



## **KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS MAPPING PLATFORM**

KNOWLEDGE SESSION 2024: EPISODE 51

**Topic:** Exploring Science and Changing Lives: My Story to Inspire You

Category: Scientific & Life Skills Speakers/Presenters: Dr. Somdatta Karak

## Overview:

The 51st knowledge-sharing session organized by KAMP on May 9th, 2024, focused on the theme "Exploring Science and Changing Lives: My Story to Inspire You". Over 250 students from various schools in India attended the event, aiming to understand the significance of science in our lives. Mr. Aniket Arora chaired the session, featuring Dr. Somdatta Karak, a science communicator with a passion for making science accessible to all.

Dr. Karak shared her journey, tracing her interest in science back to her roots in a farmer family and her connection with plants. She emphasized the importance of scientific temperament in today's world, which fosters rational thinking and satisfies curiosity. However, she highlighted the shortcomings of the Indian education system in nurturing scientific curiosity among students, attributing it to reliance on textbooks and teachers rather than encouraging independent research.



Identifying reasons such as textbook limitations, language barriers, and a lack of practical experience, Dr. Karak stressed the need for more laboratories, experimental apparatus, and trained teachers to enhance science education in India. She advocated for a shift from rote memorization to understanding the principles behind research, emphasizing the importance of scientific methodology and evidence-based learning.

To address these challenges, Dr. Karak developed innovative educational materials, including comics, syllabi, and study guides, collaborating with visual artists to make them engaging and accessible. She adapted these materials for both print and online formats, particularly benefiting students in rural areas. Post-COVID, she digitalized the materials, including animations, to

further facilitate learning for students and teachers alike. Through her work, Dr. Karak aims to inspire curiosity and change perceptions about science, making it more engaging and understandable for all.



KAMP's fortnightly workshops aim to help students develop creativity, meaningful learning, and critical reading and thinking skills, bringing out their inherent abilities. The vision of KAMP is to identify and capture the Scientific and Technological temperament in students, contributing to making India a Global Leader in the fields of science, technology, and the humanities.

These workshops, conducted by KAMP, cover various topics falling under the categories of science, technology, and innovation, Scientific and Life Skills, Career and Professional Development, Academic development, and training trainers and teachers.

KAMP believes that exposure to such topics from experts within specific fields helps students become aware of real-life situations and challenges, develop a problem-solving nature, understand their core values and personal interests, evaluate their skills within the given area, and achieve their best in their most desirable way.

## Organized By:

Knowledge and Awareness Mapping Platform (KAMP Operations and Coordination Office)

**Moderated By:** 

Mr. Aniket Arora

(Outreach Coordinator, KAMP)

**Team Credits:** 

Ms. Arika Mathur (Member, KPMC)