

poonam@prathambooks.org

Head of Department,
Media Education Research Centre (MERC),
Kashmir University,
Srinagar.

Dear Mr. Masoodi,

Greetings from Pratham Books!

Writing stories in Urdu and Urdu storytelling have been an age old tradition. From Haali to Zakir Husain Sb. everyone wrote for children and take this tradition forward, we along with Media Education Research Centre (MERC), Kashmir University, Srinagar would like to organize a workshop in Srinagar.

The special quality of Urdu as a language is that it's not bound to any specific place of our country. It is spoken in various parts of India and an amalgamation of various cultures & geographical boundaries. In its syncretic nature lies its true beauty. Which is why the Urdu stories that would have its distinct cultural texture and therefore, would stand out? And even a child sitting in Kerala or Rajasthan would be able to enjoy it.

As you know workshop of this kind needs a lot of planning as well. Therefore, we hope and expect that you will help us in putting together (Srinagar and areas close by) who can be part of our workshop. We also would request you to provide us with a space to hold the workshop, taken care of by Pratham Books. More details are given in the proposal sheet attached to this letter.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest.

Warm regards,
Poonam Girdhani
(Urdu Programme)
&
Rajesh Khar
(Editorial Team)

The Workshop:

This proposed workshop will be held by Pratham Books in association with the Media education Research centre (MERC), Kashmir University, Srinagar. Proposed dates for this workshop are **6th and 7th August 2015**. The workshop will be for two days with a proposed timing of 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The proposed venue is the Kashmir University, Srinagar or a similar venue that is finalized.

The group will spend two days discussing the framework of writing for children, writing, sharing and giving feedback. Four/five resource persons from Pratham Books will conduct this workshop and it is aimed to be an intensive one for widening our horizons regarding writing for children in Urdu. A detailed workshop flow is given separately below.

Pratham Books might finally choose a few of the stories for publication after evaluating their suitability for children and the requirements of its yearly publishing list. As a not for profit, we do not offer royalty but a small one-time payment and we work with open licenses that allow for multiple uses of the books, including digital versions for free download. The chosen scripts will probably get into print in 2016.

Considering that we are a not-for-profit publisher and that we hardly have budget for payments, it has been decided that the participants will be paid rupees 1500 per day inclusive of the local transport cost. Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided on both the days.

The Partnership:

We seek partnership from the Media education Research centre (MERC), Kashmir University, Srinagar to hold this workshop and look forward to a fruitful association. The areas where we seek your support are as under:

- a) A suitable space for holding the workshop in and around Srinagar
- b) A list of Urdu authors that your department deems fit to participate in this workshop with their contact details (Pratham Books will also develop a list and then invite 24 authors based on these lists.)
- c) Help with sending out letters to participants
- d) Help with local vendors/supplier for food etc.
- e) Help with the venue management for the duration of the workshop (because it will be on your premises.)
- f) Inviting some local press/media for coverage
- g) Inviting some literary figure of prominence, if required

Pratham Books will look after the following:

- 1) Prepare the final list of participants in consultation with you
- 2) Conduct the workshop
- 3) Provide lunch and tea to the participants through a vendor finalized with help from your department
- 4) Provide for travel and boarding & lodging for the resource persons
- 5) Provide for one night stay to the participants coming from distances beyond an everyday commute. We will also provide for their breakfast and one dinner apart from the workshop lunch and tea
- 6) Pay an honorarium to the participants @ rupees 1500/- per day inclusive of local travel expense