

BOOK READING EVENT

BRIEF REPORT

On Thursday, 7th November 2019, Archives, DAP-NED hosted a 'Book Reading' event. The program started at 2 pm with recitation of holy Quran by Second year Architecture student, Hafiz Sarmad Khan. Afterwards a welcome note was presented by Ms. Saadia Bano, event convener.

The event schedule is divided into two reading sessions by Mr. Mansoor Raza and Dr. Asif Aslam Farrukhi. Firstly, Mr. Mansoor Raza, faculty member at Development studies program started the book reading session. He read two of his short stories (*afsana*) - *Paan wala* and *Ast-Khan*, published in 1989 and 2013 respectively. Both the short stories were revolving around the socio-economics situations of Karachi. *Paan wala* was about the socio-political unrest in Karachi during period of 1980's. This dramatic reading session reflected upon the hardships of Karachi dwellers in political crises. The second short story *Ast-Khan* is about a little rick-picking boy, a middle income family and their relationship. This is a heart stirring story of food sustenance for under-privileged class. Both readings were followed by discussion and question/answer session.

Later on, Dr. Asif Aslam Farrukhi joined along with students from Habib University, Karachi. Dr. Farrukhi is currently a faculty member at Habib University and an accomplished writer. He is famous for his short stories and essays as well as translations of modern and classical writer's publications. For his unique work, he was awarded the Prime Minister's Literary Award by the Pakistan Academy of Letters in 1997 and the *Tamgha-i-Imtiaz* by the Government of Pakistan. Dr. Farrukhi honored the students by reading two of his short stories - *Hatmi Sifarishat* and *Samandar ki chori*. Both stories were brilliantly crafted with an amazing synchronization of metaphors, which provoked the listeners to question the society and lifestyle around them. *Hatmi sifarishat* circles around the idea of separation of a particular region in Karachi. *Samandar ki chori*, on the other hand depicted the reaction of *Karachiites* when one day they found out that the Arabian Sea was stolen. Both made the audience feel as if they were the part of these stories as they were about Karachi, and *Karachiites*. After the readings a discussion session was held, where students discussed, what they been able to interpret from readings and got their queries solved. The session ended by vote of thanks by Ms. Ambreen Alwani, event convener and presentation of a token of gratitude to Dr. Farrukhi by Archives Advisor, Ms. Fariha Amjad Ubaid.



