

The ELT@I begins its journey in Raichur

Raichur is a district town in the state of Karnataka and being one of the largest districts has 7 Talukas (blocks), situated between the two popular rivers the Krishna and the Thungabhadra. The city is also known as **powerful goldencity**, having the mega thermal power production plants, making the state illuminate. On the otherhand, the city has its pride producing the highest amount of gold, 7kg to 8 kg a day in *Hatti gold mines* on its land. A feather in its crown for the district with historic background, is the only title 'Devanampriya Ashokasya' to the great Indian emperor Ashok was found in *Maski inscription* written in *Paali* language. The district also has the distinction for having a large number of government schools and schools run on grant-in-aid. These schools employ more than 250 teachers of English both at the secondary and primary levels. One also needs to admit here that all the teachers work in unison as a family and bond with each other very well.

Given a situation such as this, it is obvious, that the work they are doing needs to be formalized and an association formed to provide a platform to showcase their work. A few of these teachers who attended the 48th Annual Conference of ELT@I at Cochin, decided to come together, spread the message of ELT@I and form a chapter. With 25 members readily agreeing to come together the chapter was in place a few months ago.

The convener of the Chapter, Mr. Prakash R H and team of teachers who sought help for the higher officials in the District Education Office and organized a formal launch ceremony on the 10th of February 2018. Senior District Officials (the two Deputy Directors of Public Instruction), the Education Officers, six Subject Inspectors and the BEO Sindhanur were all present during the function. The chapter was formally declared open by the local MLA *Sri Hampanagouda Badalri*. In his talk, he encouraged the teachers by congratulating them for the initiative taken, and sincerely hoped the larger education scene in the district would improve with such platforms which help the teachers to come together. The Principal DIET Yamaras, Sri Mallikarjunaswamy who had earlier deputed the teachers to the ELT@I conference, had also ensured that there was maximum participation by teachers by issuing an official order to attend the programme. Such moves are highly appreciated by the convener of the Chapter and all the teachers.

The presence of National President of ELT@I, Dr. G. A. Ghanshyam on the occasion was the highlight of the function. He took care to explain in detail the benefits of becoming members of ELT@I, especially in the area of Continuing Professional Development. His talk was supported with a very informative and pleasing power point presentation which helped the teachers to register themselves as members.

After the formal inauguration, the organizers had also arranged for two academic sessions. The first session was by Dr. Ghanshyam on CPD. He elaborated the various steps one can take to develop oneself by cooperating with each other and also being a little self-conscious of our surroundings. We cannot think of educating our learners independent of the society, and in order to achieve this, it is essential for the teacher to continue to grow all through his/her career and beyond. The entire session was interactive, and the participation was encouraging. Several teachers offered their points of view and this led to good discussion.

This session was followed by a session from Prof. S Mohanraj who spoke about the textbook analysis. In the course of his talk, he made the teachers understand the importance of the textbook and how it can be exploited maximally in the class for the benefit of the students. He also related some of the aspects of teaching to CPD thus providing a comprehensiveness to the two workshop sessions.

The last session of the launch programme was by Mr. S M Nadaf, Head Master of a government high school from a neighbouring district Bagalkot. He dealt with an analysis of the question papers at the tenth standard common examinations and helped the teachers to provide proper guidance to the students such that the overall results do not suffer.

The busy day concluded with a talk from Mr. B K Nandanur, DDPI Raichur District. He expressed his happiness with the initiative taken by the teachers and also showed his concern for the larger number of students failing in English. He sincerely hoped this association of teachers will strive hard and will improve the situation.

All the guests were felicitated and the day came to a close at 5.30 p m.

All the participants appreciated the efforts put in by the dedicated team of teachers drawn from Sindanur, Manvi, Raichur, Lingasugur, Deodurga, Maski

and Sirwar in making the programme a grand success. The fact that this meeting was organized in a star hotel (Vinay Residency) helped in taking care of logistics without much difficulty.

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Note: More than 170 teachers attended the launch function some teachers got registered and most others are also eager to register themselves as members of the Association.