East") to subjugate and control it – depicting it as racialized, feminized and uncivilized culture – a myth that can only be dispelled by **self-determination** of our own culture in the form of art, creative texts and depictions, entertainment, and presentation of the singularity of our own culture through various media. The much talked about **Post-structural Feminism** (made mainstream by the famous #MeToo movement) and the perfectly nuanced concept of **Intersectionality** in general are issues that spread like wildfire through information sources like TV, Radio, Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter etc. I wrote numerous articles on such issues as discrimination arising from multiple identities cutting across the lines of intersectionality whilst in my

post-graduation. Intersectionality identifies how interlocking system of power affect those who are most marginalised in society. It began as an exploration of the oppression of women of colour within society, though it has expanded to include many more aspects such as race, class, language, ethnicity, age, etc.

Belief in **equity over-and-above equality** as a means of fair and socially just system has always been the premise of my work. Subsequent to my post-graduation, I started working as an English teacher at a local school designed to cater the educational requirements of children from variegated sections of the society, primarily to extend an olive branch to help such children enter the mainstream and give-back to the society that helped them climb the ladder of success. With Equity in mind, I focused on the weakest of the students (relative to the bright) as a teacher to try and encourage a change at grassroots level.

In this age of post-modernism post-IT revolution, society is largely shaped by the media. What people see around and listen from the sources of information like T.V., radio and social media platforms helps significantly in shaping their opinion. Cinema reflects the society and vice-versa. The **Trickle-down effect of news and information** into the society and masses also behaves accordingly. As a literature student when I opted the subject Adaptation of Literature from print to screen, I analysed lot of television shows, with Game of Thrones being the top-rated. From the power hungry politics to objectification of women, I realised that reading impacted the masses in an intellectual way, whereas watching brought-out an entire gamut of emotions people tend to feel. **Perception Management** is something that is extremely relevant in this era of “fake news”, which is rife to such an extent it can alter the election dynamics of even a country widely regarded as a “superpower”. **Objectivity rather than simple neutrality** in the information broadcasting process needs to be the mantra by which not only various media operate, rather even the upcoming generations stay informed (or as the social media calls it – stay “**woke**”) of the events of national and international significance to continue to safeguard the ethos the founding fathers of our country had envisioned.