

# Scientific journey of Science Slam

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## ABSTRACT

Slam, needs and development of slam, effective means of communication, experience in Euraxess

**Keywords:** Science, Slam, Presentation, Communication, Time Bound Frame, Experiences, Scientific Thinking And Understanding.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Science—the interdisciplinary fascinating subject needs a new dimension for creating a good impact in the society. The scientific concepts in it generates curiosity and are ever evolving and changing. Teaching and learning of science directly empowers the scientific temper. Science thrives near and far with respect to communication. More the effective communication, thriving of science becomes quicker, richer in various zones and boosts connectivity.<sup>1</sup> To understand the subject and to make others understand it requires creativity and good collaboration. It is a challenging task and is made easier by effective communication techniques.

**Slam** is considered to be a subset of science communication and invariably increases the public understanding of science. Slam is a form of science communication or a scientific talk to be done in clear, concise, vivid manner that has specific time bound frame of 10 minutes. Slam provides mutual benefits for science and the society greatly. It's the process of critical skill of scientific learning in an amusing and amazing manner. The focus lies on teaching science related concepts in an entertaining way to a diversified audience. It becomes an essential tool for scientific ideas to cherish flourish and to

propagate and a means of development of science education.<sup>2</sup>

**Science Slam** is one of the biggest challenge and is one of the best practices of Science communication done in a scientific platform and it invariably narrows the bridge gap between the researcher and the layman. Slam could be a part of the core professional skills that a science student and the researcher should have. Science communicators can involve techniques in any form of entertainment like singing, role play, tapping the feet, humour, story telling, usage of metaphors to improve their communication skills<sup>3</sup>. Slam indirectly could be a means of direct scale of measuring and enhancing the professional skills of a researcher. It involves associated skills with basics of effective communication and has now recently gained more prominence in the recent years<sup>4</sup>.

I would like to share my experience as **ALL INDIA FINALIST** in the recently concluded **5th EURAXESS Science Slam**<sup>5</sup> event in Calcutta on 8-12-2017. Participation in Science Slam personally to me, it meant scientific learning in an amazing and amusing manner. The EURAXESS Science Slam India is a competition open to all career levels researchers starting with MA/M.Sc. candidates

(research-based or mixed) - from universities, research institutes, private sector or related careers, in all fields of research including Social Sciences and

Humanities, Life Sciences and Engineering, of any nationality and age (18+) who are based in India.

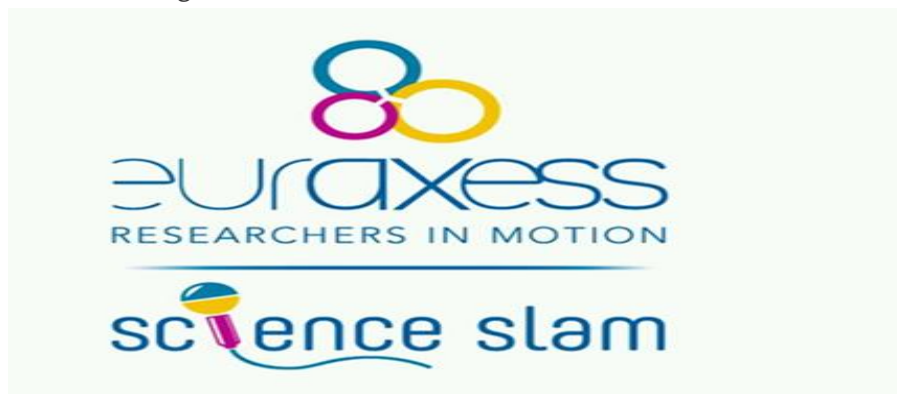


Figure 1

The competition had **two stages**: (i) the 'Virtual' Pre-selection (online) where candidates submitted a short video in a creative, entertaining and accessible way; and (ii) the 'Live' Finals where the finalists did perform in front of the review panel and a mixed audience who chose the winner. Translating scientific observations, conclusions, results, and recommendations into language easily understood by the audience was indeed a critical skill for all slammers. We were given one day training in communication skills by Chai and Why – Arnab Bhattacharya from TIFR, Mumbai and designing visual science communication by Leslee Lazar, IIT, Gandhinagar.<sup>6</sup>

Such events made invariably all the science lovers to respect science even more and transfer the skill of scientific thinking and processing. The participation made me get enriched with more scientific learning and could meet many science lovers and researchers. <sup>7</sup> Precisely, the statistical significance of science communication as a positive ethical area of development of science education will be felt globally when the presentations get uploaded in YouTube shortly .

The prize winner, Priyanka Dasgupta was privileged to win a free round trip to Europe.



Figure 2

Of course, communication of scientific information were made to spread faster through various mass medias. Science slam definitely had the aesthetic

appeal of popularizing science and was found to increase the impact of science in multiple dimensions.<sup>8</sup>



Figure 3

## II. CONCLUSIONS

Science slam can empower individuals with scientific knowledge, creativity, and can enhance the capacity of the science communication skill thus making the country of science lovers more emergent and mightier than she ever was.

## III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to Principal, HoD, Ainhitze-Country representative, Euraxess, my students and my family members for their constant support in this participation of Science awareness mega event thus making the journey of communication even more enjoyable and effective.

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