

Quoting Robert Frost's 'Road Not Taken'

**I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.**

To mark a difference in the academic arena of the central part of the country, the city of lakes, Bhopal, the Department of English of Bhopal School of Social Sciences(BSSS), Bhopal has taken the initiative to start a chapter of ELT@I comprising of teachers from KG to PG and beyond under one umbrella. Bhopal is an educational hub with numerous schools and colleges both public and private sector enterprises catering to conventional as well as technical education. The Chapter in Bhopal was much needed to cater to the pertinent needs of the English teachers in devising innovations through discussion in the field of ELT. The Chapter plans and proposes to resolve the lacunas that exist in this arena through multiple activities to be conducted throughout the length and breadth of Bhopal. The Chapter which initially started with 30 members has been successful in including 28 more members on the day of its Inauguration. The enthusiastic response of the members is really commendable.

The ELT@I Bhopal Chapter planned to organise a One- day National Workshop on **Assessment and Evaluation as Valuable tools for Optimal Teaching and learning Interaction in English Language Classrooms** on 16 April 2018 with the Inauguration Ceremony of the chapter. The inaugural session began with the invocation of the Muse in the form of lighting of Lamp. The Patron of the Chapter Dr. Jagtar Kaur Chawla, Retd. Professor and Head, Department of English, BSSS, in her welcome speech thanked the BSSS College for providing the pedestal to inaugurate the ELT@I Bhopal Chapter. She opined that one thing that was missing in Bhopal was a forum where all the English teachers could meet and work and thus was extremely grateful to ELT@I for facilitating the formation of this chapter. She also encouraged the teachers from other institutes to join ELT@I and to remain as proactive as possible to connect with all.

Prof. G.A. Ghanshyam Iyengar, the National President of ELTAI, Professor & Head, Department of English, Govt. Lahiri PG College, Chirmiri, Chhattisgarh, officially inaugurated the Chapter with the flashing of banner on screen amidst the huge applaud from the participants. In his address, he highlighted the importance of ELT@I, (an affiliate of IATEFL & TESOL, UK) stating that it is the largest network of teachers of English in India. He shared with the audience that ELT@I is a platform for the Continuous Professional

Development (CPD) of its members by periodically organising seminars and workshops. He congratulated the members who came forward to frame and form this much awaited Chapter at Bhopal.

Dr SupriyaMandloi, Head, Department of English, BSSS, Bhopal & President of ELT@I Bhopal Chapter introduced the Concept note of the Workshop to the audience. She reiterated the conviction that this association will give new directions to ELT as coming together of school and college teachers under single umbrella will help in bridging the gap and the challenges that teachers face in English Language Teaching can be resolved to a great extent. Throwing light on the content and context of the Workshop she stated that a significant percentage of teaching time is used in preparing for, administering and assessing through tests, it may be said that assessment and evaluation are an integral part of the teaching learning process. Every conscientious teacher needs to examine the effectiveness and aptness of the tools for assessment in use. As a measure of progress made by the student and the efficacy of the teacher's efforts in the classroom, periodic assessment and evaluation becomes imperative. It needs to be acknowledged that motivation has shifted from processes of learning to outcomes and therefore it is mandatory for all teachers of English to revisit their assessment methodology, share best practices, get updated with innovative ICT tools for impartial, just and cogent modes of assessment and evaluation for optimal teaching learning interaction in the classroom. The relevance of the Workshop becomes more pronounced and prominent in this scenario.

In the first technical session Expert Speaker Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gargi College, University of Delhi began the session stating the fact that the biggest challenge that she faced in her teaching in last 3 decades was problem of assessment & evaluation. She started with presentation on Why, How & When of Assessment and Evaluation with specific reference to English Language Teaching. According to her, preparation is key to everything and this is high time to ponder about best practices in terms of teaching, evaluation and assessment. She was of the opinion that the purpose of assessment is to increase quality and the purpose of evaluation is to judge quality. She talked about various modes of assessment like Tests which are designed to elicit certain behaviour based on which one can make inferences. These tests can be MCQs, True/ False etc. Other modes can be formative assessment, summative assessment, and assessment for learning i.e. pedagogic evaluation to find out what students have & have not learnt and to improve teaching/ learning. She emphasised on the term "Meta Cognitive" and suggested to take

resort in Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives. She organised various activities during the session. It was indeed a very interactive and productive session.

In the second technical session Prof. Ghanshyam divided the session in two parts – first about ELT@I and the second on Use of Emotional Intelligence in Teaching English. He started his talk with explaining about ELT@I, its mission, vision, strength, financial support, benefits, membership, suggestions for Chapters by ELT@I, role of Chapters etc. He also presented slides on various activities which have been successfully organized under the banner of ELT@I. He narrated the benefits of being a member of ELT@I to the participants.

He then moved to the next segment of his talk – Use of Emotional Intelligence in Teaching English as a Second Language. He started his talk by posing a simple question that how many of the participants were into this profession by 'chance' and by 'choice'. Then he explained how 'chance' should be converted to 'choice', else teaching remains nothing but a strenuous exercise. He emphasized that one must touch the future of those who are being taught, which can be done by focusing on EQ, self-management, self-awareness, self-regulation, self-motivation & empathy. Prof. Ghanshyam concluded that by analyzing oneself, one can help build the house one lives in. Classroom is a teacher's life, and to bring the classroom to life, teacher must analyze and realize who he/she really is. Technology in hand is only a tool, real language learning takes place only when there is a learning environment. He concluded his session in a positive note stating that "What we are is a gift of God, and What we become is a gift to God.

Mrs. Sulabha Dixit, Asst. Professor, Department of English, BSSS, summarized the session and invited the participants for their feedbacks. Feedback sharing started with Ms. Palak Mathur, a student of BSSS who runs a coaching institute for kids, followed by few other participants. All the participants had a learning experience which was acknowledged and cherished. Participants expressed their eagerness to apply the knowledge in their respective work places.

This was followed by an expression from Professor Farookhulla from Amravati, Maharashtra. He expressed his concern towards learning of English language as a need in contemporary times. He suggested that ELT@I should focus more on speaking and writing skills.

The esteemed Resource Persons were presented mementoes as token of acknowledgement, appreciation, and gratitude. They also shared their experiences of the sessions and claimed that they had a very responsive audience which makes the teaching - learning process very interactive and interesting.

After the experience sharing, certificates were distributed to the participants. The target participants for the Workshop were English teachers from various schools and colleges. The event witnessed a total of 84 participation from 41 different institutes. The event culminated fruitfully on a positive note.

Dr. Shibani Basu Dubey
Chapter Secretary/Convener
ELT@I Bhopal Chapter
shibanibs10@gmail.com