

26th National Annual Conference of the Sahodaya School Complexes

11th and 12th December 2020

A Brief Report

The 26th National Annual Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes of CBSE Schools, hosted by the Bangalore Sahodaya Schools Complex Association in collaboration with the CBSE commenced on 11th December 2020. The conference was a confluence of eminent personalities in society, real trail blazers, catalysts of change, Educationists, Principals and faculty members from schools across India and overseas. It was overwhelming to witness the participation of 3800 members on the virtual platform, more than 4000 members on YouTube and 5000 people on Facebook. During the conference, the participants were able to interact with the eminent speakers via virtual chat.

The programme commenced with the rendition of the Karnataka State Anthem and a welcome address by the Chairperson of the Bangalore Sahodaya Schools Complex Association, Mrs Manila Carvalho.

Honorable Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' presided as the Chief Guest on the occasion and applauded the efforts to hold the conference in a virtual mode. He spoke at length about the collective responsibility of every citizen towards making India a self - reliant country and evolving her into a NEW India with limitless possibilities. He praised the school leaders for working on the ideals laid down by Mahatma Gandhi in his philosophy of Nai Taleem. He urged them to make rigorous efforts for the effective implementation of New Education Policy 2020 which has been prepared taking into consideration the views of largest number of stakeholders for the first time ever. Speaking about the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of a Golden Era of India in the 21st century, he urged the school leaders and teachers to work collaboratively to make it a reality.

The Hon'ble Minister of Education, Govt. of India, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' also released CBSE Manuals on Inclusive Education, Joyful Learning and Physical Education for classes XI and XII and the Conference Souvenir titled SAMARTHAN - which is a compilation of the best teaching practices in the country.

The Guest of Honour Shri Suresh Kumar, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education and Sakala, Govt. of Karnataka launched the Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat program video depicting the two paired states of Uttarakhand and Karnataka.

Mrs. Anita Karwal, IAS, Secretary, School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education addressed the gathering on various aspects of the future of Education in the country. Mrs. Karwal voiced the need for every teacher to take up the challenges and convert them into opportunities to bring about the realisation of holistic education.

Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS, Chairman, CBSE expounded the varied aspects of the NEP 2020.

The keynote speaker of the conference, Mrs. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw spoke about how teachers and children have adapted to the change in teaching styles.

During the session on ***Importance of Self Affirmation during Challenging Times*** Brahmakumari Sister Shivani addressed the gathering on the importance of self – affirmations in one’s life. The invigorating session was indeed an eye opener as to what the power of positivity could do during challenging times.

Dr. Rajaram Sharma, Former Director, CIET, NCERT highlighted the importance of technology as the substructure of all blended learning environments in his session on ***Technology as the Substructure of all Blended Learning Environments.***

Mr. Sathish Chathanath, Founder of Ellowhale Education held the session on implementing strategies to build on student’s strength and synergize weaknesses as opportunities for improvement.

Eminent panellists comprising Prof. Dr. Madan Mohan Pant, Former Pro – Vice – Chancellor, IGNOU, Dr. Vinnie Jauhari, Director, Microsoft Education and Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE deliberated upon the significance and execution of honing appropriate skills to build competencies for future readiness.

05 Breakout sessions were held simultaneously on varied topics in parallel rooms. These sessions enabled participants to understand the different topics in depth. In one break out session, Dr. Anil Srinivasan, Musician and scholar, Ms. Bindu Subramaniam, singer and Ms. Padmavati Rao, theatre and film personality highlighted the importance of the integration of arts to achieve authentic and meaningful learning experiences.

In another breakout session, Dr. Shekhar Seshadri, Psychiatrist and Professor, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in NIMHANS, Mr. Divyanshu Gantara, India’s first visually impaired solo paraglider and Ms. Aarti Rajarathnam, Psychologist, held a discussion on being mindfully inclusive. The focus was on bridging the lacuna and working towards fostering an inclusive environment in institutions.

In Break Out Session 3 on ***Productive Management of the Mind and the Heart with the Head,*** Dr. Bhujang Shetty, Chairman, Narayan Nethralaya, Dr. Kannan Gireesh, Psychiatrist and Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, Psychiatrist and Wellness Counsellor deliberated upon the mode in which one can effect productive management of the mind and the heart with the head.

In break out session 4 and 5, the eminent speakers reflected upon the relevance of skill development and building competencies in children and emphasized the impact of research and enquiry as a powerful teacher driven tool to catalyse change in classrooms.

The next plenary session was conducted by Dr. Gururaj Karjagi, Chairman, Academy for creative teaching who defined the role of the Principal as a change maker. He stressed upon the fact that the Principal is the captain of the ship who identifies optimal directions for strategic growth.

A dance recital on the need to embrace change and charter new routes to self - discovery was performed by the students of the member schools of the BSSCA. This was followed by an E – presentation on Karnataka – the land of is a land of multitudes; a land known for its legacy, royalty, diversity in cuisine, landscape and much more.

The second day of the Conference commenced with an invocation song to beseech the blessings of the Almighty was rendered by the students of the Member Schools of the BSSCA.

Professor Rishiksha Krishna, Director, IIM Bangalore drew the attention of the audience on the need to develop institutional managerial skills to bring about an efficiency in the system.

A panel discussion comprising eminent resource persons Mrs. Vyjayanthi Sankar, Founder, Executive director, Centre for Science of Students Learning, Dr. Sheela Raghavan, Trainer and Assessor, Quality Council of India and Ms. Gayathri Vasudevan, Chairperson, Labournet Services India Pvt. Ltd. emphasized on authentic assessment tools that aid in reflection, review and response.

The Open House was extremely interesting with inputs provided by Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS, Chairman, CBSE, Shri Anurag Tripathi, IRPS, Secretary CBSE, Dr. Antriksh Johri, Director, IT, Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Director Academics, Dr. Sanyam Bharadwaj, Controller of Examinations, Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director, Skill Education and Training and Shri. Manoj Shrivastava, Director, Professional Examinations. The session was moderated by Mrs. Manila Carvalho, Chairperson, Bangalore Sahodaya Schools Complex and offered deep insight on the road ahead in the Indian educational ecosystem.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education. Government of India presided as the Chief Guest of the valedictory session. He described the role of the teacher as a facilitator. He stressed upon the need to focus on building individual and collective capacities to facilitate the evolution of children into leaders of tomorrow. The Minister also released the practice book in Mathematics (Hindi version) designed by the CBSE. The book in English is titled - Mathematical Literacy: Practice Book for Students and Aanko ka Jadu- Ganit ki Abhyas Pustika is the Hindi version.

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Director, Academics stated the recommendations and resolution and proposed the vote of thanks. The conference was literally a gateway to enriching learning experiences. The focus was to enable teachers to adapt to the learner's needs by adopting novel pedagogical practices and highlight that there is no physical or virtual boundary to fan tiny sparks of possibilities into flames of achievement.

The programme concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem showcased in sign language.