

# Government Degree College Jakhini Varanasi

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## Biography

Biography is an elaborate description of a particular person's life. It is made up of two words "bio" means life and "graphy" means to write. Biography includes the description of a person's life from birth to death or his current age at the time of writing his or her biography. Biography also includes a person's experience, viewpoint, his temperament, his beliefs and all the other elements that combines to make a person's character. Biography Unlike the autobiography is written by a person about the life of some other person with that person's permission or with the permission of his/her close relatives. It is written with the collected facts of a person's life with a ting of fiction.

The biographical work which exerted its influence as a piece of literary work is James Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson* published in 1791. This work made the biography as a popular genre.

Another example of biography is the biography of Swami Vivekananda- *Vivekananda: A Biography* written by Swami Nikhilananda in the year 1943.

A mathematician John Nash's biography- *A Beautiful Mind* written by Sylvia Nasar.

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

An Autobiography is the self written documents of a person's life. "Auto" meaning "self", "bio" meaning "life", "graphy" meaning "to writ". An Autobiography is reflective in nature. At a certain point of time in a person's life he/she decides to reflect upon his past experience and life. So when he/she writes about his/her past life, experiences, likes, dislikes, view-points, thought processes etc, it is called an autobiography. It is written by the person himself and sometimes the concerned person dictates his/her life events to someone who helps him to write it.

Captain John Smith's autobiography published in 1630 is widely regarded as the first available autobiography readers.

Another eaxample of autobiography is John Banyan's *Grace Abunding of the Chief of Sinners* 1666.

Mahatma Gandhi's *The Story of My Experiment with the Truth* is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's autobiography.