

Workshop to Enrich Teachers

Topic: - Understanding Our Learners

An informative workshop for the teachers of Pallavan School, Jhalawar was conducted on September 29 in which they learnt how a teacher can understand a child's behavior.

This workshop was conducted by renowned and well experienced resource person, Dr. Saroj Thapa. She has done her PhD in special education from the faculty of education and Psychology, University of Geneva. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge gathered during her over 25 years tenure in both school education and higher education in India, China, Switzerland, the US and the UAE. She has also founded an NGO in Dubai Called SAATHI (Society for Awareness and Advocacy towards Holistic inclusion). Presently she is working as Head, teacher development at Universal Learn Today a division of the India Today Group.

First of all a brief introduction was given by her. She interacted with a number of teachers. She encouraged the teachers to work hard and be dynamic according to the needs of the times. This workshop was conducted with the purpose to boost their confidence in the class and to inculcate qualities in themselves and to increase their knowledge.

*Apart from this, the **Theory of Multiple Intelligences** propagated by Howard Gardner was stressed upon. Focusing on the fact that every child is blessed with unique interests and aptitude - Dr Thapa highlighted that the nine types of intelligences could be used to identify a students' strong point. Moving further, Dr Thapa explained **Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive domains** where a classification of learning objectives could help a teacher to decide the method of teaching that is suitable for the class, stressing on the method of differentiation. She further explained that by using the nine different methods of teaching, we can modify the content to be taught, so that every child's needs may be catered to.*

She emphasized on the holistic development of a child which covers cerebral, physical, social, emotional and spiritual areas. The main learning objectives of the workshop were recognizing one's own dominant channel and experiencing that learning from multiple sensorial channels leads to deeper understanding. Later on she introduced some of the most important aspects of a teacher student relationship. Some innovative ideas were introduced regarding how one can change a student's behaviour towards the teacher. She explained some of the brain rules for active engagement for the students as well as some of their hierarchal needs.

She also discussed on some of the major aspects and problems of a teacher related to their students. She gave some suggestions regarding how can a teacher sort it out these kinds of problems and how can a teacher use effective modules to make their bonding superior

The thrust of the workshop was upon the reality that as teachers we are responsible not only for meeting the diverse needs of all students but also for ensuring improved educational outcomes. During the workshop, the teachers learnt to think in terms of involving as many senses as possible in the process of learning so that a child's learning becomes immensely developmental. It was indeed a fruitful experience for all the teachers who attended the programme.