



WORKSHOP ON INCLUSION & INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES

- Date** : 11th March, 2015
- Venue** : ITL Public School
- Conducted by** : Expressions India, CBSE Empanelled Agency
- Organised by** : ITL Public School

A **One Day Compulsory Training Programme** for Teachers on **Inclusion and Inclusive Strategies** was held at **ITL Public School** on **11 March 2015**. The workshop was conducted by **Expressions India**, a **CBSE Expanelled Agency**. **Ms. Usha Anand**, a Senior Trainer for Expressions India and **Ms. Geetanjali Kumar**, a Senior Counselor and Academic coordinator with “Expressions India” and CBSE were the resource persons for the workshop and training. The training session started with a fulfilled activity whereby the participants shared their prior knowledge related to the topic of the workshop and their expectations from the workshop.

The terms ‘**Special Education**’ ‘**Integrated Education**’ and ‘**Inclusive Education**’ were discussed extensively and exhaustively. The **Policy** of an **Inclusive School** was highlighted whereby the schooling times of a child should aim at achieving from **health to well being**, from **learning to experiencing**, from **answering to questioning**, from **observing to participating**. The importance of giving clear, small, assertive instructions was emphasized. An interesting activity was conducted to sensitise the teachers to the feeling of insecurity and inhibition encountered by children with “**special needs**” and the need to equip these children with the skills required in the main stream classes thereby making them feel safe, supported and included at classrooms. The resource persons stressed that as diversity is an integral part of our life, the difference in “Special needs’ children should be accepted with open arms, a broad mind and a generous hearts.

The red flag alerts which refer to behavioral indications showing that a child is not developing at a normal range were discussed upon. Adequate guidelines were given on enhancing psycho social climate of a school. The teachers were sensitized to provide cordial rewarding ambience, forbidding physical punishment & violence, enhancing family school partnership, promoting equal opportunities & participation for all children for stimulating growth & progress of students. Case studies of students with special needs were discussed & a scene was enacted showing a class with a restless child, strategies & techniques were discussed how to effectively deal with specific behaviours in class rooms.

The role of teachers as counselors was also brought to the limelight. Discussions were held on the techniques for bringing in modification in altitude of children by certain methods like adopting proper body language, practicing firm, consistent altitude, exhibiting appropriate behaviour, boosting up confidence by showing praise etc...

The teachers through an activity prepared list of professionals required in an inclusive school, wrote a circular, created a logo and anthem of an Inclusive School.

'If a child can't learn the way we teach, may be we should teach the way they learn' These thoughtful words of Lgnacio Estrada ignited teachers to imbibe the skills required for effectively dealing with students with "special needs" and make Inclusive Schools a success.

The Principal Ms. Sudha Acharya who perpetually believes in concretising the foundation of education by organizing such informative workshops presented planters to the resource persons as a token of thanks and gratitude. In a nutshell it was a very enlightening workshop making the teachers aware, sensitive to the needs of children with "special need" and equipping them with skills that can help them in creating a happy school ambience.

