

Penned Thoughts 2016 Statistics

The Ali Mehdi competition for young writers is gaining ground year after year, and there is a noticeable progress in the quality and the number of entries. 2016 entries far exceed those of 2015, with the short story still being the most popular entry category of all. The highest number of contestants, 80, has been recorded this year, with entries from Muscat remaining the highest, so as entries from female participants.

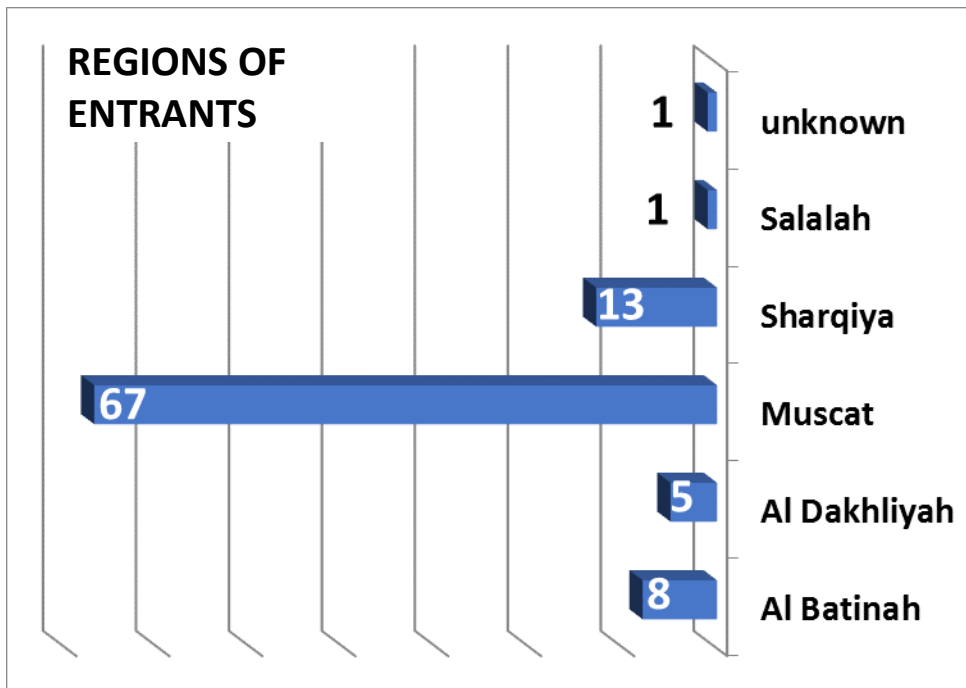


Fig. 1- Muscat government continues to lead in the numbers of entrants reaching a record high of 67 with the Sharqiya originated entrants coming second, followed by Al Batinah with Al Dakhliyah trailing behind

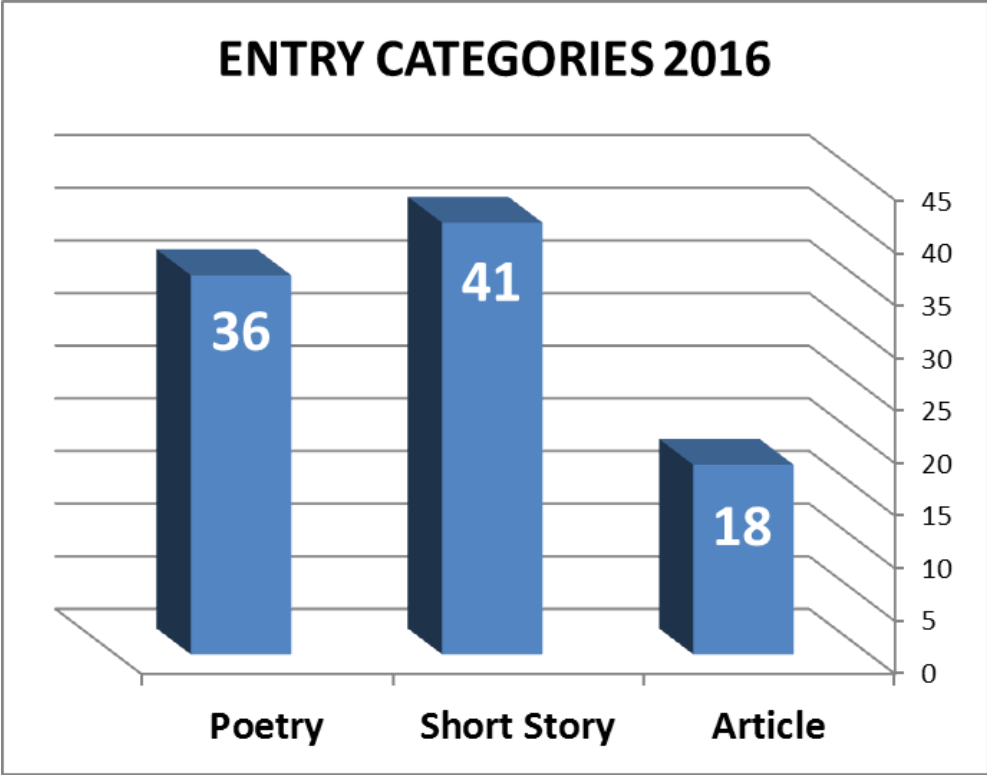


Fig. 2- Short Stories were the dominant genre with 41 (slightly higher than last year). Next is Poetry with 36 entries, substantial leap compare to last year (28 entries) with a slight increase with Articles (18 entries) compared to 14 registered last year

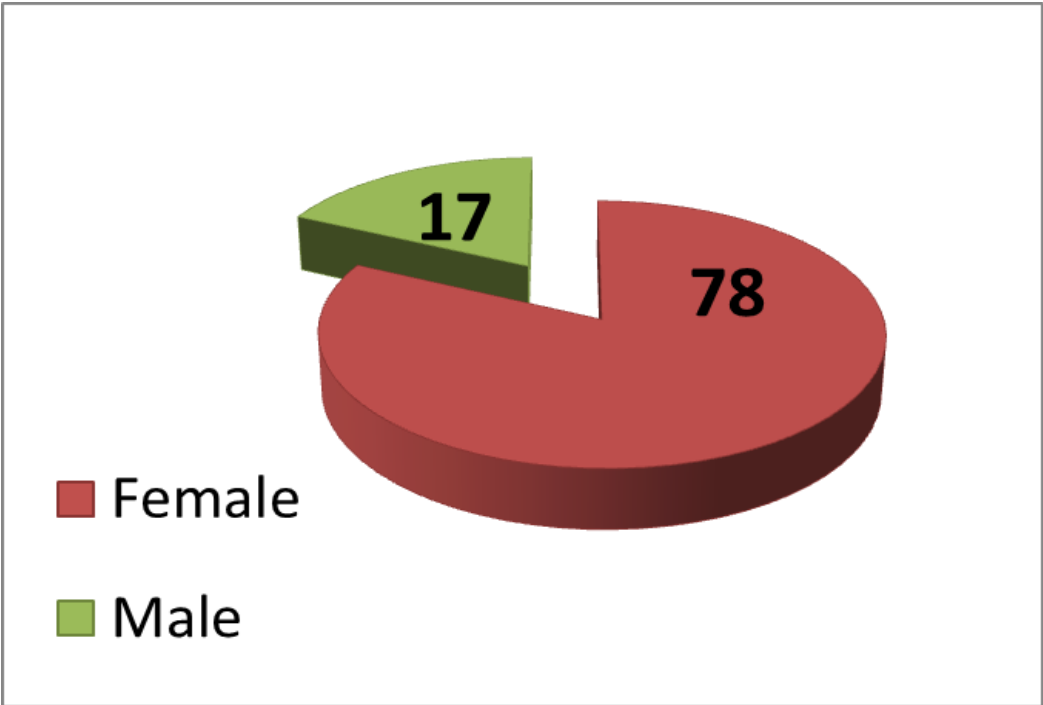


Fig. 3- Female young writers continue to be dominant. 78 in numbers and 82% of the total, while male entrants have demonstrated an increase over the last year and have reached 17 in numbers (18%).

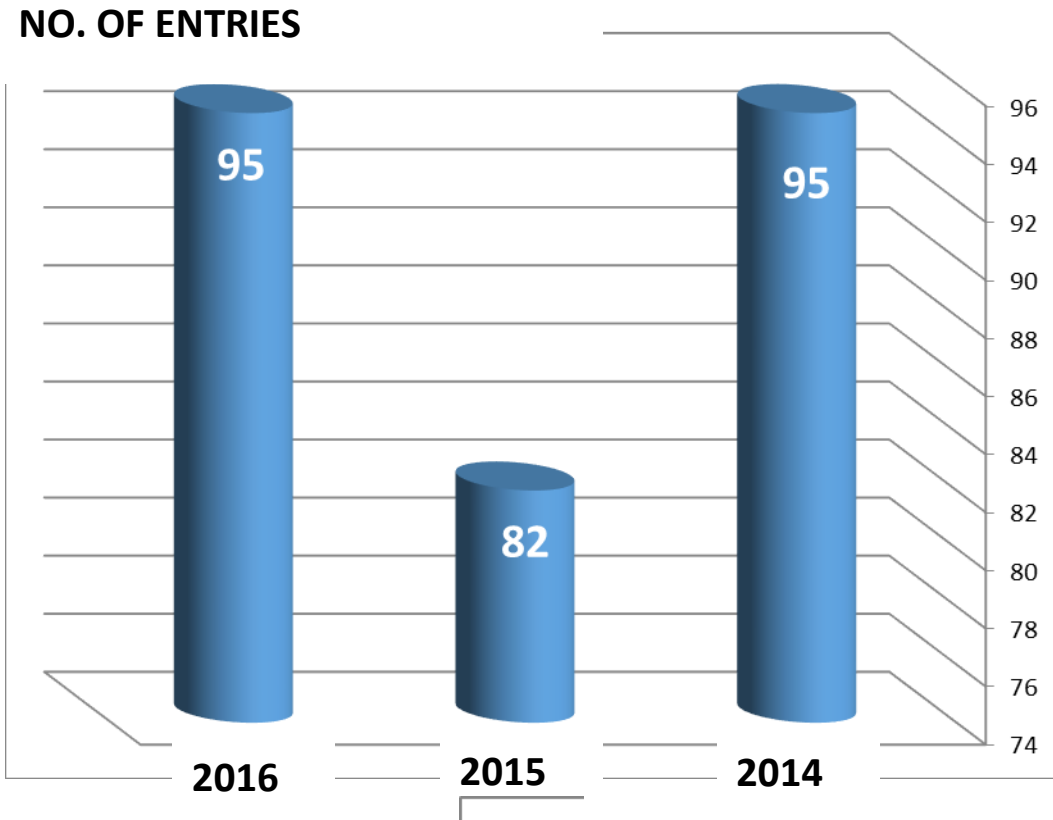


Fig. 4- The total number of entries over the past 3 years remained close.

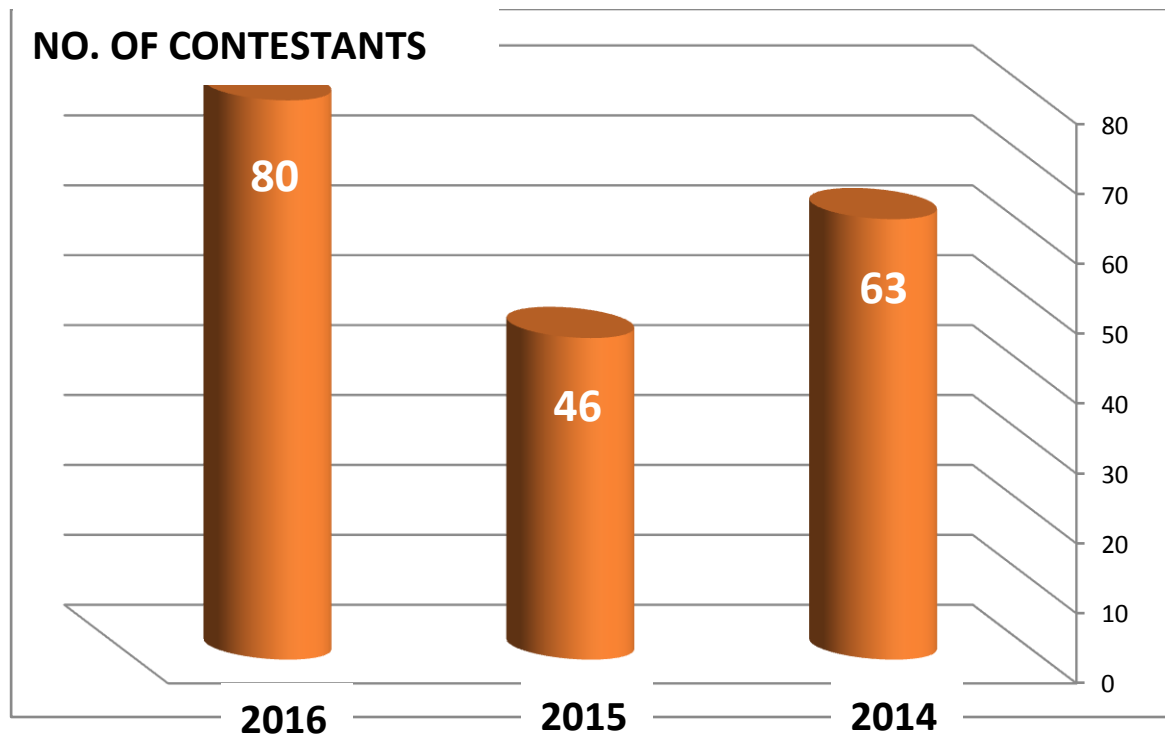


Fig. 5- The total number of contestants has indicated a gradual growth, mainly due to the restrictions imposed by the organisers on the allowed entries per contestant. We have had the highest number in this cycle with 80 contestants, almost doubling the figure from past year.