

WORKSHOP ON LEARNING AIDS: REPORT

"Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time."

Chinese proverb

A two day workshop on learning aids was organized under the auspice of the Department of Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala and Government College of Teacher Education, Thycaud on **28th and 29th November 2019**. The seminar was funded by the Collegiate Education Department.

Inaugural Function

The inaugural function of the seminar started around 10:00 a.m. on 28th November 2019. **Dr V K Santosh Kumar**, Asst. Professor, Department of Social Science, Govt. College of Teacher Education welcomed the august gathering, who were assembled to witness the inaugural function and to participate in the workshop. He introduced the resource person Dr. Raman P to the audience. The seminar was officially inaugurated by **Dr B Suresh**, Principal Government College of Teacher Education, Thycaud. In his inaugural address the principal stressed the importance of conducting such workshops for the students. They are vital since they cater to develop interest, aptitude and motivation among the student teachers. Teaching is an art and each teacher has their own style of teaching. Some are born teachers while some learn to teach as they go. A teacher should be careful in choosing learning or teaching aids to be used in a classroom. He also expressed his opinion that at times the overuse of teaching aids may hinder the teaching and learning process. For him a teacher should be at the centre of the teaching process always. Teaching aids are just supplements that are meant to create an interest and motivation in the students. It can never replace the role of a teacher in a classroom.

Dr Isaac Paul, Assistant Professor, the Department of Commerce, Government College of Teacher Education, felicitated the gathering. In his felicitation he talked about the

importance of using improvised teaching aids in classroom. They are low cost and it is only through improvised teaching aids that the creativity of a teacher is often showcased. A teacher needs to be creative, unique and should possess an aptitude to be adaptable to different learning and learning situations. The learning aids that we construct should be useful to the students, appropriate to their age group and standards of learning and can also be preserved for posterity. While constructing or developing teaching aids we need to be careful to avoid wastage. Anything can be used as a teaching aid as there is no limitation to the materials, methods and creative process. At times teaching aid is more effective than using technology, observed Issac Paul. He gave his best wishes for the workshop and to the students who are attending it hoped that they will be able to benefit from the same.

The resource person of the workshop **Dr. Raman P** also talked in the inaugural session. He expressed his genuine happiness to be a part of such a workshop; especially the one organized by Government College of Teacher Education and thanked the authorities for providing him such an arena. For him making a teaching aid equates happiness and contentment. He hoped that the same spirit of happiness will be transferred to the students who are attending the workshop too. He also stated the importance of conducting such workshops in schools and colleges so that the students and the teachers benefit from it. He also stated that it is vital that the authorities understand the need and they have to take initiatives for implementing such workshops as they are an integral part of education process. He also gave his best wishes to all the participants of the workshop. The inaugural session came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Sreelekshmi V.

28th -29th November 2019

What made the two day workshop on learning aids different from the usual workshops and seminars conducted at schools and colleges was the wholehearted participation from the students. The activity oriented nature of the workshop made it

beneficial. It was very interesting and motivating to the participants. All the teaching faculties including the Principal, the optional teachers and the others offered their genuine appreciation towards the workshop. They were available throughout the workshop to guide and help the students to create improvised learning and teaching aids. The resource person Dr. Raman P is a multifaceted personality. His expertise is not limited to a particular subject alone. He has the ability and the magic to create teaching aids from almost anything. He gave the student teachers much needed motivation and advice to create teaching aids in their respective optional subjects. All the 11 optional subject students were given ideas to work with, with the scaffolding by Dr Raman sir. He motivated all the participants to be creative, innovative and thus to create excellent teaching aids. The participants of the seminar were provided a sumptuous lunch, tea and snacks.

Before starting the workshop Raman sir showcased the teaching aids and models he has created in connection with different subjects. The students were left wonder struck by his ability and his creativity. The first item in the agenda was on how to prepare charts as an effective teaching aid. He instructed the participants on how to prepare charts and exhibited models that he has prepared. The participants could familiarize themselves with different types and varieties of charts. He also made the students practice handwriting exercises to improve their writing ability. Under his watchful eyes the student teachers created different charts in relation to their respective optional subjects.

The afternoon session of the first day of the workshop was on learning to create different types of models suitable to the 11 optional subjects of the student teachers presented for the workshop. All the students actively and wholeheartedly participated in the event. A sense of healthy competitive spirit prevailed among the student-teachers to excel. It was a very memorable experience for all. All the necessary items needed for the student teachers to create improvised teaching aids including charts, sketch pens, knives, pencils, rubber,

cardboard, cello tape, glue etc were provided to the student teachers by the organisers of the seminar. The second day of the seminar was the continuation of the first day. The students with the guidance of Raman sir involved and invested themselves in creating various teaching aids, charts and models suitable to the content of their subject matter.

“It is our aptitude at the beginning of a difficult task which more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.”

-William James

It is often said that the output or outcome of an event can generally be assessed by the products that comes out of it. If it is true then the two day workshop on learning aids can be termed as a huge success because of the magnanimity and the number of the teaching aids that were created out of it. The by-product of the workshop was exhibited before the closing ceremony of the event. The teachers were amazed seeing the colourful, talented and creative teaching aids made by the students. Not even a single student teacher was left alone. Everyone participated in it, giving the event their 100% to make this venture a successful one. The principal, teachers and other faculty members came to review the teaching aids exhibited by the student-teachers on the second day of the workshop. The teachers expressed their comments and opinions on the same. The positive responses from the teachers were heart-warming and encouraging.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the seminar occurred around 4:00 a.m. on 29th November 2019. Dr B Suresh, Principal, Dr A V Sujith Assistant Professor, the Department of Geography, Dr. Jolly, Assistant Professor, the Department of Malayalam, Greeshma Sujathan, Chairperson of the college union etc were present for the event. All the speakers appreciated the effort put forward by the students in creating the teaching aids. As token of appreciation from the part of both the students and teachers a memento was presented to the

resource person Dr Raman P. The students also shared their experience on the two day workshop at the event. The closing ceremony marked the successful conclusion of the two day workshop on learning aids organised by GCTE, Thycaud.

Needless to say the initiative and the efforts taken by Dr V K Santosh Kumar, Asst. Professor, the Department of Social Science on organising a seminar on such a relevant and vital topic is laudable and worthy to be mentioned. The workshop ended on a positive note that such relevant and interesting themes should be an integral part of the curriculum of student teachers for them to feel inspired, confident, motivated and revitalized.

“Teach to the individual, not to the curriculum.”

