

CONFERENCE REPORT

National Conference- Cum- Exhibition on Explorative Practices in Early Childhood Education

Organized by:

**Department of Human Development,
S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai-400049.**

(September 18-19, 2018)

The Department of Human Development of SNDT Women's University organized the National Conference-cum-Exhibition on 18th and 19th of September, 2018. Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thakersey Women's University is the first women's university in South-East Asia and was founded by Maharshi Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve in 1916 for the noble cause of women's education. The university completed 101 glorious years in 2017. This university operates from three campuses : Churchgate (headquarters), Juhu & Pune. The Department of Human Development in this university, professionally looks at the concerns and problems of each developmental domain of individuals such as physical, cognitive, emotional, language and psycho-social. The field of human development is a scientific study of all the stages of human development. It looks on the systematic study of enhancing and scaffolding the integral development of individuals. It also covers the peripheral issues of development such as family, workspace, school and various other social institutions. Research and extension is the main feature of this department.

The National Conference-cum-Exhibition on Explorative Practices in Early Childhood Education was inaugurated at 10:00 am. Ms. Indra Mallo, commissioner of ICDS, was the Chief Guest for the conference and Hon Vice Chancellor madam Prof. Shashikala Wanjari presided over the inaugural function.

Dr. Chandrashekhar Gawali welcomed Hon. Vice Chancellor and the Chief Guest. He

Informed the chief guests and participants about the department's activities and introduced the objectives of the conference.

Ms. Indra Mallo, commissioner of ICDS, was facilitated by Hon. Vice Chancellor. Dr. Chandrashekhar Gawali felicitated Hon. Madam Vice Chancellor. In her inaugural address as chief guest, Ms. Mallo appreciated the exhibition and the themes of the conference. She

elaborated the ICDS scheme and related the activities of ICDS to the department of human development.

Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Hon. Vice Chancellor of SNTD Women's University, congratulated Dr. Chandrashekhar Gawali for organizing the conference on a relevant theme. She reflected upon the importance and role of women in ECCE as well as how one can practice early childhood education with scientific approach.

Moving on to the first session of the day on 'Music and Movement in Preschool', Mrs. Purnima Contractor, Principal of Greenfield School, sensitized the participants in the area of music and movement in the preschool. In the session, she made the participants sing songs and poems through which different concepts could be taught. Mrs. Contractor gave us 6 important areas for music and movement which were: -

1. Music is everywhere: - within us, outside of us, everywhere, music lies in our self, she informed about the story of how the song "happy birthday" was invented.
2. Music brings immediacy to a situation: - While instructing the child do the movement; your full attention should be towards the child.



Inaugural Function Presided over by Hon. Vice Chancellor madam Prof. Shashikala Wanjari. On the right, the Chief Guest, Ms. Indra Mallo, IAS (Commissioner of ICDS). At the left, Dr. Chandrashekhar Gawali, Head of the Department and Convener of the conference

3. Music is much more powerful: - ratio is 1:1000 times more in terms of activated neuron in the brain. Music is more potent instrument than any other for education. Freedom, flow and spontaneity are the key to the quality of movement.
4. Music invokes movement: - Movement is the birth right of the child. Movement is also called as “Eurhythmics”.
5. Music is language: - Both verbal and non-verbal language, children are oriented towards learning language by music.
6. Music can be used for developing: - Developing different skills like language skills, cognitive skills, creative skills and holistic development of child.



Mrs. Contractor demonstrating a movement to one of the participants

The second session was on to topic of ‘Innovation in Story-telling’ which was conducted by Dr. Smriti Juneja (Head of Department of Human Development, Sheth P. T. Mahila College of Arts and Home Science). Dr. Juneja discussed the benefits of storytelling in the session where story telling increases the vocabulary of the children, enhances creativity, helps in problem solving skills, learn voice modulation and to enact. She mentioned that teacher should not be very interactive (like ask questions) while telling or enacting the story as it breaks the link and the child may get distracted. She furnished the knowledge about different idea for story selection—



Dr. Juneja was making a point on ‘Innovation in Storytelling’

- A simple and well develop plot

- Use repetition
- Rhyme or catchy phrases
- Simple and satisfying climax
- One or two main character
- Avoidance of concepts of witches, stepmother, demons etc.

Lastly, she gave the prominent methods of storytelling which are Dramatization, Role play, Voice modulation, Picture charts and Storytelling with equipments/tools.

The third session of the day was on 'Innovative Technology in Preschool' by Dr. Kamini Rege (Assistant Professor, Nirmala Niketan college of Home Science). Dr. Rege spoke about how Technology is transforming Education today. Educational technology uses digital medium to enhance teaching at all levels. She shared some benefits of using technology in preschool which could be



Dr. Rege taking her session on 'Innovative Technology in Preschool'

used to improve motor skills, develops positive attitude, increases level of spoken communication, creates academic and social skills, and also enhance math thinking. She mentioned that nearly 1 in 5 children use mobile devices every day. She also expressed the concern of negative effects of using technology that leads to obesity, promotes laziness, children lack focus/concentration, easy access to internet predators, leads to poor reading and writing skills. She also spoke about the new 3 R's - Reading, Writing and Remote control. She ended her session by stating that one day in school it will be instructed to BYOD (bring your own devices).

The last session of the day was conducted by Dr. Reeta Sonawat (Ex- Head and Professor of the Department of Human Development), who spoke about 'Preschool Teacher Skill Building'. She started with an icebreaker activity of a Friend Song. She shared the key components for becoming a teacher which is, Knowledge, Positive attitude and



Dr. Sonawat shared her knowledge on 'Preschool Teacher Skill Building'

Skills. She discussed the skills that are related to develop Competencies in Children such as thinking critically in various situations, communication and collaboration. The different skills a Teacher should have are - questioning skills, facilitator to problem solving, creative and imaginative, willing to learn were also highlighted. The first day was ended with tea/coffee session on exhibition floor.



A group picture at the end of the first day of the National Conference

The second day of the National Conference-cum-Exhibition started at 10:00am 19th September with a session on 'Ethics in Preschool' by Dr. Suja Koshy, Head of the Department of Human Development at SVT College of Home Science, where she stressed that ethics is the philosophy of morality/character. Ethical dilemma is to think what is appropriate and to do what is right professionally. Dr. Koshy claimed that 'Unethical Behavior' is misconduct and dishonesty while 'Ethical Behavior' is honesty, integrity and professionalism. It is an obligation to act responsibly

and ethically at all times. A teacher should have the ethical responsibility to children, co-workers, families, self and communities. The ethics related to children are as follows:

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- Recognize and respect unique qualities, abilities and potential of each child
- be an active listener
- understand how play enhances children's learning and development
- Don't use sarcastic and frustrated tone with children
- Teacher should not yell at children



Dr. Koshy elaborated on 'Ethics in Preschool'

Ethics in relation with families are: -

- Develop respectful relationship
- welcome all family members and encourage participation in the programme
- Respect dignity and preferences
- PTA meeting, inform to parents if something has happened to the child

Ethics related to colleagues:

- Collaboration with colleagues
- Comfortable and modest clothes
- Mentor and help new colleagues

Ethics are the major part of preschool as the children are going to learn what teachers are going to show the children.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Chandrasekhar Gawali (Head of Department of Human Development at SNTT Women's University) and Ms. Swapnali Thakurdesai (Masters Student of the Department of Human Development, specializing in Early Childhood Education) on 'Interplay of Preschool Pedagogy' where they explained about what is pedagogy and different

pedagogies, some of which were Friedrich Frobel, Maria Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Project Approach and so on. The session overall connected the possible interplay of different methodologies. While discussing the interplay of different methodologies the respective principals of each methodology were taken into account. Towards the end of the session, Dr. Gawali expressed the need of assuring interplay of methodologies which could be inclusive approach to work effectively with preschoolers. Along with all stakeholders curricular planners in specific should try to incorporate interplay of methodologies in curriculum planning and implementation.



Dr. Gawali along with Ms. Thakurdesai conducted a session on 'Interplay of Preschool Pedagogy'

The third session of the day was intended to deliberate on the topic of 'Empirical Researches in the field of Early Childhood Education'. The session was held by Dr. Ravikala Kamath (Former Head and Professor of the Department of Human Development at SNTD Women's University) wherein she spoke about the importance of primary



Dr. Kamath and Dr. Partani took the session on 'Empirical Researches in the field of Early Childhood Education'

data base research in the area of preschool education and also highlighted the challenges of research. Dr. Swati Partani (Assistant Professor, Maniben Nanavati Women's College), presented her research on 'Technological Disruptive Innovation in Early Childhood Education'. With the topic she presented she raised a number of issues and implication of the research. She further

expressed the need of changing trends in research.



Ms. Hariyani elaborated on the importance and use of 'Curriculum in Preschool'

The next session was by Ms. Sanya Hariyani (Curriculum Developer), she described in detail the importance of curriculum and use of age appropriate curriculum at difference levels of preschool. She stressed the point that curriculum should have to always come with the understanding of children's development. At the end, she informed that the curriculum book is just a guideline with an outline.

The last session of the day was on 'Assessment and Evaluation of Pre-schoolers' by Dr. Kirti Pathak (Head of Department of Human Development, BMN College) conducted the same. In her view, it is clearly understood that assessment and evaluation are essential for objective feedback by which the performance could be enhanced. She stressed on some of the assessments and evaluation techniques in ECE, that is, observing and documenting work of children such as Rubrics, rating scale, portfolio, checklist and so on. It is important to choose an appropriate assessment system. To conclude, Dr. Pathak informed that parents as first educator and teacher as second educator should go hand in hand in the child's development.



Dr. Pathak took the session on 'Assessment and Evaluation of Pre-schoolers'

The valedictory function was presided over by Hon. Pro Vice Chancellor (SNDT Women's University) Dr. V. N. Magre. The chief guest for the function was Dr. Manjusha Molwane (Member Secretary, Maharashtra Mahila Aayog). In the beginning of the valedictory function, the reports of the two-day conference were presented and three participants expressed their views of the conferences. The participants appreciated the deliberations taken place during two-day conference. The Exhibition put up was also appreciated by participants. During the function, two students – Ashwini Nair and Radhika Bairarga, of the Department of Human



At the centre, chief guest, Dr. Manjusha Molwane, Honourable Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. V. N. Magre (at the right), presiding over the valedictory function

Development performed two individual classical Indian dances. In Dr. Manjusha Molwane's valedictory address, she gave a brief about the Maharashtra Mahila Aayog and its functioning. She shared the different cases related to ECCE. She also elaborated the possibilities of collaboration with Mahila Aayog and the department of human development. In his presidential address, Hon. Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. N. Magre appreciated the conference and spoke about the Department of Human Development. He also appreciated the report and congratulated the department for the exhibition put up for two days. The two-day conference was ended with a vote of thanks.



Individual dance performances at the end of the National Conference – Ashwini Nair (M.Sc ECE) and Radhika Bairarga (M.Sc. HD)



At the end of the second day of the National Conference, a picture of the participants with Hon. Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. V.N.Magre , Chief Guest, Dr. Manjusha Molwane and Dr. Chandrashekhhar Gawali