

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SEC 45 GURGAON

EDUCATOR RENDEZVOUS 2023 REPORT

Date: 2-3 June, 2023 (Residential Education Conference in Goa)

Sustainability in Education

Day 1-

The conference opened with the keynote address by Ms Aditi Misra, Director Principal, Delhi Public School, Sector 45, Gurgaon who set the tone of the conference. She said that education rests on the three pillars of inclusive, equitable and lifelong learning for it to be sustainable. Education for sustainability is an attribute that can be inculcated from the school ecosystem where we have all the stakeholders who may through individual action can become the differentiator and change maker.

Dr Barry Craig in his address talked about the role of universities in building sustainable careers and societies through an interface between the high school education and universities. He stressed on building industry and skills in students for the 21st century careers like automation generator, augmented reality creators, algorithm data analysis etc.

President Meaghan Blight from the Wesleyan University talked about accountability that when each individual becomes responsible for their individual action, they can make the difference. She highlighted the virtues of growth mindset where each person is teachable and a learner as abilities and talents are not innate but can be developed and grown. One can develop mastery through effort and accepting our mistakes is a part of our learning.

Another session by Bhakti Shah was on achieving sustainability in education through inclusion. She talked about inclusion which would identify that 'No One is left behind' from their vantage point to bring in equity and diversity. She also reiterated the developing of skills that will be the future of tomorrow to support and make the world a sustainable and peaceful place which must include all. We can achieve it if inclusive education becomes the mainstream agenda of every educational institution. This would also be facilitated by incorporating the ability to learn from everyone and anyone.

What is your Ikigai? by Shilpa Sengar brought into perspective the intersection of passion, mission, vocation and profession which decoded as a thing, that which we are good at, that which we love, that which the world needs, that which can also be monetized.

Mr Siddhant Shahani from the Atlas Skill University talked about building and creating a sustainable future through technology which will require technology enthusiasts with attributes of being tech savvy and radically ethical but driven by values to solve the problems with a perspective on generating sustainable technology.

Day 2-

The second session focused upon translating the aims of education (economic, social and individual) into action plans. The first was taken up by Mukund Kumar who discussed the mymentor app which maps not only the technical skills of an individual/ student but also the character building skills like critical thinking, analysis, coping with stress etc.

The subsequent session taken by Abhishek Gupta rested and reiterated the theme that visibility bring in greater accessibility that ultimately leads to sustainability, be it about education or a business model. The more space we provide to the youngsters to know better it shall lead to a divergent thinking which will result in creating more opportunities to excel and grow exponentially. He emphasized that the four pillars to achieve true sustainability would be through a concerted Career Guidance programme to make informed decisions, prepare them for future skills to manage not one but more than one career, to teach them digital wellbeing and also inculcate in them the attributes of a global citizen through community awareness aspects.

Santosh Kumar talked about absorbing and accepting AI as the way forward for personalized learning, tutoring, assessments, content creation and curation. He stated that there is a need to redefine learning outcomes, reorient assessments reconsider timelines of learning, define boundaries and provide career advice as the mainstay of the education system which will help align with the AI driven world.

The session by Aditi Khurana was immersive in the way she got all participants energized and enthused to create a palate of a course of meal out of the waste materials that were made available by the resource person. This led to lot of divergent and convergent thinking by all teams as we created the best out of waste. Besides this she invigorated the session through this action work as she subsumed the idea of sustainability with the mundane.

Sahil Aggarwal in his session talked about mastering the mind by citing various snippets from Chanakya who says that sustainability is 'dharma'.

Sukhasya moolam Dharmah

Only that can bring joy and happiness which is sustainable.

Dharmasya moolam Artha

Sustainability rests on 'artha' which means resource, which loosely translates that we cannot build a sustainable society until we have adequate resources for everyone.

Arthasya moolam Rajyam

Here 'rajam' could mean the political, education, social, economic, cultural system, we can't create resources for everyone unless we have good governance.

Rajasya moolam Indriya Jayam

Mastering the mind, we can't have good system until we have control over our senses, that poor governance is a result of people who lose their senses, the mindfulness and become arrogant and ignorant.

Indriya Jayasya moolam Vinayam

So we need to build in 'vinay' humility. Through humility we overcome our mind

Vinayasya moolam Vridha seva

Chanakya says we can serve those who are wise when we are humble.

The next session was conducted by Sanah Bhatt on ways of creating and discerning safe spaces for children by being a responsible change maker as she shared insights into building safe systems through core committees, being updated on different forms of abuse, identifying abuse indicators, reporting protocols and redressal mechanisms.

The last session concluded with a panel discussion which stressed upon sustainability in school eco system which can come through developing systems which are self-sustaining, imbibing practices that are self-sufficient and staying mindful.

