

Teacher's Day Event, Outreach and Extension Division, 05.09.22

The Outreach and Extension Division at the B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, on the occasion of Teachers day, 5th September 2022 at 4 p.m., organised a webinar with three Delhi Government school teachers and mentors on "**Innovative practices in Delhi Government schools: Narratives from teachers**". The discussion panel included- Dr Naresh Kumar Raj, Master trainer, Mentor teacher and Lecturer (Geography), Department of Education, Government of NCT Delhi, Ms. Manu Gulati, school teacher and recipient of Martha Ferrell award for women empowerment, and Mr Avinash Kumar Jha, Member, Team Happiness, Department of Education, Government of NCT Delhi. The discussion was moderated by Dr Sunita Singh, Dean School of Educational Studies at the B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi.

Prof. Rukmini Sen, director of the Outreach and Extension Division at the B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, inaugurated the session and Dr Sunita Singh, Dean School of Educational Studies at the B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, introduced the panelists and moderated the discussion of the webinar.

Dr Naresh Kumar Raj shed light on the practices related to the *Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum* (EMC), an innovative program by Delhi Government which was piloted in 2019 and launched in July 2020 in government schools of Delhi for classes 9th to 12th. He elaborated on the practices, aim, implementation and experiences related to six major components of the program, namely, Mindfulness, Thematic units, Student specials, Live Entrepreneur Interactions (LEI), Business Blaster and Career exploration. He highlighted that the major thrust of this curriculum is "to turn students from job seekers to job givers". He also emphasized how this curriculum is designed with an objective to make students critical thinkers, develop confidence and collaboration among students, equip them to efficiently face day to day challenges along with developing entrepreneurial skills in students.

Ms Manu Gulati, talking about innovative practices in the classroom, highlighted the need for joyful learning in the classrooms. She shared her experiences from the English language classroom to shed light on how learning can be made joyful and consequently impactful for the students in the classrooms. In this respect, she emphasised the importance of taking account of students' backgrounds and experiences in the classrooms and designing practices and activities that are not 'standard and one-size-fits-all' rather cater to the situated demands of the classrooms. She calls for re-imagining and re-defining what joy is in the classrooms.

Mr Avinash Kumar Jha, keeping up with the theme of overall development of the child as part of innovative practices in the classroom, discussed the aims, practices and experiences related to the innovative project of 'Happiness Curriculum' launched by the Government of Delhi. He highlighted that the idea of "harmonious living" lies at the core of the Happiness Curriculum which relates to not just the individual child but through them to the family, to the society and with nature as well. He elaborated on the intent, content and approaches of the Happiness Curriculum, amongst which development of awareness, critical reflection, observation and articulation forms the core of the skills developed. He emphasized that the impact of the

curriculum may not be immediate but requires resilience and patience on part of the teachers and teacher mentors.

The presentations by each speaker concluded with an open questions-answers session, with hearty discussions around the various innovative practices introduced and talked about by the speakers. The event emerged as a successful step towards building closer collaboration and discussions between the two generally separated institutions of the university and the schools by bringing together students and faculty of education at the university space in contact with the voices, experiences and ideas of teachers from the school spaces.

Press Statement compiled by:

Dr Snigdha Vishnoi, Assistant Professor School of Liberal Studies

Tripti Shrivastava (Academic Fellow, CRA-IILKS, SOL , AUD) and Aabha Rawat (Research Scholar, School of Education Studies, AUD)