

National Workshop on New Technologies for 21st Century Teachers

Gen Z learns effectively and quickly using new technology enabled learning tools such as blogger, digital quizzes, nearpod, scoopit, participate, infographics, etc. A two day national workshop organized by Department of English, Loyola college in collaboration with Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI) on December 06 & 07, 2019 at Loyola College trained college and university professors from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on curating, organizing and sharing digital resources and using these learning platforms to help learners develop thinking skills, make learning and teaching becomes more student-centered, promote learners' autonomy and help them feel more confident, and increase learners' motivation to learn effectively.

Inaugurating the workshop, **Mr. Muthu Singaram**, CEO, Incubation at Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), Indian Institute of Technology Madras observed that the advent of new technologies is beginning to redesign the curriculum and hence, the teaching strategies need to be updated and match with internet teaching and learning tools. He suggested strategies to manage 21st century classroom and urged the participants to start with their classroom setup by

- Making digital citizenship a priority
- Teaching mini lessons before using devices
- Using the power of choice
- Remembering that sharing is caring
- Conducting teacher check-ins
- Building in breaks from devices, and
- Becoming familiar with software tools

He further said that although challenges in curriculum design may arise due to advanced technology integration, schools are nonetheless embracing the future. Here are five emerging trends for 21st century classrooms:

- App innovation and Gamification
- Digital Literacy
- Library Media Specialists
- Self-directed Professional Development
- Collaborative Learning

Dr. K. Elango, National Secretary, ELTAI, cautioned the participants not to be carried away too much oblivious of the human touch as a teacher while advancing to new strata of teaching techniques. He asked the participants if the learners are better today in the world of technology. He implicated the necessity to comprehend language, retain its characteristics and develop sensibility to apply clearly the same in real life situations. He statistically enumerated that the World Bank came up with the data where learning poverty had soared so high to 55% in recent times. He further asserted that learners should make prudential use of technology refraining from technological aids, whenever necessary.

Dr. K.S.Antonysamy, Head, Department of English, Loyola College and coordinator of the workshop advocated the use of new technologies as they provide interaction between teachers and learners, comprehensible input and output, and promote cooperative learning. He also highlighted the transformative power of technology and its capacity to act as a bridge to overcome the generation gap in the world of teaching and learning.

As the resource person, **Dr P.N. Ramani**, English studies Consultant demonstrated the methods to create presentations that are interactive and engage the attention of the audience using tools such as *Zoho* and *Prezi*. Participants were given hands on experience to create and edit audio clips. Attitude towards presentation in conferences as well as the need to grow professionally was also talked about in length.

Digital technology is moving at such a fast pace with new services being rendered continuously that provide a platform for open access to learning. **Dr Revathi Viswanathan**, ELT Consultant & Teacher Trainer expounded the ways to curate, organise and share digital resources through sites such as *Digigo* and *Scoop-it* as they prove useful to the educational needs of students. Further, *blogging* was proved to be an interactive space for the students to develop writing skills and creating a digital classroom through digital portfolios such as *seesaw* to be platform for active participation of both the student and the teacher.

Another trainer for Educational Technology, **Dr Xavier Pradheep Singh**, St. Joseph's College, Trichy stressed the need for *gamification* to encourage the learning process, *digital quizzes* to test the knowledge of the students in a competitive manner using *nearpod* and interactive video content through *edpuzzle* focusing upon audio-visual aspect of learning. The rationale behind creating posters and infographics and their learning appeal to 21st century learners was explicated in detail.

At the end of workshop, the participants strongly felt that the firsthand experience of the technological tools would boost of their technical skills and enable them to be better prepared for the challenging tasks ahead in the 21st century classroom.