

Annual XVIII-GPSC Conference - Report

Date : Saturday, 8th February 2020

Venue : The Lemon Tree Hotel, Sector 60, Gurugram.

The meeting was attended by the following:

Ms. Aditi Misra-Director Principal

Ms. Shalini Arora- Headmistress (Middle School)

Ms. Laveena Hemrajani- Headmistress (Junior School)

Ms. Nishi Dhanjal-Senior Mistress (Senior School)

Ms. Shaifali Bhatt-Senior Mistress (Middle School)

Ms. Renuka Fernandes-HOD (Psychology & Counselling Department)

Ms. Bhawna Dhawan-Academic Coordinator (Middle School)

The 21st Century Learning Competencies with the focus on Creative and Critical thinking, Collaboration and Communication, was the theme of the conference. The traditional lighting of the lamp was followed by a dance-drama by the students of Blue Bells Model School, Gurugram which brought the theme of the conference alive.

Mr. Jitender Yadav, IAS Administrator, HSVP Gurugram, was the Chief Guest and Professor M.M.Pant was the Guest of Honour at the conference. Ms. Aparna Erry, the Chairperson, emphasized that the objective of the Council was to bring excellence into education. She spoke of the inter-school competitions and events which were organized throughout the past session to instil in students the confidence and creativity to face a changing and challenging world ahead. The conference Souvenir was released by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Founder and Executive members.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Jitender Yadav, in his address, highlighted the importance of education as it empowers learners. He said purposeful education would make students creative and critical thinkers as well as responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Professor M.M. Pant, kept the audience spellbound as he spoke of the importance of education in a modern time paradigm shift from an era of shortage to an era of abundance. In the age of Artificial Intelligence, teachers need to keep abreast of these rapid changes. Schools need to develop technical learning centres to equip both students and teachers to become cognitive developers thereby creating autonomous and self motivated learners.

GPSC Patron Mr. P.K. Jain, in his address, appreciated the dynamic efforts of the GPSC body in trying to bring all schools of Gurgaon on a common platform of learning and growing together.

Mr. Manish Jain, Assistant Teaching Professor and coordinator IIT Gandhinagar was welcomed after the tea break. The focus of his two hour session on experiential learning was enthralling.

He demonstrated application of principles to make simple, effective self-made tools that would enhance the learning of concepts in Science and Mathematics.

This was followed by an interesting panel discussion on Critical thinking, moderated by Ms. Sandeepa Rai. One of the panelists, Mr. Rajeev Khurana, CEO, The Personel Lab Management Consultancy, reiterated that school culture should be creative for all. He urged us to encourage students to ask questions and to accept individual differences. Parents should take equal responsibility to hone critical thinking skills among their children. Ms. Garima Babbar, Manager Operations, Adobe India emphasized that schools must develop understanding of tools of social collaboration among students. Mr. Sunil Bajaj, Deputy Director and HOD Math, SCERT Haryana said that children must be treated as individuals and not as machines. Independent thinking should be encouraged to enhance creative thinking. Mr. Siddharth Jaitley, CTO at BeSingular, Future Skills,Academy for kids suggested improvised learning leads to critical thinking.

The next panel discussion on collaboration was moderated by Dr. Anshu Arora. It began with Mr. Amod Kanth who was the DGP of Goa and Arunachal Pradesh and is presently working with an NGO 'Prayas' shared his views on the importance of collaboration to achieve success. Major Atul Dev who was a commissioned officer in the Indian Army for twenty one years and is currently a social activist working on Rotary Water Projects in Rajasthan and INTACH Restoration Projects in Gurgaon reiterated that collaboration creates an interactive learning environment. Ms. Meenakshi Oberoi, CEO of De Pedagogics said that teachers must be actively engaged in the teaching-learning process. She emphasized on the importance of collaboration in education to make students ready to face the challenges of the 21st century. She also spoke about the significance of social and emotional development in the students' day-to-day life. Mr. Rakshit Tandon, the custodian of Cyber Security, emphasized that collaboration must be among all stakeholders - parents, students, and the teaching fraternity. According to him, it is essential to teach programming in the formative years. Mr. Ranganath Thota, the CEO of Fueladream.com, said that schools must bridge the gap between parents and students to make the school environment more conducive. His crowd funding initiative has achieved immense success as it encourages students to collaborate in a fun and exciting way. He shared some interesting case studies through collaboration.

The final panel discussion was on Effective Communication which was conducted by Ms. Rashmi Malik. The theme 'Connection before Communication' was well explained by the panelists. Dr. Ashish Sehgal, founder of NLP and a life coach, said that it is important for us to connect with ourselves before we connect with others. Good listening is the key to making a connection to facilitate communication. Ms. Tripti Singh, event planner, social entrepreneur, and founder of Ghoomer said that parents must have a good connect especially in the technically driven society of today. Ms. Anupama Jain, administrator of SeniorSchoolMoms and a well-known blogger, emphasized that happiness is an effective medium of connect. Happy Teachers can make the school a happy place to learn. Ms. Fouzia Dastango, an artist of the 16th Century oral storytelling art, brought out the importance of the mother tongue playing a leading role in the teaching-learning process. It is the superficial touches that spoil the connect.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with a melodious motivational song sung by the choir of Blue Bells Model School, Gurugram. Mr. Sanyam Bhardwaj, Joint Secretary CBSE and controller of examinations was warmly welcomed as the Chief Guest for the valedictory ceremony. He expressed his joy at being at such a gathering and his appreciation for all that GPSC has achieved.

The conference was well attended by the Principals and teachers from various schools across Gurgaon and was a great enriching experience for all who attended.